

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	71238	Agenda Number	100.
Meeting Date:	6/15/2017			Department:	Development Services
Subject					
Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending Article 12 of City Code Chapter 25-12, the Energy Code, to require that new residential and commercial buildings are constructed to reserve roof top space to more easily accommodate solar equipment.					
Amount and Source of Funding					
There is no anticipated fiscal impact.					
Fiscal Note					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	February 2, 2017 – City Council approved Resolution No. 20170202-040 directing staff to implement solar ready provisions to be effective October 1, 2017. June 23, 2017 - Adopted the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code with local amendments.				
For More Information:	Carl Wren, Assistant Director, DSD (512) 974-7254; Kurt Stogdill, Manager, Green Building and Sustainability, AE (512) 322-6510.				
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	June 20, 2016 - Approved by the Electric Utility Commission on a 7-1 vote, Commissioner Heidebrecht voting nay and Commissioners Mahmood, Norris and Stout absent. June 21, 2016 - Approved by the Resource Management Commission on aa 8-0 vote, with Commissioner Vaughan absent and with two vacancies. April 25, 2017 – Reviewed by the Mechanical Plumbing and Solar Board. No action taken. April 26, 2017 – Reviewed by the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals. No action taken. May 16, 2017 - Approved by the Resource Management Commission on a 6-1 vote with Commissioner Vaughan voting nay and Commissioners Lesnau and Santiago absent with two vacancies.				
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					
Additional Backup Information					

The City of Austin's Energy Code consists of the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and local amendments. This "solar-ready" amendment to the Energy Code requires that new residential and commercial construction reserve rooftop space to more easily accommodate future installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) equipment. This required "solar-ready zone" must be an area of the rooftop free from obstructions. In addition, this solar-ready amendment requires that space in the electric service panel or distribution system be reserved for integration of a future PV system. This amendment does not require installation of a PV system, but it does require that new construction be performed in a thoughtful way that reduces obstacles to installing solar power in the future. This proposed amendment allows exceptions for small dwelling units, shaded areas, buildings on the downtown grid, occupied rooftops, and to accommodate other City Code requirements.

The IECC provides for reduced energy use in both residential and commercial buildings. The proposed solar-ready amendments to the IECC support The City of Austin's policy relating to the Zero Energy Capable Homes Initiative (Resolution No. 20071018-036) and the Austin Climate Protection Plan.