

Liveable City Board Resolution Regarding Austin Energy's Generation Plan
April 6, 2010

WHEREAS, The City of Austin is a national leader in promoting clean, renewable energy to address climate change, which now represents the greatest single threat to the health of the planet; and

WHEREAS, Strategic investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy is a driving factor in ensuring Austin's long-term economic and environmental sustainability and is crucial to creating clean local 21st century jobs, maintaining the health of our citizens, and keeping future energy costs affordable; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy's Resource & Climate Protection Plan to 2020, the product of a two-year process to revise Austin's future energy generation plan, specifically recommends increasing goals for renewable energy and energy efficiency and decreasing reliance on the Fayette Coal Plant, which is responsible for 70% of Austin's carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, Significant financial and community health risks are associated with unregulated carbon emissions and continued reliance on coal plants including ozone nonattainment, public and private health costs, exposure to litigation, and highly volatile maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, An Austin Energy commissioned report by PACE Consulting found that despite short-term savings "coal fired resources lose cost advantage over time" and that "baseload renewables are least expensive resources throughout the [12-year] study period;" and

WHEREAS, Failure to implement the proposed renewable generation plan will raise utility rates in the short term by approximately 15%, with much higher rates likely in the future, vs. a sustainable 18% increase under the renewable plan; and

WHEREAS, Liveable City supports the staff recommended Generation Plan and believes Austin should set an even more ambitious long-term goal of 100 percent renewable energy to sustain our City's future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Livable City Board of Directors calls on the Austin City Council to adopt the Austin Energy Staff Recommended Generation Plan contained in the Resource & Climate Protection Plan to 2020, including the recommendations approved by the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force, the Electric Utility Commission and the Resource Management Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Liveable City requests the City of Austin and Austin Energy to develop a clear utility business model and strategy that will guide generation mix

decisions going forward and clarify financial and structural issues to ensure Austin Energy's long-term ability to continue as a leader in its field; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Liveable City strongly urges the City of Austin to set a future goal of 100 percent renewable energy and to move toward that goal as expeditiously as possible.