

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has owned and operated Austin Energy, serving electricity customers for nearly 130 years; and

WHEREAS, the City is also an electric customer of Austin Energy, with essential operations requiring significant energy resources; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to model best practices regarding energy use, including but not limited to, conservation, building efficiency, and utilization of local solar City operational power needs; and

WHEREAS, other communities, including nearby peer cities such as San Antonio, have implemented large-scale on-site solar projects at City-owned facilities in the interest of reducing the cost of municipal operations and increasing the reliability of the local power network; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Council approved the Austin Climate Equity Plan that provided 74 strategies to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, including expanding local solar generation; and

WHEREAS, Council approved Resolution No. 20240215-025, which called for an investment plan to implement the Austin Climate Equity Plan; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2024, Council approved the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2035, which includes goals for promoting innovative local solar solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2035 calls for adding at least 245 megawatts of local solar power generation

capacity over the next ten years, which represents over 3,000 acres of new solar panels and hundreds of thousands of hours of labor; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Climate Jobs Project issued a report in August 2024, “Power and People: Working Conditions in the Texas Clean Energy Transition,” which indicates that Central Texas solar installers are paid a median wage of \$21 per hour, which is less than wages paid under Austin’s Living Wage policy and far less than the median wage for union electricians in the region; and further, that solar installation workers often lack access to health insurance, workers compensation benefits, retirement benefits, and rest breaks; and

WHEREAS, Council approved Ordinance No. 20160324-015 establishing a policy for employees of contractors working on City projects, ensuring that such workers do not make less than the City’s minimum wage for City employees, and whereas Ordinance No. 20160324-020 established a Living Wage Policy for City employees; and

WHEREAS, Council approved Resolution No. 20240307-021 creating an Austin Infrastructure Academy, which seeks to prioritize infrastructure project job opportunities for local workers and which emphasizes apprenticeships as a key pathway to earn good-paying jobs in the building trades; and

WHEREAS, Council approved Resolution No. 20190808-078 declaring a climate emergency in the City and calling to accelerate the timeline for achieving the City's climate goals; and

WHEREAS, of the 47 recommendations in the Office of Climate Action and Resilience’s Climate Implementation Plan, installing solar generation on City facilities was the second most cost effective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

49 **NOW THEREFORE,**

50 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

51 The City Manager is directed to conduct an analysis of City property and make
52 recommendations for the areas that would maximize the installation of solar
53 generation, including, but not limited to, building rooftops, parking lots, and open
54 spaces, and the criteria for this analysis should prioritize the installation of solar on
55 property or facilities that are managed by departments funded by the City's general
56 fund.

57 Upon completion of this analysis, the City Manager is directed to present this
58 analysis and recommendations to the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks
59 Committee.

60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

61 The City Manager is directed to annually calculate any energy cost savings or
62 revenue generated, realized by solar generation installed on City facilities for
63 departmental use and utilize an equivalent amount of funding for projects that have
64 a beneficial environmental impact, beginning with those identified in the Climate
65 Implementation Plan.

66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

67 Included in the analysis and recommendations to be presented to the Climate,
68 Water, Environment, and Parks Committee, the City Manager is directed to evaluate
69 opportunities for the installation of solar capacity on properties owned or operated
70 by other local governmental entities within the Austin Energy load zone, including,
71 but not limited to, school districts, municipalities, and counties. In evaluating

potential agreements and making recommendations, the City Manager should prioritize options with the most rooftop space and explore leasing rooftop or open space for solar generation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager should prepare for the full life-cycle of any solar installations, including the recycling and disposal of any materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to report back with a preliminary progress report by September 2, 2025.

ADOPTED: _____, 2025 **ATTEST:** _____
Erika Brady
City Clerk