

CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION
VENDOR NAME: SOLAR COMMUNITY

AGENDA DATE: 08/16/2012
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SUBJECT: Authorize award and execution of a contract with **SOLAR COMMUNITY** or one of the other qualified offerors to RFP No. TVN0023, for the installation of seven solar photovoltaic systems at the Palmer Event Center in an estimated amount not to exceed \$500,114.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

FISCAL NOTE: A fiscal note is attached.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Terry Nicholson, Sr. Buyer/512-322-6586

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission on July 16, 2012

PURCHASING: Best Evaluated Proposal of nine proposals received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.

This contract will provide for the turnkey installation of a solar photovoltaic system at the City of Austin's Palmer Event Center. The installation will include all equipment, labor, design, permits, warranty, installation and all other required resources for site. The project also requires the installation of a monitoring system in the lobby of the Palmer Events Center to be available for public view. The monitoring system will be monitoring 15 minute energy production to also assure long-term performance.

The Palmer Events Center serves as an excellent site for this project as it provides high visibility to those visiting the Center. The electricity generated will offset the operating costs of the Convention Center Department, which is responsible for the management of the facility. Austin Energy (AE) estimates the 232 kW systems will reduce electricity costs at the facility by approximately 302,575 kWh per year, which equates to an annual savings of approximately \$30,680. This savings represents approximately 12% of the Palmer Event Center's energy consumption.

The system will produce enough electricity for 30 average Austin homes for a year and produce an estimated 303 Renewable Energy Credits per year. These savings are equivalent to the planting of 6,602 trees or 330 acres of forest in Austin's parks or the removal of 338,045 vehicle miles or 42 cars from Austin roadways. The project will save 175 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), 74 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), 372 pounds of Nitrogen Oxide (NOX), and 485 pounds of Carbon Monoxide (CO) from being emitted into the atmosphere.

Austin Energy's solar project objectives include the expansion of the number of municipal facilities that have solar photovoltaic installations and to continue to educate community stakeholders about the benefits of clean energy using the solar installations as a tool for learning. This project will carry out part of AE's 2003 Strategic Plan in promoting energy conservation through the use of alternative energy sources and generating Renewable Energy Credits. The program plan calls for AE to implement a highly visible public awareness and education program that will involve the installation of PV projects on branch libraries and community centers such as recreation centers.

An Austin Energy evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the proposals and unanimously chose these proposals as the best to provide these services. Evaluation criteria used to evaluate the proposals included total kilowatts produced based on budget amount, system concept and design, and local business presence.

This request allows for the development of an agreement with a qualified offeror that Council selects. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the selected offeror, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that Council may select another qualified offeror and authorize contract negotiations with this provider.

MBE/ WBE Solicited: 5/1

MBE/WBE Bid: 1/0

PRICE ANALYSIS

- a. Adequate competition.
- b. One hundred twenty-one notices were sent including five MBEs and one WBE. Nine proposals were received including one MBE. There was no response from the WBE.

APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION

- a. Best evaluated proposal received.
- b. The Purchasing office concurs with Austin Energy's recommended award.
- c. Advertised on the Internet.