

RESOLUTION NO.

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 to City capacity over the next ten years, which represents thousands of acres of new solar panels; and

WHEREAS, approximately 85 percent of materials contained in solar panels are recyclable, and in some panels, elements are present that risk the possibility of contamination if not disposed of appropriately; and

WHEREAS, at the federal and state levels, no requirements currently exist to mandate manufacturer acceptance and recycling of used or damaged solar panels; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2023, Council approved Resolution No. 20231102-002 adopting the 2023 Austin Resource Recovery Comprehensive Plan, which guides the City towards its goal of zero waste by 2040 by keeping all items eligible for recycling, composting, reuse, repair, or donation out of our landfills; and

WHEREAS, Austin Resource Recovery currently contracts with a solar panel recycler for the collection and recycling of panels voluntarily dropped off at the Recycle and Reuse Drop-off Center; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Development Services Department currently grants permits
26 pertaining to residential and commercial scale solar installations and collects fees
27 for those permits on behalf of Austin Energy; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

29 The City Manager is directed to work with the relevant departments to
30 explore and evaluate the feasibility of establishing a fee to fund a comprehensive
31 solar panel recycling process.

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

33 The City Manager is directed to analyze relevant information including but
34 not limited to:

- 35 • The current cost to Austin Resource Recovery per solar panel and/or per
36 pound for recycling;
- 37 • The means of collection by pickup or drop-off of solar panels, including
38 parameters to make those means safe and to prevent environmental
39 contamination;
- 40 • A process for collecting solar panel recycling fees from solar installation
41 owners at the point of installation permitting; and
- 42 • A framework for the management of those fees in the form of a fund to
43 be exclusively distributed to recycle solar panels.

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

45 The City Manager is directed to present this analysis, including estimated
46 fee rates, revenue, legal considerations, and implementation timelines, to City
47 Council by December 11, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to present City Council with recommendations for establishment of the fee and fund by the first City Council meeting in February 2026.

ADOPTED: _____, 2025 **ATTEST:** _____

Erika Brady
City Clerk

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