



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

The Resource Management Commission (RMC) mission statement per the City Code is:

- (A) Maintain an overview of all programs, studies and proposals concerning the efficient use of energy, alternate energy technologies, renewable energy resources, including solar and wind, and the conservation of energy, excluding the use of conventional coal, nuclear, natural gas, or petroleum technologies.
- (B) Serve as a liaison with other city commissions, including the Electric Utility Commission.
- (C) Receive citizen input on alternate energy technologies, renewable energy sources, and on energy conservation.
- (D) Review and analyze:
 - (1) energy conservation technologies and renewable energy sources as to their short-term and long-term feasibility in the city;
 - (2) energy conservation policies, alternate energy technologies, and renewable energy projects in other cities and states;
 - (3) water conservation policies, alternate technologies, and water conservation projects in other cities and states; and
 - (4) City Code to identify potential amendments that encourage the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and the conservation of energy.
- (E) Advise the City Council:
 - (1) in developing and reviewing city plans and programs in the area of alternate energy technologies, renewable energy sources, and energy conservation.
 - (2) as to available funding from private and public sources which are available to the city for alternate energy technologies and renewable energy, and for the conservation of energy;
 - (3) on energy conservation, on alternate energy technologies, and on renewable energy sources and report to City Council on the status of its activities at least annually;
 - (4) in developing and reviewing city plans and programs that encourage water conservation as it relates to water consumption from the tap to customer and within structures or building; and,

- (5) regarding appropriate City Code amendments that encourage the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and the conservation of energy.
- (F) Encourage:
- (1) the conservation of energy, the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources in City-owned facilities; and
 - (2) the private and public sectors to develop and to use alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and to conserve energy.

1. Actions Supporting Mission Statement

The Resource Management Commission met 13 times during reporting period, including one joint meeting with the Electric Utility Commission.

The RMC's mission-specific actions included:

- Reviewing 28 Recommendations for Council Action (RCA) including 20 solar performance-based incentive agreements; 6 multi-family energy efficiency rebates; 8 commercial energy efficiency rebates, and one institutional/ commercial/industrial water conservation rebate. Also reviewed RCAs and made recommendations relating to: authorize contracting with Smart Charge Residential, Inc., to provide maintenance support for 220 existing electric vehicle charging stations; authorize negotiation of an interlocal agreement with the Clean Energy Incubator for mutual assistance in the clean energy field; authorize contracting with IEnergy Systems, Inc., for the purchase of an energy storage system for Austin Energy; adopt a plan of achieving 600 megawatts of utility-scale, solar generation capacity by 2017 (in addition to solar capacity currently existing or under contract), and to contract power purchase agreements for up to 350 megawatts of utility-scale, solar-generated electricity; authorize contracting Creative Consumer Research, Inc., to provide quantitative and qualitative customer service-related studies of customers' needs, concerns, and opinions; authorize contracting with vendors for participating in Power Partner Thermostat Program; authorize contracting with Telvent US Holdings LLC for continued access to Energy Profiler Online, a proprietary web-based load profiling software; approval of an ordinance amending Chapter 6-4 of City Code relating to water use management, providing for permanent once-per-week irrigation for automatic irrigation systems, adding flexibility for hose-end irrigation and home car washing, and limiting waivers for new landscape irrigation to drought tolerant landscapes; approval of a budget amendment to provide additional appropriations and related funding for Customer Assistance Program (CAP) low income weatherization expenses and Free Weatherization Program expenses that were not spent during Fiscal Year 2014-2015; authorize contracting with Pecan Street, Inc., to provide residential solar and energy storage implementation services; **{June RCA}**.
- Passing the following Recommendations (attached):
 - 20150915-003c – Austin City Council should authorize the City Manager to execute power purchase agreements with one or more qualified offerors for 200 to 275 megawatts of utility-scale, solar-generated electricity, in an estimated amount of \$22,500,000 to \$31,000,000 per year, and a total estimated amount of \$445,000,000 to \$620,000,000 with contract terms ranging between 15 and 25 years, with the following notes:
 - Austin Energy should request confirmation from the Center for Resource Solutions, the organization who administers the Green-e program and that certifies Austin Energy's GreenChoice program, that the utility is allowed to use solar generated from this purchase in its GreenChoice program.

