

AGENDA ITEM 13 – February 22, 2016

ELECTRIC UTILITY COMMISSION COMMENTS
TO CITY COUNCIL PER RESOLUTION NO. 20151210-029

Following are proposed Electric Utility Commission amendments to the Resource Management Commission Report regarding recommendations of the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force, per Council Resolution No. 20151210-029

- **Recommendation A-3 (#13):** Austin Energy should develop a strategy to maximize energy efficiency and the use of solar energy at multi-family properties, with an emphasis on properties with low and low-moderate income tenants.
- **Recommendation A-3 (#12):** Austin Energy should ensure that annual budgets enable it to at least achieve its overall and low and low-moderate income energy efficiency and demand savings goals and targets. ~~To achieve more effective and equitable energy efficiency programs, Austin Energy should anticipate spending up to 25% of its total budget on programs that serve low and low moderate income customers.~~ Austin Energy should be required to provided City Council with quarterly reports on budget and spending levels in dollars and percentages.
- **Recommendation D-6 (#21):** The working group thinks this recommendation is generally a good one, but that it is outside the scope of the RMC. This recommendation is the responsibility of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office. Council should direct the City Manager to report back to the City Council with a proposed schedule, plan, and budget for implementing the recommendation under the leadership of Neighborhood Housing.

Additional Recommendations:

- Establish a process to assess existing central air conditioners in low income residences and determine whether existing central air conditioning equipment that is not working can be repaired and cleaned at a reasonable costs, or whether an existing central air conditioning unit is 6 SEER less than is required by current federal standards. ~~In those cases,~~ replacement of the central unit and the substitution of the central unit with Energy Star window unit air conditioners should be evaluated to determine the best option for the customer and Austin Energy. can be utilized as a standard energy efficiency improvement service option. ~~sketch~~



**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION NO. 20160216-004**

Date: February 16, 2016

Subject: Discussion and possible action on the Resource Management Commission Working Group report regarding recommendations of the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force, per Council Resolution No. 20151210-029.

Motioned By: Cyrus Reed

Seconded By: Michael Wong

Recommendation:

Background: [Council Resolution No. 20151210-029](#) directed staff to ensure that the Electric Utility Commission and the Resource Management Commission were provided an opportunity to review the recommendations of the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force and the [Minority Report](#), with particular emphasis on those recommendations the Utility does not support and/or about which there was not consensus among the Task Force members, and to forward any additional comments to the Council.

Note: The Letter-Number combinations below (e.g., C-3, D1) refer to recommendations in the [Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force Final Report](#) dated September 30, 2015; the number in parenthesis refers to recommendations in Austin Energy's response to the Task Force report included in a [memo to City Council](#) dated November 10, 2015.

Affirmed Recommendations:

- Recommendation C-3 (#6)
- Recommendation C-5 (#8)
- Recommendation C-8 (#7)
- Recommendation C-6 (#9)
- Recommendation D-1 (#17)

Revised Recommendations:

- **Recommendation A-1 (#22):** Establish a minimum energy savings annual target of one percent of total retail energy sales through all energy efficiency and demand reduction programs and annually report these savings. In future updates to the Austin Energy Generation Plan, assess this target, subject to future budgets, affordability, and other factors.
- **Recommendation A-2 (#23):** Set a current demand savings goal for Austin Energy's energy efficiency programs targeting low and low-moderate income customers of no less than 3 MW (5% of the utility's annual peak demand savings goal of 60 MW), with:
 - 1 MW coming from low income weatherization and direct installation programs, and
 - 2 MW coming from other programs that reach low and low-moderate income customers, including multifamily programs.Austin Energy should evaluate these goals as a part of its periodic planning process, including the feasibility of increasing the goal beyond 3 MW.
- **Recommendation A-3 (#13):** Austin Energy should develop a strategy to maximize the use of solar energy at multi-family properties, with an emphasis on properties with low and low-moderate income tenants.
- **Recommendation A-3 (#12):** Austin Energy should ensure that annual budgets enable it to at least achieve its overall and low and low-moderate income energy efficiency and demand savings goals and targets.

- **Recommendation C-4 (#14):** Make Energy Star window unit air conditioners a standard energy efficiency improvement services option in the low income weatherization program when central air conditioning is not present.
- **Recommendation C-4 (#15):** Once applicants with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level have been served by the low income weatherization program, Austin Energy should consider serving customers with incomes at or below 250% of the federal poverty level.
- **Recommendation D-2 (#16):** Austin Energy should develop a list of multi-family properties that receive affordable housing subsidies from the federal, state, city or county government or properties where at least 30 percent of the rental units are occupied by Customer Assistance Program (CAP) customers or pay a portion of their rent with housing choice vouchers. Austin Energy should do direct outreach to those property managers and owners, as well as community partners, to encourage them to utilize energy efficiency and/or solar energy incentives.
- **Recommendation D-5 (#18):** Austin Energy should assess compliance with the entire Energy Conservation Audit Disclosure (ECAD) ordinance and develop options to enforce the ordinance, starting with those multi-family facilities whose electric cost is 150% of average electrical cost, and should present those options to the Electric Utility Commission, the Resource Management Commission and the City Council for consideration. Austin Energy should include a proposal for full enforcement of multi-family ECAD in its FY 2017 budget proposal.
- **Recommendation D-6 (#21):** The working group thinks this recommendation is generally a good one, but that it is outside the scope of the RMC.

Additional Recommendations:

- Create a direct installation program that installs efficiency measures that have quick paybacks, including, but not limited to, LED lighting, low-flow showerheads, and aerators, using a neighborhood-by-neighborhood distribution strategy.
- Establish a process to assess existing central air conditioners in low income residences and determine whether existing central air conditioning equipment that is not working can be repaired and cleaned at a reasonable costs, or whether an existing central air conditioning unit is 6 SEER less than is required by current federal standards. In those cases, Energy Star window unit air conditioners can be utilized as a standard energy efficiency improvement service option.

Vote: 9-1-1

For: Leo Dielmann, Chair (D7); Jennifer Cregar, Vice Chair (Mayor); Commissioners Luke Metzger (D1), Kaiba White (D2), Michael Wong (D4), Gregory Santiago (D5), Suzanne Vaughan (D8), Cyrus Reed (D9) and Andrew Gill (D10)

Against: James Dwyer (D6)

Off the dais: Shane Saum (D3)

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Attest:



Toye Goodson, Staff Liaison