

Arndt  
late back-up  
RM

From: **Ravi Malhotra** ravim@icastusa.org  
Subject: letter for AE  
Date: August 15, 2015 at 10:00 AM  
To: Tim Arndt (tarndt9@gmail.com) tarndt9@gmail.com  
Cc: Rachel Stone rachels@icastusa.org

Tim

Sorry about the delay – got caught up in other things and missed this completely.  
Your thoughts/feedback on attached will be welcome.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Ravi Malhotra  
Founder and President  
ICAST (International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology)  
[ravi@icastusa.org](mailto:ravi@icastusa.org)  
Off: 303-462-4100 \* 301  
Cell: 720-261-1086  
[www.icastusa.org](http://www.icastusa.org)  
[www.resourcesmart.org](http://www.resourcesmart.org)  
[www.tblfund.org](http://www.tblfund.org)

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> 2015

Tim Arndt  
Stakeholder Committee Chair  
Low-Income Multifamily Energy Rebate Program for Austin Energy



Dear Tim,

ICAST represents multifamily affordable housing owners in Austin and beyond. We help our clients navigate the complex process to rehabilitate their properties, including the various government approvals, incentive and rebate structures, procurement requirements and access to non-conventional financing needed by our clients to install green upgrades.

As Chair of the City of Austin Taskforce that is currently evaluating the Austin Energy rebate program for our clients (owners and property managers of multifamily affordable housing), we wish to bring to your attention, certain nuances of the current program, as we understand it:

1. The program is focused on reducing Peak Demand for Austin Energy (AE) and as such provides rebates for some energy conservation measures (ECM), such as Duct Sealing and Solar Screens. Rebates for lighting, heating and cooling, and other ECMs are at best minimal. As currently structured, the program will have little impact to reduce the cost of energy for the low-income residents, unless its design is changed to provide rebates to low-income families when they reduce energy consumption (versus peak demand for AE).
2. Eligibility of the low-income customer is determined by family and not the property owner.

2. Eligibility of the low-income customer is determined by family and not the property so as an eligible family moves and changes residence, the program moves with them. This makes it difficult for the rental property owners to install ECMs in their property, since they have to do it, one unit at a time. It is a hassle, expensive and time-consuming to do so. Properties that house a majority of low-income families need to be qualified for the program so that ECMs can be developed and installed in the entire property all at once.
3. Contractors to implement the ECMs have been pre-selected by AE and have quotas. This may result in an owner with a large portfolio having to utilize multiple pre-approved contractors versus building a rapport with one, who meets their needs best. We would suggest this program allow the contractor who provides the best service and pricing to have access to as much of the rebates available as they can, after all we are a free market.

Sincerely,

RM

Ravi Malhotra  
Founder and President

p 866-590-4377

International Center for Appropriate & Sustainable Technology  
[info@ICASTusa.org](mailto:info@ICASTusa.org)

[www.ICASTusa.org](http://www.ICASTusa.org)