

# Austin Energy's District Energy & Cooling Program - Update to Electric Utility Commission

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# Agenda

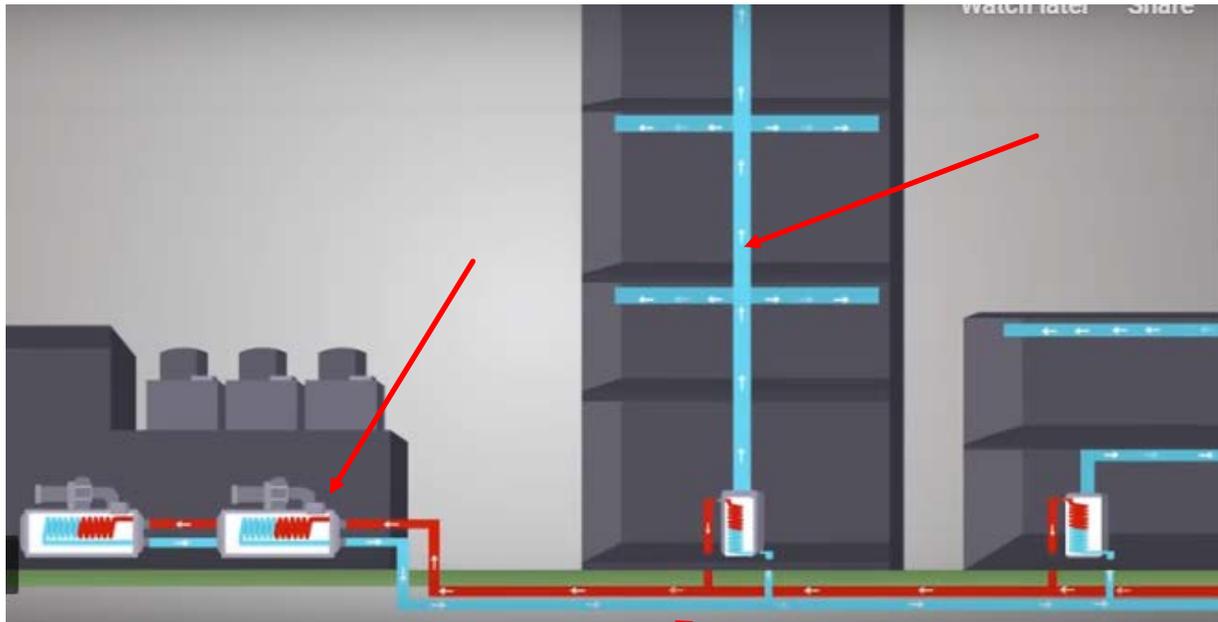
- Overview
- 2019 Snapshot
- Benefits of Thermal Energy Storage
- Current status
- Look Ahead



# District Cooling Overview

- Atlantic City
- Denver
- Houston
- Portland
- New Orleans
- Pittsburgh

- Frankfurt
- Dubai
- Paris
- Stockholm
- Helsinki



- Central plant chills water “off-peak” and cold water used “on-peak” (3-6 p.m.)
- AE sends water by UG insulated pipes to customers to cool their facilities



# Benefits

## To Customer:

- Reduce capital costs/deferred maintenance
- Reclaims space
- Financially attractive alternative to stand alone system
- **N+1** provides extraordinary reliability
- Simplicity – low risk

## To City of Austin:

- Complements economic development
  - South Central Waterfront District
  - Old Brackenridge location
- Thermal storage shifts electric demand to off-peak
  - A/C = 40% of energy usage (typical office)
  - Regulatory savings (4CP)
- Environmental stewardship
- Green Building Certification
- Stand-alone/self-supporting business
  - Supported by District Cooling customers vs. electric system customers



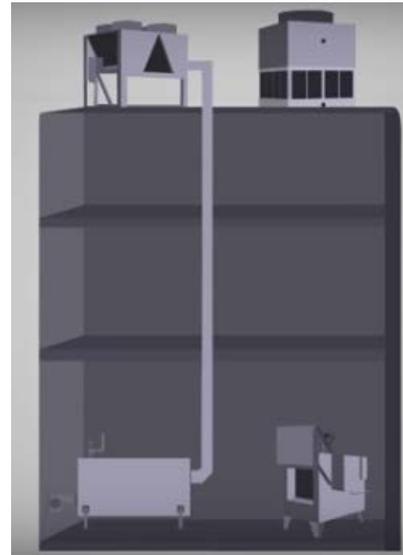
# Benefits of Thermal Energy Storage/District Cooling

- Environmental

- Cities: > 70% of global energy use & 40-50% of greenhouse gas emissions
  - Cooling = 50-70% peak electricity demand (International District Energy Ass'n – IDEA)
- One of least-cost/most efficient solutions to reduce emissions & energy demand (IDEA)
- AE: most electricity bought during early morning hours – typically wind
- Minimal Disposal risk: At life end, steel tank easily disposed w/ minimal environmental risk (generally last ~30 yrs)
- Reduced failure risk
  - No flammability/combustion risks with water/ice storage
  - No risk to ground water, *etc.*

- Aesthetic

- Less electric infrastructure
- Can use low-sound cooling towers (DCP3 and DCP4)
- AE can make central plants unobtrusive
- Fewer unsightly plants/cooling towers

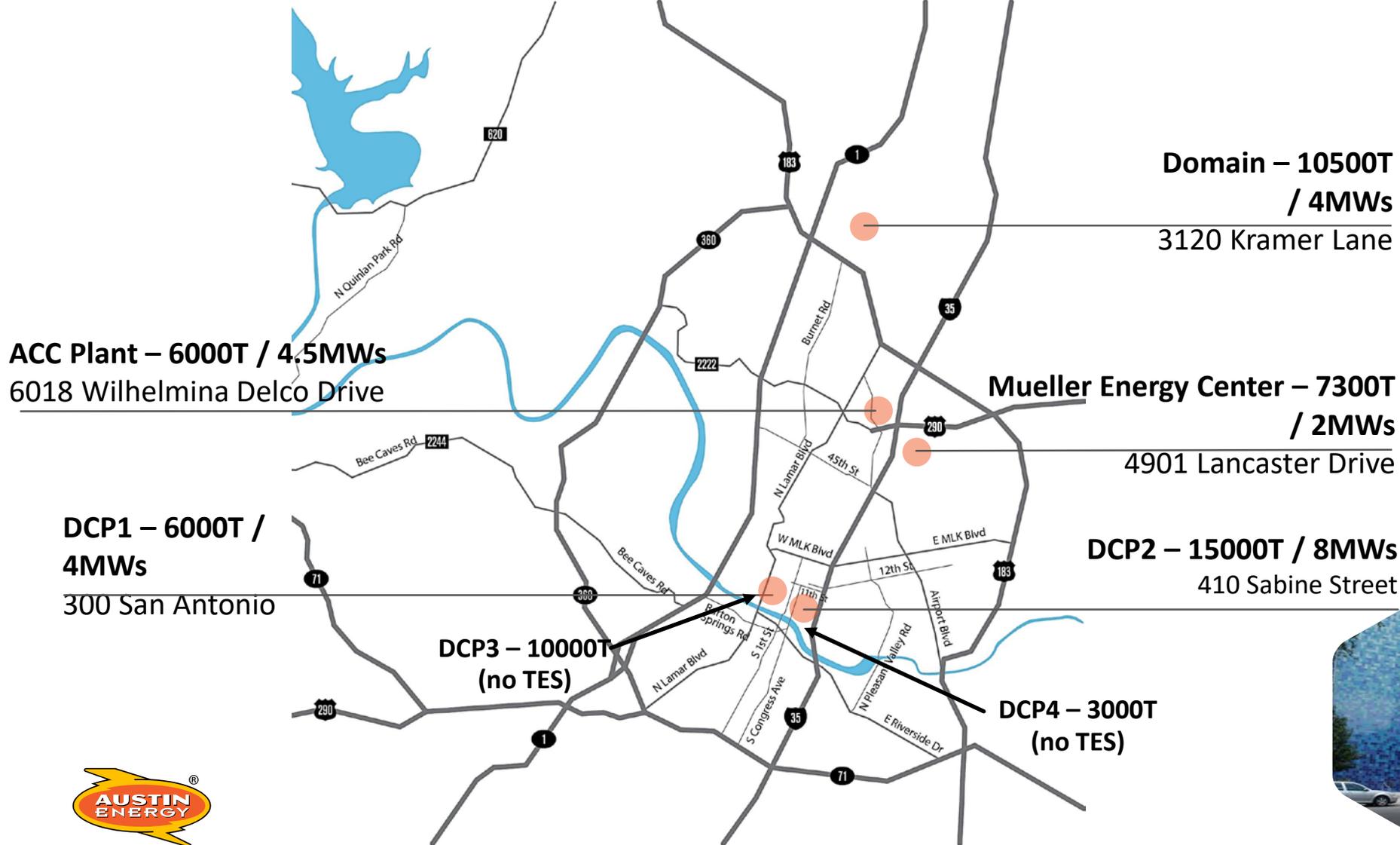


# 2019 Snapshot

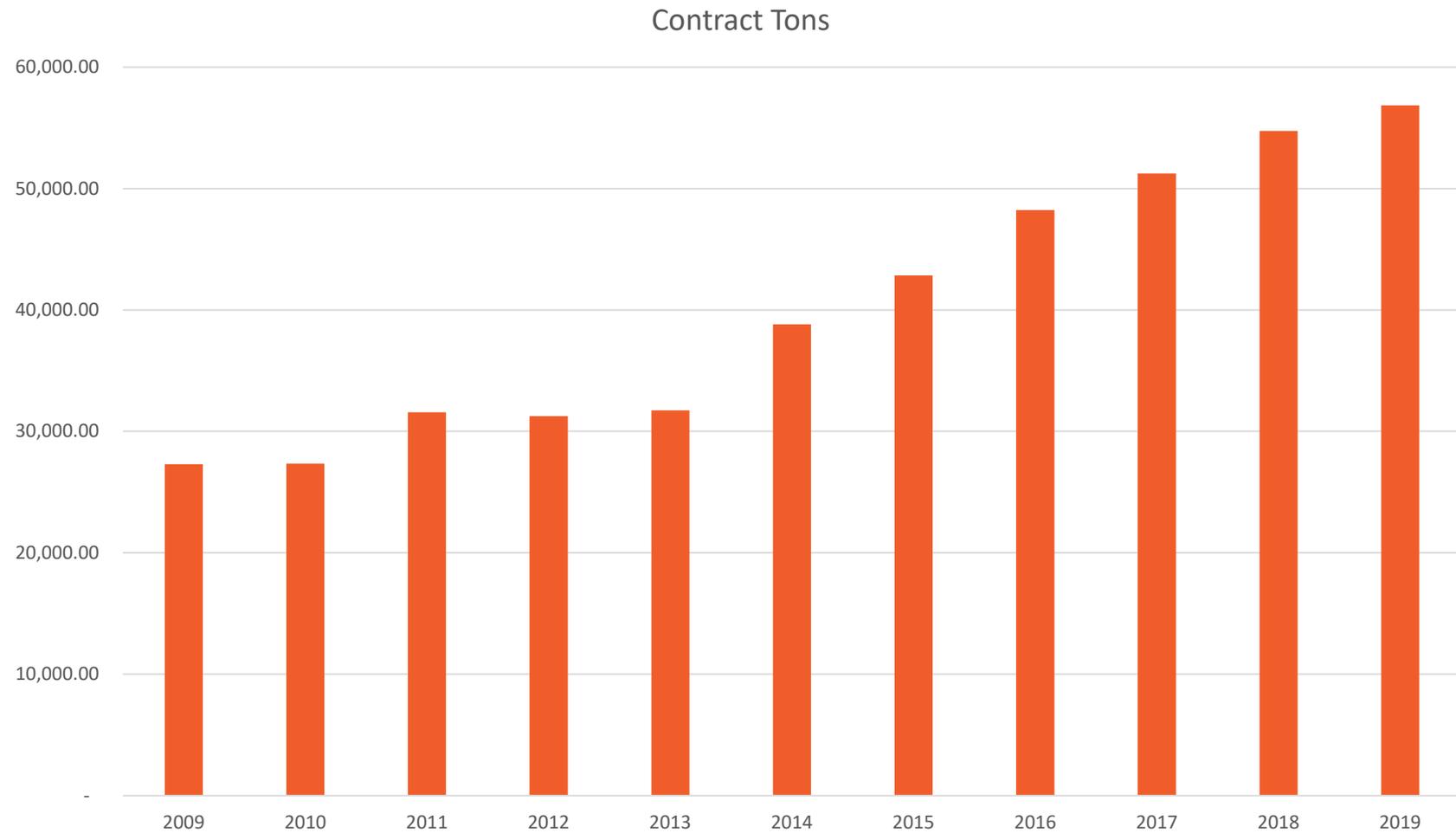
- 3 Systems with 4 Plants total
  - Downtown - DCP1, DCP2 (Ice Thermal Energy Storage)
  - Mueller - MEC (Water TES)
  - Domain - DOM (Water TES)
- Four plants in development
  - DCP3, DCP4 (Downtown)
  - ACC (Water TES)
  - MEC2 (Water TES) (Mueller)
- 67 customers (incl. City Hall, Library)
- >20 million sq. ft. conditioned space (>7X Empire State Bldg)
- Currently, 19.2 MW demand shift toward *AE Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan* goal of 30 MW of thermal energy storage by 2027
- Electricity/Steam for Dell Children's Hospital



