



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2877, **Agenda Item #:** 2.

9/30/2021

Posting Language

Authorize issuance of energy efficiency program rebates by Austin Energy during Fiscal Year 2021-2022, in an amount not to exceed \$2,700,000 for multifamily energy efficiency rebates and \$3,350,000 for commercial and small business energy efficiency rebates, for a total combined amount not to exceed \$6,050,000.

Lead Department

Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

Prior Council Action:

20200917-002- Council approved the authorization of energy efficiency program rebates by Austin Energy during Fiscal Year 2020-21 for multifamily energy efficiency rebates and for commercial and small business energy efficiency rebates.

For More Information:

Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Relations (512) 322-6087; Manuel Garza, Interim Director, Energy Efficiency Services (512) 972-9538.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

September 13, 2021 - The Electric Utility Commission was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

September 21, 2021 - To be reviewed by the Resource Management Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

Austin Energy's energy efficiency rebate programs provide customer incentives to reduce energy demand and associated costs, benefiting all electric utility customers and the utility. This authorization will allow Austin Energy to issue rebates to multifamily, commercial and small business customers during Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY22) for energy efficiency improvements in accordance with program guidelines and up to a combined amount of \$6,050,000.

The aggregate rebate approval request approved in FY20 and FY21 reflects our continued commitment to be responsive and flexible to customer needs by reducing the wait time needed to be reimbursed for energy efficiency upgrades. These customers will receive an average of three upgrades per unit (e.g., smart thermostats, lighting, solar screens, HVAC tune-up, etc.), helping to reduce their energy costs during the continued economic uncertainty. The aggregate approval ensures program continuity by assuring that contractors and property managers/owners would receive rebate funding promptly which is even more important in these uncertain economic times.

As per current practice, Austin Energy staff will continue to provide a monthly report that summarizes the Commercial, Small Business, and Multifamily program pipeline (including leads, active, and paid projects). For

all projects that will exceed \$61,000 in rebates, the report will also include measures installed, expected savings, and other relevant data.

Therefore, Austin Energy requests authorization to issue up to \$2,700,000 in multifamily energy efficiency rebates and \$3,350,000 in commercial and small business energy efficiency rebates during Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The combined program funding represented in this request is \$6,050,000 and is included in Austin Energy's Fiscal Year 2022 operating budget approved by Council on August 11, 2021. The annual cap will remain at \$300,000 pursuant to Resolution 20140807-006.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government that Works for All.