



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff 

From: Zach Baumer, Director, Austin Climate Action & Resilience 

Date: June 16, 2026

Subject: **Staff Response to Solar on City Facilities (Resolution 20250522-052)**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a final response to [Resolution No. 20250522-052](#), which directed the City Manager to conduct an analysis of City property and make recommendations for the areas that would maximize the installation of solar generation, including, but not limited to, building rooftops, parking lots, and open spaces.

Background

Austin City Council passed Resolution No. 20250522-052 in May 2025. In response to the resolution, as described in the [September 2, 2025 staff response](#), Austin Climate Action and Resilience led a multi-departmental effort to create a prioritized portfolio of viable sites for solar generation and issued a multi-site Request for Proposals (RFP) asking solar developers to propose a portfolio of solar projects. The RFP included a Work Site Agreement requirement establishing the terms of employment for all workers on the project, specifying wages and benefits and ensuring worker health and safety protections while providing an opportunity for workforce development.

On April 23, 2026, the Austin City Council [authorized two contracts](#) to install solar energy systems at City-owned facilities. The full portfolio of projects is expected to generate at least 30 megawatts of clean energy when fully built and to produce a net profit of at least \$20 million for the City of Austin over the next 25 years.

Updates

Progress is now underway to finalize the contracts, move forward with site selection, and secure the financing for the first facilities to receive solar installations. The first City-owned installations will be at facilities owned by enterprise departments that have available capital budget: Austin Energy and Austin Aviation. In parallel, staff are preparing the first application to the State of Texas's LoanSTAR low-interest loan program through the State Energy Conservation Office for a group of general fund facility installations.

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The resolution also directed staff to “calculate annually any energy cost savings or revenue generated, realized by solar generation installed on City facilities for departmental use, and utilize an equivalent amount of funding for projects that have a beneficial environmental impact, beginning with those identified in the Climate Implementation Plan.” Staff are exploring methods to implement this direction once solar installations are completed. The primary challenge is that a substantial portion of the solar infrastructure will be financed through State of Texas low-interest loans, which must be repaid from revenue generated by the solar installations before any resulting savings can be reallocated. Staff will continue to evaluate options to capture savings or lease payments and utilize those revenues for additional climate action projects.

Both solar installation contracts include operations and maintenance to ensure we maximize value throughout the full 25+ year life cycle of the systems. At the end of these systems’ useful life, staff will follow a defined decommissioning approach that addresses end-of-term asset removal, material recycling, and site restoration.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Zach Baumer, Director of Austin Climate Action & Resilience at zach.baumer@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2836.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors