

RESOLUTION NO. 20060112-030

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is nationally recognized for its conservation, renewable energy and quality of life programs; and

WHEREAS, the City's electric utility Austin Energy, at the direction of the Austin City Council, established goals that 20% of the power it produces will flow from renewable sources by 2020 and 15% of its new load by that date will be met through energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy established its GreenChoice® renewable energy program in 2001 with the goal of building one of the most successful programs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the GreenChoice® Program has been the Number One utility-sponsored green power program in the nation three years running for sales, outperforming 600 other programs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a key component to that success has been an innovation under which the regular fuel charge on the electric bill is replaced by a "GreenChoice® Charge" for subscribers to the green power program; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to pass on to customers the fixed long-term cost of renewables, the GreenChoice® Charge stays fixed for the life of Austin Energy's wind-energy contracts, which typically span a 10-year period; and

WHEREAS, the soaring cost of natural gas and coal have required an increase that has pushed the regular fuel charge higher than the GreenChoice® Charge which means customers subscribing to GreenChoice® are paying less for electricity than non-subscribers; and

WHEREAS, because of high customer participation rates, the remaining energy supply available under the current GreenChoice® wind contract is almost sold out and;

WHEREAS, because GreenChoice® is now less expensive than conventional power, an increase in subscriptions in excess of available supply is expected; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Manager is directed to do the following:

1. To ensure a fair distribution of the remaining GreenChoice® Batch 4 supply, implement a subscription application process that will be fair to all customers; and
2. Advertise that subscription application process through the media and other means and allow sufficient time for all customers to both be notified and to apply; and

3. Set a date for a drawing with the goal of allocating an equal share of the remaining GreenChoice® Batch 4 supply to each of the three customer groups: residential, small commercial and large commercial customers; and
4. Conduct the drawing and notify those customers of the effective date of their enrollment into the GreenChoice® Program; and
5. Work with Austin Energy staff to ensure that additional supplies of renewable energy are procured expeditiously so that customers will have the ongoing opportunity to participate in the GreenChoice® program.

ADOPTED: January 12, 2006

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk