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**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, Austin has established ambitious goals related to electrification, climate resilience, grid modernization, and equitable access to clean energy technologies, including increasing adoption of electric vehicles and distributed energy resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin Energy and related forecasting analyses have identified electric vehicle charging behavior as one of the largest sources of future peak demand growth and variability; and

**WHEREAS**, analyses estimate that Travis County could reach approximately 1.3 million registered vehicles by 2040, with electric vehicles projected to comprise approximately half of all registered vehicles and an increasing share of miles traveled; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin has approximately 62,000 registered electric vehicles and has been recognized as one of the top three cities in the United States for electric vehicle ownership, creating a significant opportunity to utilize electric vehicles as a grid flexibility resource; and

**WHEREAS**, time-of-use rates, managed charging programs, and related technologies can shift charging away from periods of scarce supply, reduce the need to dispatch expensive and high-emitting peaker generation resources, and improve the grid's ability to absorb variable renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, electric vehicles enrolled in managed charging programs can function as flexible load resources by shifting demand from peak to off-peak periods, and even modest participation rates could create demand response capacity comparable to small generation resources while utilizing existing customer assets; and

26           **WHEREAS**, utilities across the country increasingly use managed charging  
27 and residential battery programs to improve grid reliability, create customer value,  
28 and advance system-wide electrification and decarbonization goals; and

29           **WHEREAS**, reducing barriers to participation for renters, income-qualified  
30 customers, and environmental justice communities can help ensure equitable  
31 access to the benefits of electrification and distributed energy programs; and

32           **WHEREAS**, regular benchmarking and evaluation of leading utility  
33 programs nationwide can help Austin Energy maintain competitive customer  
34 offerings and ensure programs continue to reflect evolving technologies, market  
35 conditions, and best practices.

36 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

38           The City Manager is directed to conduct, or to cause to be conducted, a  
39 national benchmarking study within 90 days identifying the full range of electric  
40 vehicle managed charging and residential battery storage programs offered by  
41 utilities nationwide and establishing the 90th percentile benchmark for consumer  
42 incentive value and customer benefit.

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

44           The City Manager is directed to propose a redesign of Austin Energy's  
45 Power Partner electric vehicle program so that annual customer value ranks within  
46 the top ten percent of comparable utility programs nationally and achieves no less  
47 than the 90th percentile of annual equivalent customer benefit for a participant  
48 driving approximately 12,000 miles per year.

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

51 The City Manager is directed to propose a redesign of Austin Energy's  
52 residential battery storage incentive program so that the effective customer  
53 payback period, accounting for Austin Energy incentives and any applicable  
54 federal, state, or local tax incentives or credits, is shorter than the average payback  
55 period available to customers in deregulated electricity markets in Texas and, in all  
56 circumstances, does not exceed ten years.

57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

58 The City Manager shall prioritize equitable access and participation in  
59 electric vehicle managed charging and battery storage programs by identifying and  
60 reducing barriers for renters, income-qualified customers, multifamily residents,  
61 and environmental justice communities, and by evaluating alternative participation  
62 structures where appropriate.

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

64 The City Manager shall report back to Council and the Electric Utility  
65 Commission within 180 days with recommendations including proposed program  
66 structures, implementation options, cost-benefit analyses, estimated grid and  
67 customer impacts, equity considerations, and an implementation timeline.

74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

75 The City Manager is directed to repeat the national benchmarking review  
76 every two years and provide recommendations for program modifications  
77 necessary to maintain top-decile competitiveness and ensure Austin Energy  
78 programs continue to reflect evolving market conditions, technologies, and  
79 industry best practices.

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81 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

82 Erika Brady  
83 City Clerk

DRAFT