

RESOLUTION NO. 20120927-083

WHEREAS, energy efficiency programs have been proven to be the cheapest available energy resource -- they can be deployed faster and more flexibly than competing traditional generation resources, and with much shorter time commitments; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency strategies are lower in cost and pose less financial risk compared to investment in traditional generation resources; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency aids in the conservation of water, which resource is vital to a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency programs have the potential to create local jobs and stimulate the local economy while reducing bills for all customer classes; and

WHEREAS, Council resolutions dating back to 1994 have identified energy efficiency as the first priority for meeting new load growth; and

WHEREAS, the Council-adopted *Resource Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2020* (the Generation Plan) in April of 2010, set a goal to reduce peak demand by at least 800 megawatts (MW) between 2007 and 2020 and also recommended analyzing the potential to set a goal to reduce peak demand by at least 1,000 MW; and

WHEREAS, an ambitious energy efficiency strategy could reduce Austin Energy's reliance on the Fayette Power Plant as well as offset generation needs in the event of its closure; and

WHEREAS, the *Austin DSM Market Potential Assessment* suggests that funding allocated for AE's energy efficiency programs must increase to meet the current goal of 800 MW of demand reduction by 2020 and would have to increase substantially to meet a more ambitious goal, and external funding opportunities could mitigate these increases; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the additional benefits of energy reduction for all classes of customers in addition to demand-side management; and

WHEREAS, several components of the Generation Plan have not been fully realized, including establishing "a system for the examination and vetting of new energy efficiency ideas and programs submitted by industry experts"; enhancing "existing, and as appropriate," establishing "new channels for obtaining and evaluating customer and stakeholder proposals for new or modified energy efficiency programs"; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to host a one-day Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Process to provide an opportunity for community members to offer recommendations regarding energy efficiency goals and strategies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall place a standing item, for a period of one year, on subsequent Resource Management Committee meetings to allow stakeholders and the Commission to receive updates on the progress as well as receive additional public comment.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall present a final report to the City Council on the results of the one-year stakeholder process outlining achievable goals and strategies identified, adopted, and implemented that result from this process.

APPROVED: September 27, 2012 **ATTEST:** Shirley A. Gentry
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk

