

Solar on City Facilities

Response to Council Resolution 20250522-052



November 19, 2025
Joint Sustainability Committee



Agenda

- Background and Context
- Approach
- Site Screening
- Request for Proposals
- Schedule and Next Steps

Resolution 20250522-052

- Conduct an analysis of City property and make recommendations for the areas that would **maximize the installation of solar generation**, prioritizing general fund properties.
- **Annually calculate any energy cost savings or revenue generated** and utilize an equivalent amount of funding for projects that have a beneficial environmental impact.
- Evaluate opportunities for the **installation of solar capacity on properties owned or operated by other local governmental entities** within the Austin Energy load zone.
- Analyze and make recommendations for **requiring solar contractors who install City-owned solar installations to comply with the highest level of worker protections**, wage rates, benefits and utilization of Department of Labor registered apprenticeship programs and/or graduates from the Austin Infrastructure Academy.



A Changing Federal Solar Landscape

Inflation Reduction Act (2021)

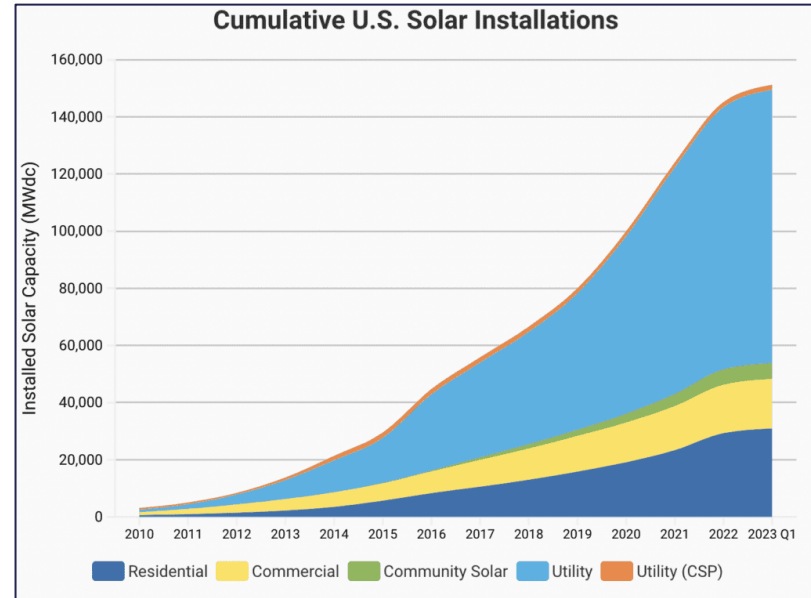
- Elective pay / direct allows cities to benefit from existing tax credits
- 30% tax credit available (+10% for domestic content)

One Big Beautiful Bill Act (2025)

- Phases out tax credits for clean energy (including solar).
- **Projects must “commence construction” by July 4, 2026 to get tax credits.**

OR

- Projects must be placed into service before the end of 2027 to get tax credits.





Assess

Collaborative team effort

Engage with building
owning departments
upfront

Inventory and assess
current city facilities

Determine solar potential



Procure

Issue RFP for multiple sites
to achieve economies of
scale

Evaluate proposals and
ownership models:

- City Owned
- Solar Standard Offer



Decide and Build

Select winning proposal(s)
and identify funding (if
applicable)

Build Solar ASAP to
leverage tax credits

Build O&M into the contract
for long-term performance

Approach



There are three types of sites for municipal solar projects



Rooftop



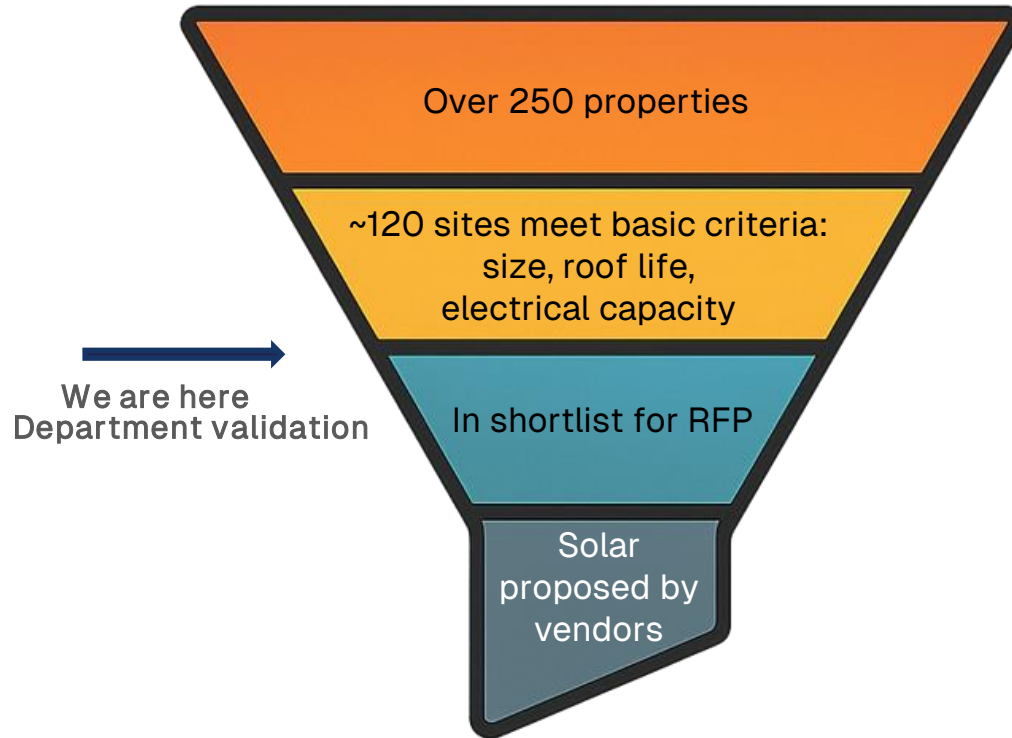
Canopy



Ground-mounted

Facilities Screening

Goal: Identify technically feasible sites to put forward, ask solar developers to propose a portfolio that maximizes scale, cost-effectiveness, and community benefits.



Schedule and Next Steps

- 1 **CWEP Council Committee:** Update on our approach, process, and RFP release. (Dec 2)
- 2 **RFP Release:** Two-steps: qualifications + proposal and pricing. (early Dec)
- 3 **RFP Response Analysis and Decision:** Evaluate bids, decide on approach/financial model. (Jan - Mar)
- 4 **City Management Approval:** Final signoff and go-ahead to City Council. (Mar - Apr)
- 5 **City Council Agenda:** Approval, contract, and start construction. (Apr - Jun)



Thank you!

