Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2281, **Agenda Item #:** 3. 7/20/2023

Posting Language
Approve payment of a capacity-based incentive to Bethany Lutheran Church for the installation of solar electric systems on its facility located at 3701 W. Slaughter Lane, Austin, TX 78749, in an amount not to exceed $250,260.

Lead Department
Austin Energy

Fiscal Note
Funding available in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

For More Information:
Amy Everhart, Director Local Government Issues (512) 322-6087; Tim Harvey, Customer Renewable Solutions Manager (512) 482-5386

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:
July 10, 2023- To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission.
July 18, 2023- To be reviewed by the Resource Management Commission.

Additional Backup Information:
Austin Energy requests approval to issue this incentive payment to Bethany Lutheran Church for the installation of a solar electric system, detailed in the table below, at its 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)	250.26
Total System Size (kW-AC)	207.72
Annual Estimated Production (kWh)	342,865
Total System Cost ($)	$538,059
Total Incentive ($)	$250,260
Percent of Cost Covered	47%
Environmental Benefits and Emission Reduction Equivalencies***	
Reduction of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) in tons	161
Reduction of Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) in pounds	206
Reduction of Nitrogen Oxide (NOX) in pound	240
Equivalency of Vehicle Miles Driven	374,424

Equivalency of Cars on Austin Roadways	32.5
Equivalency of Trees Planted	2,415
Equivalency of Forest Acreage Added	174

*All solar equipment meets Austin Energy program requirements
** Environmental Benefits based on the 'US Energy Information Associations state-wide electricity profile <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/texas/>
*** According to the 'Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)s Greenhouse Gas Equivalency Calculator <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>

This solar system meets 37% of the Customer's historic needs at this facility. Bethany Lutheran Church and Preschool offers traditional and modern style, in-house and on-line worship.

According to the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan, "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)." 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 Capacity-Based-Incentive Program is to expand adoption of solar by nonprofit organizations. 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/Watt up to $482,000.
Per program guidelines, the installation is expected to continue producing for a minimum of 20 years, and the customer is subject to repayment of 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, and will continue to demonstrate the value and importance of renewables as part of the individual and collective generation portfolio in Austin Energy's service territory.