



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Electric Utility Commission

Recommendation No. 20230508-01

Recommendation on the Hiring of the Austin Energy General Manager

WHEREAS, Austin Energy manages critical infrastructure for the City of Austin, and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy makes a significant contribution to the City of Austin General Revenue Fund, which supports other important city services; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy's rates, policies and programs have significant impact on affordability for many Austin residents; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy electric generators are the largest point sources of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution attributable to the Austin community and Austin Energy's operations are thus critical to meeting Austin climate goals; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Energy general manager is generally given wide latitude and difference to advance or not advance policies, programs and other initiatives that have a direct impact on the Austin community; NOW, THEREFORE;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Electric Utility Commission of the City of Austin recommends that the City Council direct the city manager to:

1. Include the Austin community in the hiring of Austin Energy's next general manager, by hosting at least one public forum with the candidates and gathering feedback from community members via a survey; and
2. Prioritize the following when identifying qualified candidates:
3. Experience helping a utility transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy;
4. Experience advancing innovative programs and policies that encourage greater investment in energy efficiency, on-site solar, demand response, and electrification;
5. Experience advancing rate structures that are equitable and encourage efficient use of energy resources;
6. A strong commitment to transparency and community engagement, especially when considering policy or programmatic changes; and
7. A demonstrated history of frequent and meaningful communication with communities being served.

Vote: 6-0

For: Commissioner Dave Tuttle, Chair; Commissioner Kaiba White, Vice Chair;
Commissioner Raul Alvarez; Commissioner Randy Chapman; Commissioner Jeremy
Seibert; Commissioner Kay Trostle

Against: None

Abstentions: None

Off Dais: Commissioner Reed

Absences: Commissioner Blackburn, Commissioner Bowen, Commissioner Hopkins

Vacancies: Mayor

Attest: *Robin Otto*
Robin Otto, Staff Liaison