

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to the protection of our natural resources, the health and viability of the environment and recognizes the need for reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and other activities detrimental to the climate; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 the City Council passed Resolution No. 2007215-023 establishing the Austin Climate Protection Plan, setting a goals for the renewable energy production, including a goal that Austin meet 30 percent of its energy needs through the use of renewable resources, including 100 megawatts (MW) of solar, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted similar goals in April of 2010, with the approval of the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan, and again in 2013 with the adoption of Resolution No. 20131024-53 stressing the importance of local solar within the generation plan and;

WHEREAS, the Council Appointed 2014 Generation Task Force reaffirmed the City's commitment to local solar and found that solar energy represents a cost competitive means of securing clean peak power and hedging against fuel dependent thermal resources and;

WHEREAS, the City of Austin desires to promote competition and abundant business opportunities within its service area to meet these goals, and to make available a wide variety of business modes and business systems for solar power to the residents and business owners of Austin, and to take advantage of all available programs and incentives that lower the cost of all types of solar and;

WHEREAS, leased solar systems offer competitive alternative for homeowners, builders and commercial property owners and managers to enter in to reliance on solar power and;

WHEREAS, commercial solar leasing performance based incentives (PBI) with substantially high net metering caps have been recommended as a commercial solar strategy by: The Austin Local Solar Advisory Committee in November of 2012, the 2014 Austin Generation Planning Task Force, and in The Austin City Council in Resolution 20140828-157 and;

WHEREAS, purchased commercial solar systems enjoy a PBI from the City while leased systems do not necessarily enjoy this benefit, and the net metering cap for commercial

consumers within the Austin service area is so low as to be far below the national average;

WHEREAS increased net-metering levels for commercial customers will provide the policy foundation for additional solar development with private capital in the Austin service territory.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN,

That the City Council directs the City Manager to enhance the City of Austin's Solar Performance-Based Incentive Program for commercial systems and to make available to all leased commercial solar systems some form of equitable performance based incentives for production up to 200kW (AC), not to exceed 40% of the annual commercial solar incentives budget, with no one vendors able to receive more than 20% of said budget, and, to raise the net metering cap for **commercial and industrial systems from 20kW to one megawatt (MW)** and that this net metering program continue to provide retail rates for these customers.