

**From:** Bartlett, Sady [<mailto:Sady.Bartlett@austinenergy.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2015 1:35 PM  
**To:** Bartlett, Sady  
**Subject:** LICATF-Preliminary Report for April 1 (PLEASE REVIEW)

Dear Task Force Members,

Please read the message below from Carol. Attached is the final draft preliminary report for you to review.

Thank you,

**Sady Bartlett** | Administrative Specialist, Data Analytics & Business Intelligence | Austin Energy  
811 Barton Springs Rd. | Austin, Texas 78704 | Office 512-322-6123

**From:** Carol Biedrzycki [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2015 1:20 PM  
**To:** Bartlett, Sady  
**Cc:** Kuehn, Denise; Jambor, Elizabeth; Timothy Arndt [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Final Draft Task Force Report

Dear Task Force Members:

I want to start by saying a special thank you to everyone who attended the task force meeting on Friday. It was lively and productive.

Attached is a final draft preliminary report for your review. This my best shot. The notes got to be confusing at times so I expect there may be some comments and changes coming in.

As we discussed on Friday, the report has preliminary recommendations and "recommendations being considered." I included the language about the approval of the rotational engineering contract as a preliminary recommendation. However, I am wondering if that should not be in the cover email to Robert Goode.

PLEASE REVIEW THE ATTACHED FILE. SEND ME YOUR COMMENTS AND/OR DISSENT BY ITEM NUMBER. ALSO PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE ENGINEERING CONTRACT.

I NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU BY TOMMORROW (TUESDAY MARCH 31) AT 10 AM.

Note that the preliminary report is to address recommendations that might affect the 2016 budget.

If you object to any item on the list it will be removed from this preliminary report and be included in topics for further discussion and consideration for the final report recommendations.

I will email the document to Robert Goode in the City Manager's office on April 1s with a cover email. Please don't forget to give your opinion about whether the engineering contract item should go in the cover email or in the document.

Carol Biedrzycki  
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Texas ROSE (Ratepayers' Organization to Save Energy)  
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LOW-INCOME CONSUMER ADVISORY TASKS FORCE  
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS BEING CONSIDERED  
MARCH 27, 2015

At its March 27, 2015 meeting the Low-Income Consumer Advisory Task Force discussed the following list of preliminary recommendations and other recommendations being considered. The recommendations conveyed here are being considered for inclusion in the Task Force's final recommendations that will be completed in early June. The following recommendations focus on those coming changes that may affect the budget process. On a preliminary basis, we recommend to City Council that:

1. The 2016 weatherization budget include funding equal to the current annual budget for energy efficiency services targeted to low-income customers and CAP (Customer Assistance Program) weatherization plus all funds that were budgeted for CAP weatherization all low income programs over the past three years that were not expended and \$900,000 of the multi-family funds. In addition, we further advise that:
  - the 2016 energy efficiency weatherization budget include monies for pilot programs to investigate alternative methods to direct installation of weatherization measures integrated into the housing repair programs such as use of contractor rebates,
  - the income threshold for the weatherization program include affordable housing eligibility requirements,
  - the weatherization budget include a portion of the portion of the multi-family program funds that will be targeted to properties serving low and low-moderate income households, and
  - a policy be investigated to provide additional rebates for non- profit community organizations, especially those that provide affordable housing in the community.
2. The rotational engineering consulting contract under consideration by Council (RFP# OPJ0112) be approved to support the task force

LOW-INCOME CONSUMER ADVISORY TASKS FORCE  
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND  
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MARCH 27, 2015  
Page 2

recommendations by conducting studies on relevant topics such as the net effect of affordability in multifamily communities from increased energy efficiency supporting Resolution No. 20130523-069, market potential for energy efficiency in rental properties with less than 5 units, appropriate incentive levels for multifamily properties in consideration of the debt servicing costs of PACE or other financing mechanisms, and program delivery by neighborhood.

We are also considering the following recommendations that:

3. Austin Energy develop a plan to improve community outreach for ECAD (Energy Conservation Audit Disclosure).
4. In regard to ECAD, Code Compliance and Austin Energy should work together to improve program enforcement.
5. The Better Buildings Grant loan loss reserve funds be used to review financing opportunities including but not limited to the following:
  - attracting private funding for financing such as PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) to provide loans for energy efficiency in small rental properties, and
  - using public funds to leverage private capital (e.g., WHEEL) or other feasible options.
6. The legal opinions rendered by the City Attorney on on-bill financing be re-examined and evaluated using other program models such as on-bill repayment, use of public funds to leverage private capital (e.g., WHEEL) or other feasible options.
7. Investigate a ~~virtual~~ billing policy to enable customers of all classes including affordable housing developers and residents to more fully utilize solar to reduce bills by ~~virtually~~ dividing the value of solar credits for one or more solar installations and applying them to multiple customer accounts regardless of location.

LOW-INCOME CONSUMER ADVISORY TASKS FORCE  
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS BEING CONSIDERED  
MARCH 27, 2015  
Page 3

8. Continue to examine on-bill financing and other financing options that can assist consumers in pursuing energy efficiency and renewable energy goals that can help reduce bills.
9. Continue and improve collection of survey data from energy efficiency program participant and report annually on the demographic data (age, income, education, etc.) of program participants by council district.
10. Continue to evaluate energy efficiency and demand response opportunities in addition to those in the Generation Resource Plan approved in 2014 to meet demand reduction goals of at least 800 megawatts (MWs) by 2020 and 900 by 2025 (with 200 MW of demand response).