

Proposed Amendment to City Code for Enhanced Responsibility of Resource Management Commission to Review More Issues Related to Natural Gas Utilities

§ 2-1-168 - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION.

(A) A Resource Management Commission member need not be a City resident if the member resides within the City's electrical distribution service area.

(B) The commission shall maintain an overview of all programs, studies and proposals concerning the efficient use of energy, alternate energy technologies, renewable energy resources, including solar and wind, ~~and~~ the conservation of energy, **and natural gas**, excluding the use of conventional coal, nuclear, ~~natural gas~~, or petroleum technologies.

(C) The commission shall serve as a liaison with other city boards and commissions, including the Electric Utility Commission.

(D) The commission shall receive citizen input on alternate energy technologies, renewable energy sources, ~~and on~~ energy conservation; **and the use of natural gas**.

(E) The commission shall review and analyze:

(1) energy conservation technologies and renewable energy sources as to their short-term and long-term feasibility in the city;

(2) energy conservation policies, alternate energy technologies, and renewable energy projects in other cities and states;

(3) water conservation policies, alternate technologies, and water conservation projects in other cities and states; and

(4) the City Code to identify potential amendments that encourage the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and the conservation of energy.

(5) issues concerning natural gas utilities in Austin, including fair and equitable rates and bills, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, environmental issues related to utility system operation, assistance to low-income customers, progress on the City of Austin's Climate Equity Plan, and franchise negotiations.

(F) The commission shall advise the city council:

(1) in developing and reviewing city plans and programs in the area of alternate energy technologies, renewable energy sources, and energy conservation;

(2) as to available funding from private and public sources which are available to the city for alternate energy technologies and renewable energy, and for the conservation of energy;

(3) on energy conservation, on alternate energy technologies, and on renewable energy sources and report to city council on the status of its activities at least annually;

(4) in developing and reviewing city plans and programs that encourage water conservation as it relates to water consumption from the tap to customer and within structures or building; and

(5) regarding appropriate City Code amendments that encourage the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and the conservation of energy.

(6) on natural gas utility matters, including: fair and equitable rates and bills that minimize consumer costs, cost-effective energy efficiency programs; cost-effective renewable energy programs; research and development of new technologies for energy efficiency and renewable energy; programs that reduce the burden on low-income households; gas utility progress on the City of Austin's Climate Equity Plan; and renewal of franchises with natural gas utilities that improve the City's financial position and align with the City's community values.

(G) The commission shall encourage:

(1) the conservation of energy, the use of alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources in City-owned facilities; and

(2) the private and public sectors to develop and to use alternate energy technologies and renewable energy sources, and to conserve energy.