

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA



Thursday, July 27, 2006

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Purchasing Office RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

ITEM No. 51

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a 12 month requirements service contract with NEXUS ENERGY GUIDE, Wellesley, MA, for online energy audit services in an estimated amount not to exceed \$103,500, with three 12-month extensions in an estimated amount not to exceed \$106,500 for the first extension option, \$109,804 for the second extension option, and \$113,099 for the third extension option, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$432,903.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$17,250 is available in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Amended Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remaining 10 months of the original contract and the extension is contingent upon funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Additional Backup Material

(click to open)

No Attachments Available

For More Information: Karen Williams, Buyer II (512) 322-6467

Purchasing Language: Sole Source.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.

This contract is for online energy audit services for Austin Energy's residential and commercial customers to audit their individual energy consumption. Austin Energy has offered residential and commercial customers the opportunity to conduct an online energy audit on their home or business for the past 4 years through Austin Energy's website at www.austinenergy.com. Nexus Energy Guide was selected to provide Austin Energy with the development of an online audit to provide to its customers as a result of a competitive bidding process. Since the program's inception, over 37,000 residential and commercial customers have utilized the online audit service. Once customer inputs their home or business characteristics, the inputs are saved permanently to allow customers to return at a later date to update their base on energy improvements made. Approximately 10% of customers have returned to update their personal inputs for their home or business energy audits. The goal of the Online Energy Audit Program is to reduce energy consumption for residential customers. The software/service provides residential, multi-family, and small business customers 24-hour per day access to easy-to-use, online software via the internet. The online audit software allows customer input of household/business characteristics, energy using appliances, and what-if scenarios for different efficiency levels of appliances. The software provides instant data reports displaying energy consumption and makes recommendations to achieve a reduction in consumption for residential and commercial customers. The software will provide residential and business equipment calculators to project energy savings for specific types of appliances. This is a sole source procurement since Nexus Energy holds copyrights to its proprietary software. This product is only sold through Nexus Energy guide and cannot be purchased through distributors. Due to the on-going investment made in this service for the utility customers, it is essential that AE continue to contract with Nexus Energy Guide. The requested dollar amounts include funding for AE's aggressive conservation plan as outlined in the ten-year strategic plan approved by City Council.