

RESOLUTION NO. 20230420-025

WHEREAS, energy challenges before cities include sustained dependence on energy supplies from other areas of the nation and the world, uncertainty about reliability and costs as climatic events escalate, and how to cost-effectively accelerate local energy efficiency and renewable energy development; and

WHEREAS, cities must address these challenges to secure our future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, a stronger federal partnership with local governments on investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy would support local efforts to confront these energy challenges; and

WHEREAS, the United States and its cities must address these energy challenges to maintain and expand the nation's competitive position in the global economy, build livable and sustainable communities, and enhance job and economic development benefits related to energy efficiency and renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the transportation and building sectors are our nation's leading sources of energy consumption and associated emissions; and

WHEREAS, sustained local government action in the transportation and building sectors and in other sectors has shown that increased energy efficiency and expanded renewable energy use can move cities toward less carbon intensity; and

WHEREAS, these successful city initiatives could be expanded dramatically and yield greater results if the federal-local partnership was strengthened to support and accelerate such local action; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Independence & Security Act of 2007 (PL 110-140) established an innovative and successful mechanism to support such local government efforts when it authorized \$10 billion in funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program at the United States Department of Energy; and

WHEREAS, the EECBG program includes direct formula grants to cities, counties, and states to invest in new energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies, programs, and projects; and

WHEREAS, EECBG is a flexible program that allows local governments to invest in a wide array of locally determined energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including those focused on the transportation and building sectors; and

WHEREAS, EECBG is a federal-local partnership that empowers local communities, and cities and counties that have a proven track record of using the program to deliver a lot of bang for the buck; and

WHEREAS, Congress appropriated \$3.2 billion for EECBG in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, including \$2.8 billion for formula grants to cities, counties, and states; and

WHEREAS, the City used its \$7.5 million FY 2009 EECBG formula grant allocation to:

- Install energy retrofits at the Technicenter building,
- Retrofit interior and exterior lighting at municipal facilities,
- Implement a biogas generation project at Hornsby Bend, and
- Weatherize and duct seal municipal buildings; and

WHEREAS, these projects provided significant return on investment, decreasing the City's energy bill, and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the City's EECBG success was not unique, with a 2015 Oak Ridge National Laboratory study, *National Evaluation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant*, determining the program to be exceptionally effective and finding that local governments put FY 2009 EECBG funding to excellent use, investing in projects that:

- Saved 409 million Metric Million British Thermal Units (MMBTu) of energy;
- Generated 4.2 MMBTu of renewable energy,
- Created 62,902 jobs,
- Avoided 25.7 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions,
- Saved \$1.7 billion in social costs of carbon, and
- Reduced local government energy bills by \$5.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (PL 117-58) reauthorized EECBG for one year (FY 2022) and appropriated \$550 million in in FY 2022 funding for another round of EECBG grants; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy will soon make formula grant allocations of FY 2022 EECBG funds, with the City receiving \$855,340; and

WHEREAS, Representatives Greg Stanton (D-AZ), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Marc Veasey (D-TX), and Jefferson Van Drew (R-NJ) have introduced bipartisan legislation, federal House of Representatives' bill 1520 (HR 1520) that

would reauthorize EECBG at \$3.5 billion per year for FY 2024 through FY 2028;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City of Austin urges Congress to enact a multiyear reauthorization of EECBG.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin thanks Representatives Stanton, Fitzpatrick, Veasey, and Van Drew for introducing HR 1520, and urges the Texas House delegation to cosponsor HR 1520.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin calls on Congress to support robust funding of \$3.5 billion annually for EECBG, beginning in FY 2024.

ADOPTED: April 20, 2023

ATTEST:

Stephanie Hall for
Myrna Rios
City Clerk