



**LOW INCOME CONSUMER ADVISORY TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2015**

The Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force convened in a regular meeting at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, Room 100, in Austin, Texas. Chairperson, Carol Biedrzycki called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Task Force Members in Attendance: Carol Biedrzycki, Tim Arndt, Lanetta Cooper, Richard Halpin, Dan Pruett, Cyrus Reed, and Chris Strand. Members Karen Hadden and Kelly Weiss were not in attendance.

Staff in Attendance: Austin Energy staff included Sady Bartlett, Liz Jambor, Scott Jarman, Denise Kuehn and Ronnie Mendoza.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Susan Lippman, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Team- gave an announcement of the Dove Springs Community Power Forum on May 9th from 12-2pm. She encouraged the members to participate.

David Malone, Owner of First Choice Energy- reported on revisions to the Multifamily Energy Reduction Program (MERP) that has delayed pending contracts that have been signed under good faith. He requested the Task Force look into this matter and honor the pending contracts. He added that stopping multifamily rebates could lead to lay-off of multifamily contractors. Denise Kuehn, Director of Energy Efficiency Services provided clarification on the changes to the program noting that Austin Energy (AE) did not stop the contracts; they were slowed by Council. Questions and discussion followed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approve minutes from April 10, 2015 meeting- Dan Pruett moved to approve the April 10, 2015 meeting minutes. Cyrus Reed seconded and all approved.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action on energy efficiency and renewable energy financing recommendations. An email was sent out to all the members on April 14, 2015 that included a list of recommended discussion questions. The Chair requested that all members review and provide their input regarding the questions before the meeting in order to format a structured discussion regarding the topic of financing recommendations. The questions included:

1. What customer classes and customer groups should be targeted for participation in financing programs?
2. What role can and should Property Accessed Clean Energy (PACE) play in furthering energy efficiency in homes and apartments?
3. Combined with financing options how can multifamily programs be redesigned to provide additional incentives to owners of multi-family properties to replace air conditioning units?

4. Should Austin Energy develop a program to work in partnership with affordable housing owners to coordinate property renovations and energy efficiency upgrades?
5. What is an "ideal" virtual billing process? What parts of the process exist at AE now? What can be done in the near future to further develop a virtual billing process? How long will it take to fully develop virtual billing?
6. What is an "ideal" on- bill financing/repayment process? What parts of the process exist at AE now? What can be done in the near future to further develop an on-bill financing/repayment process? How long will it take to fully develop an on-bill financing/repayment process?

Staff provided a presentation in response to the posed questions. Denise Kuehn provided contextual information and responses to questions 1, 2, 3 and 4. Liz Jambor, Manager of Data Analytics and Business Intelligence responded to question 6 with clarification on the technical impact of on-bill financing and repayment on the current billing system.

b. Discussion and possible action on low and low moderate income energy efficiency program recommendations- This item was not discussed.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion of Task Force Report-This item was not discussed.

5. BRIEFINGS & REPORTS

a. Austin Energy staff update on the weatherization program job status- Denise Kuehn presented a slide with an updated accounting of homes weatherized as of April 14, 2015.

b. Status of data requests-This item was not discussed.

c. Committee Reports – possible reports from the Low Income Energy Efficiency Program Committee, Low-Moderate Income Energy Efficiency Program Committee, and/or Affordable Rental Property Committee- This item was not discussed.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Discussion regarding future agenda items including a schedule of topics and issues and topics raised during briefings and citizen communications- The members discussed potential dates for public meetings to be held within the community to gather citizen input regarding the Task Force's final recommendations. The Task Force would hold two public meetings. Staff would research meeting dates and location availability and report back to the group at the next regular meeting. Discussion regarding future agenda topics included:

- Follow-up on coordination of public meetings
- On-bill financing and repayment option
- Pending multifamily contracts
- Draft motion regarding multifamily properties and PACE
- Draft motion regarding financing for the 0-200% and 200%-400% customer groups

ADJOURNMENT- Chairperson Carol Biedrzycki adjourned the meeting at 12:16 pm with no objection.