

AGENDA



Thursday, May 13, 2010

**Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 3

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a 24-month Interlocal Agreement with the Austin Independent School District for work associated with the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar America Cities Special Project, "Solar Curriculum Development and Demonstration Projects," including the installation of solar photovoltaic systems at 21 schools, in an amount not to exceed \$825,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$450,000 is available from the U.S. Department of Energy. Austin Energy will fund an in-kind match in the amount of \$375,000 available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. The Austin Independent School District will fund an in-kind match in the amount of \$75,000.

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

For More Information: Karl R. Rábago, Vice President, Distributed Energy Services, 322-6098; Leslie Libby, Project Manager, Solar Programs, 482-5390.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission and Resource Management Commission. Related to Item #2.

Austin Energy seeks approval to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Austin Independent School District (AISD) to promote the use of solar energy as part of a special project in partnership with the Department of Energy's Solar America Cities program. The proposed 24-month agreement between the City of Austin / Austin Energy and AISD includes the installation of solar photovoltaic systems at 21 schools. In addition, the Solar Energy Curriculum will be enhanced and used in conjunction with solar installations that are or will be located on school campuses to educate students and the school community about solar energy and the benefits of clean electric generation.

By entering into this agreement, Austin Energy will further its efforts to:

- Promote the use and commercial viability of renewable energy generation sources;
- Reduce the emissions of air pollutants affecting the Austin area;
- Assess the performance of on-site distributed generation applications; and
- Promote and provide resources supporting the community, Austin Energy ratepayers, and the local economy.

The objectives of the proposed agreement and the special project with the Department of Energy titled "Solar Curriculum Development and Demonstration Projects" are:

- Expand the number of AISD campuses from 17 to 38 that have solar photovoltaic installations by installing systems at 21 schools.
- Continue to educate students, teachers, and community stakeholders about the benefits of clean energy using the solar installations as a tool for learning.
- Incorporate the use of the solar photovoltaic installations into the K-12 Solar Energy Curriculum.
- Revise the Solar Energy Curriculum, along with teacher training, to meet guidelines of the new 2010 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills or TEKS.
- Establish and write curriculum that includes solar energy workforce preparation for high school fourth year science courses (Engineering and Research and Design) for 2010 implementation.

--Prepare AISD students for the energy workforce and develop career pathways for solar engineers and solar technician certifications.

--Leverage resources within the community—the City of Austin, Austin Community College, University of Texas, Lower Colorado River Authority, and other organizations within the AISD—to meet AISD's 'environmental mission' of utilizing a systemic approach to inspire students to become stewards of the environment.