

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;

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;

WHEREAS, Council approved Ordinance 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 20160324-020 established a Living Wage Policy for City employees;

WHEREAS, Council approved Resolution 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;

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;

NOW THEREFORE,

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

The City Manager is directed 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, and the criteria for this analysis should prioritize the installation of solar on property or facilities that are managed by departments funded by the City's general fund.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to annually calculate 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Included in the analysis and recommendations to be presented to the Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks Committee, the City Manager is directed to evaluate opportunities for the installation of solar capacity on properties owned or operated by other local governmental entities within the Austin Energy load zone, including, 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 require participating solar contractors who install City-owned solar installations to comply with Better Builder Certification Standards, such as paying a Living Wage, ensuring adequate workplace safety conditions, including the availability of rest breaks, workers compensation insurance, and using commercially reasonable efforts to employ apprentices from the building trades and/or graduates from the Austin Infrastructure Academy.

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