



Legislation Text

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Agenda Information Sheet

DEPARTMENT: Denton Municipal Electric

CM/ ACM: Todd Hileman

Date: September 11, 2017

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and consider recommending adoption of a resolution approving the FY 2017-18 GreenSense Incentive Program, the GreenSense Incentive Program Manual, and Distributed Generation Manual.

BACKGROUND

Denton Municipal Electric customers that choose to invest in energy efficiency and conservation upgrades to their property may be eligible to participate in the City's GreenSense Incentive Program, which offers billing credits and cash rebates for a variety of upgrades. The current GreenSense Incentive Program includes: energy efficiency upgrades (e.g. HVAC, insulation, radiant barriers, etc.) for residential and multifamily customers, solar photovoltaic installation rebates, the commercial standard offer incentive, commercial engineering audits, and commercial demand response programs (ERS, 4CP, and Spot Price Load Reduction).

To qualify for any one of the rebates, customers must submit the appropriate application under the GreenSense Incentive Program (GreenSense) Manual. Depending on the program, either DME or Sustainable Denton will use the information provided by the customer in the application to perform necessary analysis, track and record locations of installed improvements, and report data to different agencies at various intervals and determine and confirm program rebate eligibility. All supporting documentation required to be submitted with the application is also reviewed to insure all installations meet applicable local codes and program standards.

Every year, the GreenSense Incentive Program Manual is reviewed and modified when necessary to adapt to the ever-changing prices, standards, and findings associated with energy efficiency and conservation measures and practices. The proposed updates and modifications for the FY 2017-18 GreenSense Program include:

- General clean-up and standardization of language throughout program manual
- Consolidation of information and removal of redundant sections
- Replacing flat rebate with graduated rebate based on size for HVAC systems
- Addition of a \$300 rebate for new electric vehicle purchases
- Remove 4CP Incentive and Spot Price Load Reduction programs
- Remove distributed generation; Creation of separate DG Manual (see below for further explanation)
- Increase solar rebate budget from \$200,000 to \$290,000
- Increase energy efficiency budget from \$200,000 to \$210,000

Distributed generation, or any small installation of a generation source on the customer's side of the meter, is

a rapidly growing feature DME customers. As the number of distributed generation unit installations continues to increase, staff recognizes the need to streamline and increase the efficiency of the distributed generation application process. In order to provide information to customers in a more effective manner, staff is proposing to create a Distributed Generation (DG) Manual to incorporate all standards required by departments across the City of Denton and remove DG from the current GreenSense manual.

By providing a separate DG Manual, citizens will be able to find all information related to installing DG systems in one centralized location. Additionally, a consolidated manual and streamlined process will help reduce the administrative processing time and confusion associated with the DG process. The new DG Manual will assist staff in tracking all DG installs, and will formalize the City's practices in order to be recognized as a 'Solar Friendly Community' and receive designation under the Department of Energy's SolSmart Program. The DG Manual is a cross-departmental effort, aimed at increasing efficiencies in a rapidly growing program.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is requesting the Public Utilities Board consider recommending approval of the FY 2017-18 GreenSense Incentive Program, the GreenSense Incentive Program Manual and the Distributed Generation Manual.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Staff is seeking to increase the solar rebate budget from \$200,000 to \$290,000 and increasing the energy efficiency budget from \$200,000 to \$210,000. The changes will be made within the Electric Department budget and no additional supplemental funds will be needed to make achieve these increases.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP

The City of Denton's Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

Related Key Focus Area: Organizational Excellence

Related Goal: 5.3 Improve energy efficiency and conservation

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Clean Draft GreenSense Incentive Program Manual

Exhibit 2: Redline Draft GreenSense Incentive Program Manual

Exhibit 3: Draft Distributed Generation Manual

Exhibit 4: GreenSense and Distributed Generation Presentation

Exhibit 5: Memo regarding Solar Rebate Program

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