Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-1036, **Agenda Item #:** 6. 2/17/2022

Posting Language

Approve issuance of a capacity-based incentive to the YMCA of Austin for the installation of solar electric systems on their facility located at 5807 McNeil Drive, Austin, TX 78727, in an amount no to exceed $273,240.

Lead Department

Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

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

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

January 10, 2022 - The Electric Utility Commission meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.
January 18, 2022 - The Resource Management Commission meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.
January 24, 2022- Recommended by the Resource Management Commission on a 10-0 vote, with Commissioner K. Davis absent.

Additional Backup Information:

Austin Energy requests approval to issue this capacity-based incentive (CBI) at a rate of $1.00/Watt-DC to the YMCA of Austin (Customer) for the installation of solar electric system(s)*, detailed in the table below at their facility to produce renewable energy for on-site consumption.

The table below provides a summary of the system sizes, costs, and proposed incentives:

YMCA of Austin - 5807 McNeil Drive, Austin, TX 78727	
Number of Modules	828
Module Rating (W-DC)	330
Total System Size (kW-DC)	273
Total System Size (kW-AC)	227
Annual Estimated Production (kWh)	391,903
Total System Cost ($)	$508,226
Total Incentive ($)	$273,240
Percent of Cost Covered	54%

*All solar equipment meets Austin Energy program requirements

The Customer provides recreational facilities and classes. The proposed solar system would cover 27% of the historic annual energy needs of this building.

This solar project will generate an estimated 391,903 kWh per year and, according to US Energy Information Administration, based on the state-wide electricity profile, <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/texas/>is estimated to prevent the production of the following emissions each year: 184 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO2); 235 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide (SO2); and 274 pounds of Nitrogen Oxide (NOX). According to the Environmental <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>'Protection Agencys Greenhouse Gas Equivalency Calculator, <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>these emissions reductions are equivalent to planting 2,760 trees or 205 acres of forest in Austin's parks or the removal of 419,508 vehicle miles or 36.3 cars from Austin roadways.

According to the updated Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan, approved by Austin City Council in March 2020, "Austin Energy will achieve a total of 375 MW of local solar capacity by the end of 2030, of which 200 MW will be customer-sited (when including both in-front-of-meter and behind-the meter installations)." In order to meet these goals, Austin Energy has funded the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Programs, which are designed to reduce the amount of electricity Austin Energy must purchase from the market and reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions.

The purpose of the Austin Energy Solar PV CBI Program is to expand adoption of solar by nonprofit organizations by helping to offset the capital investment for customers who are unable to benefit from the federal tax credit. Under this program, customers who qualify as nonprofit entities (outlined in Section V.B.iv of the program guidelines <https://austinenergy.com/wcm/connect/1374fb2d-6dd0-4df7-a499-72970cfdb62e/Commercial-CBI-Guidelines-2021.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=nPdPUB>), are eligible to receive $1.00/W-DC up to $482,000. Per program guidelines, the installation is expected to continue producing for a minimum of 20 years or may be subject to repay the incentive at a pro-rated amount, if it stops producing for any reason short of the stated minimum.

This project will advance the stated goals of expanding locally-sited solar, carbon reduction and resiliency, extend the adoption of solar to entities historically excluded from the investment benefits of solar, and continue to demonstrate the value and importance of renewables as part of the individual and collective generation portfolio in Austin Energy territory.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government that Works for All.