

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council - Commissioners Court Meeting	Item ID	36116	Agenda Number	71.
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Meeting Date:	9/25/2014	Department:	Sustainability Office
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a partnership agreement with EcoDistricts, a 501(C)(3) organization, for the City of Austin Seaholm District to participate in the EcoDistricts Target Cities Program in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$75,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget of the Office of Sustainability.

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Lucia Athens, Chief Sustainability Officer, 512-974-7902
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

Target Cities is a two-year immersion program for leading North American cities to develop and deliver catalytic, district-scale sustainability strategies and programming that are specific to particular neighborhoods or districts. The program focuses on education, building public private partnerships, capacity development, district performance and performance analytics. The program focuses on buildings, infrastructure, and the community, and on creating peer learning and replicable models for how to address neighborhood-scale sustainability.

The Office of Sustainability has been working with the Economic Development Department since 2012 in applying the EcoDistricts framework to the Seaholm District to address benchmarking and performance in energy, water, materials management, mobility, habitat, health, and equity.

Recently, seven other cities were named as the inaugural pilot participants in the Target Cities program as part of the 2014 Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to action. These cities are Atlanta, Boston, Cambridge, Denver, Los Angeles, Ottawa, and Washington D.C.

Participation in the program includes a minimum of five training programs, peer learning opportunities including webinars, access to a library of case studies, templates and toolkits, technical assistance, guidance on the application of the EcoDistricts Framework and protocol, and assistance with project assessment and performance measurement.

EcoDistricts is a Portland-based 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to provide support and leadership for urban change makers and innovators to accelerate sustainable district- and neighborhood-scale regeneration. Their EcoDistricts approach is based on the belief that effective district scale sustainable development requires a new model of public/private civic partnerships that emphasize innovation, transparency, and collaborative action. Success requires the adoption of triple bottom line performance metrics and a rigorous process management and monitoring framework.