

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	7822	Agenda Number	<ITEM_OUTLINE>
Meeting Date:	7/28/2011	Department:	Austin Energy	

Subject

Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$363,250 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funds administered through the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) and amending the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Austin Energy Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20100913-002) to appropriate such grant funds, and authorize negotiation and execution of a grant agreement between SECO and Austin Energy for the installation of a solar photovoltaic system at the City of Austin's George Washington Carver Museum and Library.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$363,250 is available from the State Energy Conservation Office. Austin Energy will fund an in-kind match in the amount of \$100,000, available in the Fiscal Year 2011 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Karl R. Rábago, Vice-President, Distributed Energy Services, 322-6098; Fred Yebra, Director, Energy Efficiency Services, 482-5305.
Boards and Commission Action:	To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission on July 18, 2011 and by the Resource Management Commission on July 19, 2011.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts' State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) expects to receive over \$290 million in stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In an effort to support energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, SECO is administering grant programs in the areas of Building Efficiency and Retrofit, Distributed Renewable Energy Technology, and Appliance Rebates among others. Austin Energy successfully applied for a competitive grant under the SECO program to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the City of Austin's George Washington Carver Museum and Library.

The Carver Museum and Library serves as an excellent site for this project as it provides high visibility to those visiting the library or museum. The electricity generated will offset the operating costs of the two departments that manage the facility, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Library Department. Austin Energy believes that the 105 kW system to be installed will result in reducing electricity costs by about 136,500 kWh per year which equates to an annual savings of approximately \$10,920, about 14% of the Carver Museum and Library's consumption.

The system will produce enough electricity for 13 average Austin homes for a year and produce an estimated 134 Renewable Energy Credits per year. These savings are equivalent to the planting of 2,921 trees or 146 acres of forest in Austin's parks or the removal of 149,569 vehicle miles or 19 cars from Austin roadways. This project will save 77 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), 33 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), 165 pounds of Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x), and 215 pounds of Carbon Monoxide (CO) from being emitted into the atmosphere.

This project supports Austin Energy's commitment to renewable energy as stated in Austin Energy's 2003 Strategic Plan and the Austin Climate Protection Plan. The Strategic Plan calls for Austin Energy to implement a highly visible public awareness and education program involving the installation of PV projects at schools, libraries, community centers, and city buildings.

Based on the draft grant agreement with SECO, the grant period is July 5, 2011 to December 31, 2011. The administration of this grant will not require hiring of new employees.