- Support for this power purchase agreement does not preclude additional solar purchases that may result from the recent RFP.
- 20151012-001 – Austin City Council should direct Austin Energy to contract at least 101 MW and up to 312 MW of additional solar based on the contracts described as “up to 350 additional MW of solar,” as long as the maximum expected PSA impact of all solar contracted in 2015 on all rate classes would be less than or equal to 1.01 percent in 2017. Furthermore, to the extent 600 MW of total solar is not contracted in 2015, Austin Energy should present an updated plan for acquiring or owning any additional solar to City Council no later than January 31, 2017.
- 20160216-004 – Austin City council should support the following recommendations and revised recommendations from 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)
- Recommendation A-2 (#23)
- Recommendation A-3 (#13)
- Recommendation A-3 (#12)
- Recommendation C-4 (#14)
- Recommendation C-4 (#15)
- Recommendation D-2 (#16)
- Recommendation D-5 (#18)
- Recommendation D-6 (#21).

- The following additional recommendations were offered:
 - 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.
 - Scheduling meetings at 6:00 pm at Town Lake Center on a monthly basis, adhering to all required protocol for meetings, agendas, and duties of officers.
 - Electing officers in July, with both Leo Dielmann and Jennifer Cregar serving as chair and vice chair, respectively.
 - Receiving citizen input on alternative energy technologies, renewable energy sources, and on energy and water conservation at regular meetings.

- Providing overviews of city programs, studies and proposals concerning the efficient use of energy, alternate energy technologies, renewable energy resources, including solar and wind, and the conservation of energy.
- Reviewing and analyzing:
 - Energy conservation technologies and renewable energy sources as to their short-term and long-term feasibility in the city;
 - Energy conservation policies, alternate energy technologies and renewable energy projects in other cities and states;
 - Water conservation policies, alternate technologies, and water conservation projects in other cities and states; and
 - The City Code to identify potential amendments that encourage the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and the conservation of energy and water.
- Reviewing and making recommendations to Council on resolutions, city plans and programs, contracts for products and services, city code amendments and use of available funds from private or public sources (e.g., energy efficiency and solar rebates) to make services or programs more cost effective and/or more available to the citizens and businesses in Austin.
- Encouraging conservation of energy, the development and use of alternate energy technologies, and the development and use of renewable sources for City-owned facilities, as well as throughout the private and public sectors.
- Working with other city commissions, including the Electric Utility Commission. On October 12, 2015, the RMC held a Joint Meeting with the Electric Utility Commission to achieving 600 megawatts of utility-scale, solar generation capacity by 2017 in addition to solar capacity currently existing or under contract, and to authorize negotiation and execution of power purchase agreements with qualified offerors for up to 350 megawatts of utility-scale, solar-generated electricity. Members Cyrus Reed served on the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force. Members Cyrus Reed and Michael Wong served on the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force. The latter was composed of members of the RMC and EUC.

2. Compliance with Mission Statement

All actions of the RMC during calendar year 2015-2016 were within the scope of and in compliance with its Code-mandated mission statement.

3. Goals and Objectives for 2016-2017

The RMC has adopted the following goals and objectives for the next year:

- a. Continue to provide overview of programs, studies and proposals; advice to City Council; and encouragement for the conservation of energy, the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable sources in City-owned facilities and departments, specifically highlighting the departments that have accomplished their goals toward this end.

- b. Continue to encourage the private and public sectors to develop and to use alternative energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and to conserve energy, specifically through the advancement of customer programs and education to enable greater adoption.
- c. Continue to work with the staff of Austin Energy, Austin Water, Texas Gas Service, the Climate Protection Program, the Office of Sustainability, and Austin Resource Recovery, specifically to see that they are meeting the City's goals in regard to greater adoption of conservation, the use of alternate technologies and renewable sources.
- d. Continue to regard citizen input on these issues as important as any other source.
- e. Support additional studies to evaluate energy efficiency and distributed generation, and to assist the staff in developing interim goals and new programs.
- f. Support AWU staff in the development of a comprehensive water conservation plan and annual reporting.
- g. Continue to provide opportunities for City departments to highlight their successes in energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable practices.
- h. Adopt the concepts of triple bottom-line sustainability in the RMC's decisions, recommendations, and advice to council; i.e., consider the balance between the environmental, economic, and societal equity impacts of our decisions, recommendations, and advice.

Attached:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO. 20150915-003c

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO. 20151012-001

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO. 20160216-004