



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-3954, Agenda Item #: 2.

2/29/2024

Posting Language

Approve issuance of a capacity-based incentive to KMFA Radio Station, for the installation of solar electric systems on its facilities located at 41 Navasota Street, Austin, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$80,676.

Lead Department

Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$80,676 is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 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:

February 12, 2024 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 8-0 vote and three vacancies.
February 20, 2024 - To be reviewed by the Resource Management Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

Austin Energy requests approval to issue this capacity-based incentive (CBI) to KMFA Radio Station (the Customer) for the installation of a solar electric system at their 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)	89.64
Total System Size (kW-AC)	74.40
Annual Estimated Production (kWh)	132,637
Total System Cost (\$)	\$195,000
Total Incentive (\$)	\$80,676
Percent of Cost Covered	41%
Environmental Benefits** and Emission Reduction Equivalencies***	
Reduction of Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂) in tons	59
Reduction of Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂) in pounds	66
Reduction of Nitrogen Oxide (NOX) in pounds	93
Equivalency of Vehicle Miles Driven	137,211

Equivalency of Cars on Austin Roadways	11.9
Equivalency of Trees Planted	885
Equivalency of Forest Acreage Added	63.8

*All solar equipment meets Austin Energy program requirements

** Environmental Benefits based on the [US Energy Information Associations](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/texas/) 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)

<<https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>>

KMFA 89.5 is a non-profit, independent, public classical radio station in Austin, TX. KMFA serves approximately 100,000 listeners each week and features locally produced shows like Classical Austin, Early Music Now, and From the Butler School, as well as nationally distributed programming from Public Radio International, American Public Media, and National Public Radio. This proposed system is estimated to offset 53% of the interconnected meters' historic annual energy consumptions.

According to the updated Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan, approved by Council in March 2020, "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)." In order 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 CBI Program is to expand adoption of solar by nonprofit organizations by helping to offset the capital investment for customers. Under this program, customers who qualify as nonprofit entities are eligible to receive \$0.90/W-DC up to \$433,800. Per program guidelines, the installation is expected to continue producing for a minimum of 20 years or may be subject to repay 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, extend the adoption of solar to entities historically excluded from the investment benefits of solar, and continue to demonstrate the value and importance of renewables as part of the individual and collective generation portfolio in Austin Energy territory.