



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Resource Management Commission

Recommendation No. 20231017-005

Resolution to Lower Texas Gas Service Rebates in the 2024 Budget Year

WHEREAS, a survey of gas utilities throughout the U.S. has proven that Texas Gas Service rebates greatly exceed the average that other utilities pay to meet their energy efficiency goals; and

WHEREAS, the rebate program incentivizes some equipment that does not yield monetary savings matching or exceeding the cost of the new equipment; and

WHEREAS, this portion of these funds could be used for better purposes such as assisting the economically disadvantaged;

THEN BE IT RESOLVED that the Resource Management Commission advise the Austin City Council to change or lower rebates for the next fiscal year of Texas Gas Service's energy efficiency program to better conform to national benchmarks.

This involves:

1. Eliminating clothes dryer connection (stub) rebates;
2. Lowering clothes dryer rebates (without connections) by two-thirds;
3. Lowering tankless water heater rebates by one half;
4. Lowering furnace rebates by two-thirds.

(An estimate of the savings is provided as an attachment.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission advises some of the savings be reallocated for the purposes of creating a pilot income-qualified customer assistance program similar to the income-qualified program run by Austin Energy to lower utility bills.

Vote: 7-2

For: Commissioner Paul Robbins, Vice Chair; Commissioner Melissa Carugati; Commissioner Charlotte Davis; Commissioner Trey Farmer; Commissioner Shane Johnson; Commissioner Chelsey Scaffidi; Commissioner Alison Silverstein

Against: Commissioner Kate Bren; Commissioner GeNell Gary

Abstentions: None

Off Dais: None

Absences: Commissioner Louis Stone, Chair

Vacancies: Mayor

A square image showing a handwritten signature in blue ink on a grey background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'N. Goodwin'.

Attest:

Natasha Goodwin, Staff Liaison