# District Cooling Plant Current/Planned Locations



# Business Growth



# DCP3

(Construction underway)  
Adjacent to Seaholm and UPRR tracks



# DCP3

(Construction underway)



# Look Ahead – Satellite Plants



**Austin Community College**

(construction started)



# Continued Strong Growth

## Downtown

- 8700T - Office
- 2200T – Residential

## Mueller/Domain

- 5125T - Office

## Other

- ABIA
- South Central Waterfront District
- HealthSouth



## Austin Energy – District Cooling



- 1. What is District Cooling:** District Cooling provides customers their HVAC requirements through a network of underground pipes. It serves multiple buildings within a particular service area. A District Cooling plant distributes chilled water (approximately 42 to 44 degrees) to the customer's building through a set of heat exchangers located in the customer's mechanical room.
- 2. Benefit to developer:** District Cooling provides substantially reduced initial capital investment and lowers operational and energy expenses. In addition to stabilizing long-term costs, the developer does not need to provide a space for a mechanical room and other on-site HVAC dependent spaces.
- 3. Benefit to city and community:** District Cooling allows Austin Energy to manage peak demand and provide an added value to customers. All costs of the program are recovered through chilled water customer's fees and charges.



## South Central Waterfront District

# Look Ahead – Business Plan

- Manage growth & expanded operations
  - Ensure efficient operation for competitive pricing and returns
  - Phased and modular plants for capacity needs to minimize excess and shorten delivery horizons
  - *Engage with development community as early as possible*
    - Ex. 12<sup>th</sup>/Red River – City tract (Old HealthSouth tract)
      - Partner with Economic Development Department
      - Encourage developers to include plant and infrastructure in plans
    - Exploring opportunities for plants in customer buildings



Questions?

