

Plan for 600 Megawatts of Solar by 2017
(Updated for the October 15, 2015 Council Meeting)

As directed by Council Resolution No. 20150917-077, Austin Energy presented a plan on September 24, 2015 that reviewed the steps and impacts of a plan to “meet the 600 megawatts (MW) utility scale solar goal by no later than 2017,” if available and affordable. The steps, if approved, include:

- 1) Approve the staff recommended RCA to authorize execution of power purchase agreements with one or more qualified offerors for 200 to 300 MW of utility-scale, solar-generated electricity. (Approved by Council on October 1, 2015.)
- 2) Approve the additional RCA authorizing execution of power purchase agreements with one or more qualified offerors for up to 350 MW (i.e., whatever remainder is necessary to achieve a total of approximately 600 MW) of utility-scale, solar-generated electricity. (On October 1, City Council postponed the RCA to the October 15 agenda.)
- 3) Approval of this plan includes waiving the requirement in Council Resolution No. 20113010-003 that stipulates “All resource acquisitions above 10 MW shall, at a minimum, be presented for approval before the Electric Utility Commission (and, with respect to renewable resources, the Resource Management Commission), and shall not be placed on a City Council agenda for action unless the matter has been presented at a previous City Council meeting for briefing and public comment. (Waiving these requirements is no longer necessary because the Electric Utility Commission and Resource Management Commission will hold a special-called joint meeting on October 12 to consider recommendations on the RCA described in #2 above; and Council received a briefing and heard public comment on October 1.)

In the September 24, 2015 discussion, staff also provided their recommendation, in lieu of approving the above, to implement the 600 MW of utility-scale solar in a way that reduces risks and is more favorable to the competitive position of customer rates:

- 1) October 1, 2015 – Approve up to 300 MW of utility-scale, solar-generated electricity.
- 2) Before 2025 – Procure additional solar PPAs or through direct ownership, that combined with the final amount executed as of the October 1, 2015 authorization, totals up to 600 MW of utility-scale, solar-generated electricity.