

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:

THAT the Mayor be authorized to sign the attached letter along with Environment Texas Research and Policy Center and elected officials across the State of Texas calling on the State Legislature to lead the way in advancing clean energy solutions by creating incentives and rebates to encourage installation of solar panels and energy efficiency measures in Texas homes and businesses.

ADOPTED this ____ day of December 2008.

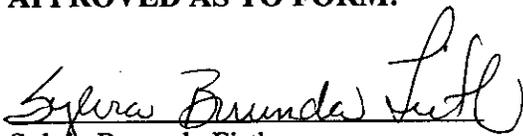
THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Sylvia Borunda Firth
Senior Assistant City Attorney

DATE

Dear Legislator,

When it comes to energy, we've got big problems in America. But Texas has the technological prowess and vast reserves of renewable energy from the sun, wind and crops that can lead this country out of our energy crisis and revitalize our economy to boot. We're already the national leader in wind power, and we have enough solar radiation to power the entire nation. We also have the technology to make our homes and businesses more energy efficient, saving us money and reducing pollution. The Texas Legislature should lead the way in clean energy solutions by creating incentives and rebates to encourage the installation of solar panels and energy efficiency measures in our homes and businesses. This investment in clean energy will help create thousands of high-paying manufacturing jobs, make our air cleaner, and renew Texas's leadership as the energy capital of the world.

In the 81st Legislature, we urge you to support policies to:

Create incentives to install 4000 megawatts of solar power by 2020

From chemical companies on the Houston Ship Channel that produce solar-grade silicon, to Central Texas semiconductor manufacturers that produce photovoltaic panels, to rural farmers ready to lease their land to large-scale solar power plants, Texas already has a solid foundation to ride the solar power wave. But other states like Pennsylvania, Colorado, California and New Jersey and the countries of Germany, Spain and Japan are far ahead of Texas in creating solar programs. With federal climate legislation likely to create billions in investments for clean energy, states with existing markets for solar power will likely reap the windfall. Texas shouldn't be left out in the cold. The Texas Legislature should require retail electric providers to acquire 4000 megawatts of solar power by the year 2020. At least 2000 megawatts of that goal should be met by providing rebates to home and business owners to help them install solar on their rooftops.

Require utilities to reduce energy consumption by 1% a year by 2015 and 2% a year by 2020

Improved energy efficiency is the cheapest, cleanest, and most readily available way to meet our energy needs, making it our best solution to our energy problems. With energy prices on the rise, energy efficiency is the most effective way to help consumers save money and help avoid the need to build expensive and polluting new power plants. In 1999, Texas became the first state in the nation to pass an energy efficiency resource standard. However, according to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, today Texas ranks just 25th in the nation for utility spending on efficiency. By offering expanded programs to promote home energy audits and weatherization programs, switching out incandescent lighting for energy efficient compact fluorescents, providing rebates to consumers to replace old appliances with new energy efficient appliances, and providing incentives for manufacturers to replace inefficient equipment with more efficient technologies, we can significantly reduce the demand for electricity.

Improve building codes so that the efficiency standards for new homes are increased by 15 percent every three years

A new generation of clean, efficient, zero-energy homes and businesses is on the horizon. With new high-tech building products and advanced construction techniques, we've already got what it takes to build green. Homes and businesses account for almost half of our energy use and yet we are still designing most of our buildings as if we weren't facing skyrocketing energy costs or health-damaging air pollution. The Legislature should follow the lead of Dallas, Frisco, Austin and other cities by adopting a statewide building code that requires new homes to be at least fifteen percent more energy efficient. We should also give innovative builders the tools they need to go even further by retrofitting old buildings and developing new ways to save energy.

Help schools, universities and local governments improve the efficiency of buildings through low-cost loans.

The Texas LoanSTAR Program is a very successful revolving loan program that helps public buildings, including state agencies, school districts, higher education, local governments and hospitals invest in energy efficiency. However, demand for the program far exceeds the money available. The Texas Legislature should increase the fund (currently \$98.6 million) fourfold.

Require certain appliances to meet minimum efficiency standards.

Eleven states have adopted efficiency standards for various appliances and equipment since 2001. These products include DVD players, bottle water dispensers, and residential swimming pool pumps. According to the State Energy Conservation office, Texas adoption of these efficiency standards would reduce summertime peak electric demand by 134 megawatts and save Texas consumers \$63 million per year by 2020.

Sincerely,

Elected Officials

Mayor Patricio M. Ahumada, Jr
City of Brownsville
Brownsville, TX

Mayor Pro Tem Charles Elmore
City of Wichita Falls
Wichita Falls, TX

Mayor Pro Tem Jack Chatman, Jr.
City of Port Arthur
Port Arthur, TX

Councilmember Peter Brown
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Wichita Falls, TX

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Wichita Falls, TX

Arlington Conservation Council
Arlington, TX

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Dallas, TX

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Hilton Kelley CEO / Founder (CIDA Inc.)
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