



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

The Resource Management Commission's mission statement per the City Code is:

- (A) Maintain an overview of all programs, studies and proposals concerning the efficient use of energy, alternate energy technologies, renewable energy resources, including solar and wind, and the conservation of energy, excluding the use of conventional coal, nuclear, natural gas, or petroleum technologies.
- (B) Serve as a liaison with other city commissions, including the Electric Utility Commission.
- (C) Receive citizen input on alternate energy technologies, renewable energy sources, and on energy conservation.
- (D) Review and analyze:
 - (1) energy conservation technologies and renewable energy sources as to their short-term and long-term feasibility in the city;
 - (2) energy conservation policies, alternate energy technologies, and renewable energy projects in other cities and states;
 - (3) water conservation policies, alternate technologies, and water conservation projects in other cities and states; and
 - (4) City Code to identify potential amendments that encourage the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and the conservation of energy.
- (E) Advise the City Council:
 - (1) in developing and reviewing city plans and programs in the area of alternate energy technologies, renewable energy sources, and energy conservation.
 - (2) as to available funding from private and public sources which are available to the city for alternate energy technologies and renewable energy, and for the conservation of energy;
 - (3) on energy conservation, on alternate energy technologies, and on renewable energy sources and report to City Council on the status of its activities at least annually;
 - (4) in developing and reviewing city plans and programs that encourage water conservation as it relates to water consumption from the tap to customer and within structures or building; and,
 - (5) regarding appropriate City Code amendments that encourage the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and the conservation of energy.
- (F) Encourage:
 - (1) the conservation of energy, the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources in City-owned facilities; and
 - (2) the private and public sectors to develop and to use alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and to conserve energy.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

The Resource Management Commission (RMC) met 11 times during the reporting period. The September 2017 and January 2018 meetings were cancelled.

The RMC's mission-specific actions included:

- Reviewed and took action supporting the following Recommendations for Council Action (RCAs):
 - Three solar installation agreements for a total of 97 condominium units; four Austin Independent School District (AISD) facilities, and three multi-family affordable housing facilities;
 - Five commercial energy efficiency rebates;
 - Three multi-family energy efficiency rebates;
 - A 15-year power purchase agreement for the full output of the electricity from utility-scale solar generation facility with capacity of 150-180 MW;
- Endorsed Austin Energy's proposed FY2018 Customer Energy Solutions budget.
- Supported Texas Gas Service's 2018 Conservation Program budget.
- Recommended setting aside half of the capacity (1.25 MW) of the La Loma Community Solar project for Customer Assistance Program (CAP) participants at a discount.
- Recommended that Austin Energy conduct an annual review of its residential solar incentive program, including a review of a statistically significant number of installations, efforts to protect consumers from fraudulent practices including a review of the project prior to installation, and that Austin Energy provide quarterly reports on average system size, distribution of systems by installed capacity and number of complaints.
- Received briefings and reports on the following items:
 - Austin Water's conservation programs
 - Analyzing wind and solar energy proposals
 - Electric vehicle program
 - Updates from the Office of Sustainability
 - Low-income community solar discount proposal
 - Energy and water conservation at AISD campuses
 - Green Building program
 - Update regarding Resolution No. 20171005-033 to expand access to solar to underserved markets
 - Quarterly updates from Texas Gas Service
 - District cooling systems and thermal storage
 - Multi-family energy efficiency rebate programs
 - Dispatchable renewable energy technologies
 - Emissions data related to natural gas and electric usage in residential properties
 - Process for amending City of Austin technical codes including residential gas connection requirements
 - Energy Code plan review and inspections including solar-ready provision
 - Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan 2027 update
 - Electric storage update, including the Austin SHINES Project
 - Austin Energy summer savings and efficiency campaign

- Formed a Working Group composed of Commissioners Babyak, Brenneman, Kohan and White to provide input on possible changes to the residential solar incentive program.
- Designated Commissioner Brenneman as an alternate member to serve on the Joint Sustainability Committee in the event Commissioner White cannot attend a meeting, per Ordinance No. 20180510-056.

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

All actions of the RMC during the reporting period were within the scope of and in compliance with its Code-mandated mission statement.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

- a. Continue to provide: review of programs, studies and proposals; advice to City Council; and encouragement for the conservation of energy and water, use of emerging energy technologies and renewable sources in City facilities and departments, specifically highlighting departments that have accomplished goals toward this end.
- b. Encourage the use and greater adoption of sustainable building methods, emerging technologies such as energy storage, renewable energy sources, and resource conservation strategies, specifically through the advancement of customer programs, policies, and education.
- c. Continue to work with the staff of Austin Energy, Austin Water, the Development Services Department, Fleet Services, the Office of Sustainability, and Texas Gas Service, specifically to assist staff in achieving the City's goals in regards to greater adoption of resource conservation, the use of alternate technologies and renewable sources, and reduction of CO2 emissions.
- d. Continue to regard citizen input on these issues as important as any other source.
- e. Support additional studies to evaluate energy efficiency and distributed generation, and to assist the staff in developing new programs and policies that have achievable, affordable, and aggressive goals.
- f. Support Austin Water staff in the development of a comprehensive water conservation plan and annual reporting.
- g. Support Austin Energy staff in the development of new energy conservation programs and policies, and renewable energy projects and policies, including community solar projects and additional programs to expand access to solar for low income residents and those in multifamily housing.
- h. Continue to provide opportunities for City departments to highlight their successes in energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable practices.
- i. Utilize the concepts of triple bottom-line sustainability in the RMC's decisions, recommendations, and advice to council, i.e., consider the balance between the environmental, economic, and societal equity impacts of our decisions, recommendations, and advice.
- j. Advocate for and monitor compliance with adopted policies such as the Energy Code and

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water restrictions, and review proposed changes.

- k. Leverage synergies of existing and emerging methods and technologies to enhance resource management such as the water-energy nexus.
- l. Support the goals of the Austin Community Climate Plan by exploring options and making recommendations on strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible.
- m. Work with Austin Energy, the Office of Sustainability, Cap Metro, and Fleet Services to develop policies, programs, and rate structures that facilitate and encourage electrification of transportation, provide ancillary services, and reduce peak power consumption.
- n. Review and monitor progress of the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2027, including studies called for in the plan, and participate in any updates to the plan.