

**CITY OF AUSTIN – AUSTIN ENERGY
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

AGENDA DATE: 00/00/0000

SUBJECT: Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and the City of San Antonio to allow cooperation with respect to implementing the Texas Solar Collaboration as provided for and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Rooftop Solar Challenge grant.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available from the Department of Energy's Rooftop Solar Challenge grant. Funding for the in-kind match is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget of Austin Energy, Conservation Rebates and Incentive Fund.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Fred Yebra, P.E., Director, Energy Efficiency Services, at 482-5305 or Leslie Libby, Project Manager, at 482-5390.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission on _____ and by the Resource Management Commission on _____.

The City of Austin through Austin Energy and the City of San Antonio will share expertise and resources in order to meet the grant award requirements of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Rooftop Solar Challenge. Both the City of Austin and the City of San Antonio received funding through the U.S. Department of Energy Rooftop Solar Challenge to spur solar-power deployment by reducing barriers and lower costs for rooftop solar systems

Austin received \$83,073 in grant funds that were included in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget. Austin Energy's in-kind contributions of \$8,800 will consist of Austin Energy staff time for a total project amount of \$91,873.

The Rooftop Solar Challenge is part of the DOE SunShot Initiative, which is a collaborative national effort to make solar cost-competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade. Reducing the installed cost of solar energy systems by about 75 percent will drive widespread large-scale adoption of solar—fortifying U.S. leadership in the global clean energy race while spurring new industries and job creation across the nation.

Coordination and cooperation may occur in the following areas of program implementation:

- Austin Energy as a member of the Texas Solar Collaboration (TSC)
- Participate with TSC representatives from San Antonio, Austin, and Houston
- TSC implementation of step-by-step actions to increase access to financing especially in the area of Community Solar, standardize permit processes, improve grid-connection standards, and update planning and zoning codes
- Identify opportunities for lowering costs of non-hardware costs such as permitting, installation, design, and maintenance, which currently account for up to 40 percent of the total cost of installed rooftop photovoltaic systems