



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2018 to 6/30/2019

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 nine times during the reporting period.

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 30 condominium units; one office park, and four multi-family affordable housing facilities;
 - Nine commercial energy efficiency rebates;
 - Two multi-family energy efficiency rebates;
 - A 15-year power purchase agreement for up to 250 MW from a utility-scale solar generation facility;
 - A 15-year power purchase agreement for up to 170 MW from a utility-scale wind generation facility;
 - A 15-year power purchase agreement for the full output of electricity from a utility-scale solar generation facility with capacity of 144 MW;
 - An amendment to the FY 2017-2018 Austin Energy Operating Budget to decrease the operating fund ending balance by \$556,694 and increase the Conservation Rebates expenses by the same amount to provide additional funding for the Customer Assistance Program's Low Income Weatherization program;
 - Construction contract for equipment, design, and construction of electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
 - Contract to provide energy efficiency data management and reporting services;
 - Four contracts to provide demand response management portals and application programming interfaces for smart thermostats and other distributed energy resources;
 - Contract to provide evaluation and benchmarking study on saving resulting from demand side management and Green Building programs;
 - Contract to provide commercial and industrial demand response services.
- Discussed and approved the following recommendations and resolutions:
 - Recommended approval of Austin Water Capital Improvements Projects located in Drinking Water Protection Zone for inclusion in the 5-year Capital spending plan. Recommendation No. 20190521-2.
 - Approved resolution to initiate Energy Code amendment process to consider removal of Section R403.5.5 Water Heating with Adjacent Gas Service. Recommendation No. 20190416-6.
 - Supported Texas Gas Service's 2019-2020 Conservation Program budget. Recommendation No. 20181016-005.
 - Recommended approval of 2019 Customer Energy Solutions budget and requested exploring opportunities to increase and prioritize multifamily rebate and weatherization program funds as available. Recommendation No. 20180821-5a (1).
 - Recommended allocation of \$500,000 from residential solar budget to the low income and multi-family solar programs to match commitment made in 2018 budget. Recommendation No. 20180821-5a (2).
 - Supported Texas Gas Service conservation tariff. Recommendation No. 20180821-5b.

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- Recommended that additional FTEs be included in the upcoming budget for the Development Services Department to fully enforce the energy code for residential and commercial buildings, with up to 14 FTEs for plan review and up to 11 FTEs for building inspections, as described in Option 1 under Plan Review and Option 1 under Inspections in the memo from J. Rodney Gonzales to Council dated June 21, 2017. Recommendation No. 20180717-005.
- Formed two Working Groups to:
 - Evaluate removal of Energy Code Sections R403.5.5 Water Heating with Adjacent Gas Service and R403.9 Space Heating. Members: Commissioners Babyak, Smith, and White.
 - Develop recommendations on how to expand access to distributed solar in an equitable way. Members: Vice Chair White and Commissioners Brenneman, Harmon, Johnson and Kohan.
- Received briefings and reports on the following topics:
 - Green Building
 - Solar Program
 - Improving access to solar energy
 - Quarterly updates from Texas Gas Service
 - Quarterly updates from Austin Water
 - Austin Sustainable Integration of energy Storage and Solar Photovoltaics (SHINES) project
 - Energy Conservation Audit and Disclosure Ordinance
 - Policy and building code changes regarding single-fueled utility customers
 - End of life management of solar panels
 - Transportation electrification
 - Austin Water Utility Water Forward Plan
 - Emissions analysis related to natural gas and electric energy usage in residential properties
 - Customer Energy Solutions budget
- Received input at meetings during Citizen Communications on the following topics:
 - Need to incorporate Water Forward processes within CodeNext
 - Need for distributed forms of water supply (stormwater and rainwater capture, graywater, and AC condensate) to serve new developments.
 - Texas Gas Service conservation programs
 - Additional funding for the multifamily energy efficiency rebate program
 - Efficacy of rebate programs and education outreach to increase customer participation
 - Criteria for participation in the low income multifamily rebate program
 - Possible changes to the Energy Code
 - The City's yearly report to SECO
 - Space conditioning costs for various models of electric and gas heaters
 - Energy efficiency rebate projects for multifamily housing

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, through the use of emerging technologies and renewable sources in City facilities and departments.
- b. Encourage the use and greater adoption of sustainable building methods, emerging technologies, and resource conservation strategies through the advancement of customer programs, policies, and education.
- c. Continue to work with staff of Austin Energy, Austin Water, Development Services Department, Fleet Services, Office of Sustainability, Texas Gas Service, and Cap Metro to assist 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 recognize the importance of citizen input, and explore and leverage new methods to facilitate equitable participation for citizen stakeholders.
- 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 and implementation of comprehensive water resource and conservation plans and 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 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, monitor compliance, and review proposed changes with adopted policies such as the Energy Code, water restrictions, and other codes related to water resources and conservation.
- k. Leverage synergies of existing and emerging methods and technologies to enhance resource management such as the water-energy nexus.
- l. Provide input on 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 through the advancement of customer programs, policies, and education.
- 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.