



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2505, **Agenda Item #:** 2.

8/31/2023

Posting Language

Approve acceptance of a Clean Energy Innovation Fellowship position hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy and administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Technology to support equity research and development of key equity performance measures for energy efficiency programs at Austin Energy.

Lead Department

Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

August 14, 2023- Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 6-0 vote with Commissioners Bowen, Trostle and White absent and two vacancies.

August 15, 2023- Recommended by the Resource Management Commission on a 6-0 vote with Commissioner Carugati off the dais, Commissioner Stone absent, and three vacancies.

Additional Backup Information:

In May 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded the City of Austin an opportunity for a full-time Clean Energy Innovation Fellow. The Clean Energy Innovation Fellowship program is hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy and administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Technology. The one-year Fellowship may be extended for a second year.

Austin Energy will assist the Fellow in scoping innovation projects that support the Austin Climate Equity Plan. Several Austin Energy staff are available to provide guidance and mentorship for the Fellow, including Austin Energy's Equity Program Manager.

The focus of the Fellow will be analyzing Austin Energy's historical program information and benchmarking existing commercial, multifamily, and residential Energy Efficiency programs to align with equity initiatives and best practices across the country. This position will assist Austin Energy in developing new equity measures, community feedback, and Key Performance Indicators to embed equitable operational improvements into community outreach and incentive programs. The Fellow will document stakeholder input in coordination with other City of Austin equity, sustainability, and community outreach organizations as they relate to Energy Efficiency outreach, incentives, and technologies.