

WEBBERVILLE SOLAR PROJECT



One of the Nation's Largest Solar Projects

A privately-built solar farm spanning almost 400 acres has become Austin Energy's first utility-scale solar energy provider. The project, located 20 miles east of Austin near Webberville, on land owned by Austin Energy, provides 30 megawatts of solar capacity, making it one of the largest solar projects in the nation and the largest in Texas.

The Webberville Solar Project features 127,000 solar panels that rotate with the sun to maximize energy production. The energy produced annually is sufficient to power about 5,000 homes. Austin Energy will purchase the annual output of the facility for 25 years, moving the utility closer to achieving its goal of 35% renewable energy by 2020. By building a portfolio of renewable energy generation, Austin Energy helps keep the air cleaner, reduces global warming CO₂ emissions and gains experience needed in transitioning to clean energy resources.

The project, which began producing electricity in December, is owned by MetLife and is operated by RES Americas. It will include an observation tower with interactive displays on solar energy production.



Smart Streetlights for Improved Efficiency

Austin Energy crews are outfitting streetlights with communications capabilities to signal when streetlights are not working or are still on during the day as well as to program streetlights' on-off timing to better match up with daylight shifts throughout the year.

Specially-equipped photocells have been installed on 12,000 streetlights. Work is scheduled to begin this Spring on another

20,000 with completion expected by mid-summer. Austin Energy expects to have all 70,000 of its streetlights automated by 2014.

The ongoing communications from streetlights allow crews to address all repairs throughout an area comprehensively – significantly increasing efficiency of



operations. Information about each streetlight – such as type of pole and lamp – is provided through the Web-based system, enabling crews to also arrive with the proper materials needed.

Major thoroughfares and neighborhoods in Austin were first targeted for automation. The project is part of overall efforts by Austin Energy to expand its smart grid capabilities to improve efficiency and response time.

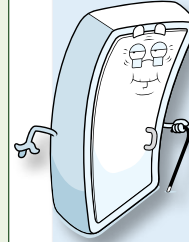


BEST HOMEBUILDING & REMODELING TIPS

The highly acclaimed Green by Design Workshop will take place **Saturday, March 3, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Commons Center, JJ Pickle Research Campus, 10100 Burnet Road.** Participants get numerous tips and best-practice advice for building or remodeling a home, including:

- Selecting a lot or making the most of the one you have
- Reducing utility bills while increasing comfort
- Making smart material and appliance choices
- Developing a beautiful landscape that saves water, time and money
- Creating a home that benefits the community and the planet

The workshop is \$35 per person which includes a full day of discussions by Austin Energy Green Building staff, a comprehensive Green by Design workbook, free advice from local green building professionals, continental breakfast, lunch and break refreshments and a chance to win door prizes from local green businesses. Learn about and register for this popular workshop at greenbuilding.austinenenergy.com or call 482-5300. Deadline for registration: **Wednesday, February 29, 5:00 p.m.** Sorry, no registrations at the door.



\$50 For Your Old Refrigerator

Austin Energy will pay you \$50 for each old, standard-size (between 14-27 cubic feet), working refrigerator or freezer; limit two per customer. Just call **1-800-452-8685** to arrange for a pick up. To date, we have collected more than 15,000 of these energy guzzlers. Next to heating, cooling and hot water, **refrigerators and freezers use more electricity than any other home appliance.** Refrigerators that are at least 15 years old use about twice the electricity of today's new energy efficient models.

LAST CHANCE FOR SOME COMMERCIAL REBATES



In 2012, changes in manufacturing standards for air conditioning and lighting require the phase-out of two types of commercial equipment commonly used. Austin Energy customers have until June 2012 to take advantage of existing rebates for the soon-to-be "standard" equipment.

The most common type of fluorescent lighting used in Austin will no longer be

manufactured after July 2012, as specified by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The fluorescents that will become the new standard are 32-watt T-8 fluorescents. Customers who install the fluorescents now will receive standard rebates of \$250/KW saved, a 20% bonus rebate, reduce lighting costs up to 45% and, possibly, federal tax deductions of up to \$1.80 per square foot.

The 1990 Clean Air Act identified refrigerant R-22 (most commonly known by the brand name Freon®) for gradual phase out. To date, new air conditioning equip-

ment that uses R-22 can no longer be manufactured and shipped "pre-charged" (or in an air conditioner). Customers who upgrade air conditioning currently using R-22 refrigerant will receive standard commercial rebates and a 20% bonus rebate. They may also be eligible for federal tax deductions of up to \$1.80 per square foot. For more information, call **482-5346** or write an e-mail to conservation@austinenenergy.com.

Para una Traducción en Español:

Si gusta recibir este folleto en español, llame a Austin Energy al **972-9523**.



Customer Service Center: 494-9400

Hours: Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Weekdays 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

24-Hour Power Outage Reporting: 322-9100

