

# AGENDA



## Recommendation for Council Action

### AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting : February 15, 2018

Item Number: **002**

#### Austin Energy

Authorize recurring expenditures for the renewal of an electronic subscription to E-Source and professional dues and memberships in national and state associations and organizations related to the electric utility industry, in an amount not to exceed \$652,000.

<b>Lead Department</b>	Austin Energy
<b>Fiscal Note</b>	Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.
<b>For More Information</b>	Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Issues (512) 322-6087.
<b>Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action</b>	January 22, 2018 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a vote of 8-0, with Commissioner Stout absent and two vacancies.

#### Additional Backup Information:

The list below identifies the anticipated vendor or agency and provides a description of each exempted or sole source expenditure and estimated amount to be expended in 2018.

##### 1. E-Source Subscription \$175,000

E-Source provides member organizations with unbiased, independent analysis of retail energy markets, services and technologies. Clients include electric and gas utilities and other energy service providers, large corporate and institutional energy users, government agencies, energy service companies,

manufacturers, consultants, research institutions, and other organizations in nearly two dozen countries worldwide. The professional services provided include training, research, strategic consulting, industry surveys, and access to industry experts. Specifically, membership in E-Source gives Austin Energy access to a number of proprietary items not provided by other companies: in-depth research and analysis in the areas of energy efficiency, emerging technology, customer experience and engagement, product and service evaluation, and utility benchmarking. E-Source also provides a number of proprietary databases with information on demand response programs and customer enhancement modalities.

## **2. Large Public Power Council (LPPC) Professional Dues/Membership \$134,600**

Created in 1987, LPPC consists of 25 of the nation's largest public power systems, including Austin Energy, CPS Energy and LCRA. LPPC provides forums where public power electric utility professionals exchange information and best practices. LPPC has four Task Forces-Governmental Relations, Environmental, Tax and Finance and Energy Regulation-that deal with federal legislation, environmental rules and regulations, tax implications, and electric and energy policy. LPPC hires professional consultants in each of these areas to assist the organization and its individual members. LPPC is extremely valuable in lobbying the Congress and federal agencies on public policies related to the industry.

## **3. American Public Power Association (APPA) Professional Dues/Membership \$124,100**

APPA is the national trade association for more than 2,000 public power electric utilities. Created in 1940, the Washington, DC-based association's mission is to advance the interests of its members and consumers. APPA provides an array of services to assist Austin Energy in fulfilling its mission to safely provide clean, affordable and reliable service. APPA provides detailed analyses of federal legislation related to the electric utility industry, and a full array of advocacy, education and information services and programs. APPA's policy positions emphasize the importance of hometown decision making.

## **4. Texas Public Power Association (TPPA) Professional Dues/Membership \$113,300**

TPPA is the state trade association representing the interests of 72 public power providers located throughout Texas, including Austin Energy, CPS Energy and LCRA. TPPA is a central vehicle through which members can extend their influence on policy matters affecting the public power industry, especially at the Texas Legislature. TPPA provides forums for the transfer of information, technology and training in the public power arena.

## **5. M.J. Bradley & Associates-Clean Energy Group (MJB&A and CEG) \$105,000**

MJB&A coordinates national coalitions to advance clean energy policy, protect air and water, reduce methane emissions, and support safe, reliable and cost-effective natural gas service. Austin Energy is a member of MJB&A's Clean Energy Group (CEG), a coalition of public and private electric utilities dedicated to promoting clean energy initiatives. The CEG provides Austin Energy with a forum at the federal level to further the goals of the Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants to 20 percent of 2005 levels by 2020 and to promote clean energy and energy efficiency. The CEG and its individual electric utilities, are vocal advocates of progressive environmental policies, and Austin Energy benefits from belonging to a coalition that promotes these policies. The CEG also provides its members with technical information and analyses that address federal environmental policies, including how to respond to environmental rules and regulations proposed and administered by the EPA dealing with the Clean Power Plan to reduce GHGs, replacement rules for NOx and SO2 cap and trade programs, ozone and new particulate matter

standards, rules for disposal and processing of coal combustion products, wastewater effluent standards at utilities and cooling water intake structure standards among others.