

MOTION

The Low Income Advisory Task Force makes the following findings:

1. AE proposed and the Austin City Council adopted a multi-family energy efficiency program for FY 2015 that provided for AE funding of 80-90% of the energy efficiency improvements without regard to whether the tenants were of low or moderate income households.
2. Since the commencement of the FY 2015 budget year, contractors and owners of multi-family housing negotiated and entered into contracts for energy efficiency improvements in good faith.
3. AE funding of energy efficiency improvements at 80-100% of the cost regardless of the household income make-up of the tenants is not a reasonable energy efficiency program nor does it rationally promote affordable housing.
4. The current multi-family energy efficiency program should be abated to determine a reasonable rebate level for energy efficiency improvements for any multi-family structure and to determine a reasonable rebate level for energy efficiency improvements for multi-family structures where the majority of tenants are of low and/or moderate income households.
5. Fundamental fairness dictates that contractors be notified of any abatements of and/or changes to the multi-family energy efficiency program to ensure that contractors do not incur unnecessary costs or invest in resources that may not be used.
6. Fundamental fairness also dictates that contractors who have already entered into contracts with owners of multi-family structures be provided with the rebates AE proposed and the council approved for FY 2015 that the contractors and owners were relying upon in their contracts.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET OUT ABOVE, the Low Income Task Force moves that the Austin City Council be requested to direct Austin Energy to:

1. Abate the current AE multi-family energy efficiency program;
2. Notify all contractors who are certified by Austin Energy of this abatement;
3. Provide to contractors and owners who have entered into contracts for energy efficiency improvements prior to the abatement with the rebates proposed and council approved for FY 2015;
4. Review the multi-family energy efficiency program for reasonableness, fairness, and equity;

5. Bring back recommendations to the Council for amending the FY 2015 energy efficiency budget year based on that review and based on any recommendations by the low income Task Force, if available, for Council approval and adoption.