

Posting Language

Approve issuance of a capacity-based incentive to Riverbend Church for the installation of solar electric systems on their facility located at 4214 N Capital of Texas Highway Austin, TX 78746, in an amount not to exceed \$217,800.

Lead Department

Austin Energy

Fiscal Note

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

Prior Council Action:

For More Information:

Richard Génece, Vice President, Customer Energy Solutions (512) 322-6327; Tim Harvey, Solar Program Manager (512) 482-5386.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

April 11, 2022– To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission.

April 19, 2022 – To be reviewed by the Resource Management Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

Austin Energy requests approval to issue this CBI to the 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 size, cost, proposed incentive, and environmental benefits.:

Solar System Details*	
Total System Size (kW-DC)	217.8
Total System Size (kW-AC)	180.774
Annual Estimated Production (kWh)	295,728
Total System Cost (\$)	\$394,218
Total Incentive (\$)	\$217,800
Percent of Cost Covered	55%
Environmental Benefits** and Emission Reduction Equivalencies***	
Reduction of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) in tons	139
Reduction of Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) in pounds	177
Reduction of Nitrogen Oxide (NOX) in pounds	207
Equivalency of Vehicle Miles Driven	316,911
Equivalency of cars on Austin roadways	27.4
Equivalency of Trees Planted	2,085
Equivalency of Forest Acreage Added	154

*All solar equipment meets Austin Energy program requirements

** Environmental Benefits based on the [US Energy Information Association’s state-wide electricity profile](#)

*** According to the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)’s Greenhouse Gas Equivalency Calculator](#)

Riverbend Church’s mission is to serve the bruised, battered, broken and bored through their religious services. They offer modern, contemporary, and traditional style services and host a variety of community groups to support their members. This solar system will offset 61% of the Customer’s historic annual energy usage.

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](#)), 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.