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Sierra Club Praises Progress on Austin Solar-Ready Building Code Adoption

Austin, TX - Today, the Austin City Council unanimously approved two resolutions supported by the Sierra Club that will lead to more energy efficient buildings and could help lead to more solar power.

The first resolution ordered the Development Services Department to tell City Council how many additional staff they would need to properly enforce the city's energy code for new construction. The second resolution ordered relevant departments and commissions to bring back to City Council a "solar-ready" ordinance to the energy code for implementation on October 1, 2017. Such an ordinance would mean new construction would be "solar-ready" meaning future homeowners could easily add solar panels.

The Sierra Club has been working for about a year on a draft solar-ready ordinance with Austin Energy, Resource Management Commission, Electric Utility Commission, Development Services, and many stakeholders. By passing the resolution, City Council now formally creates a process to begin formal development of the ordinance.

In response, **Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director of the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter**, issued the following statement:

"The Sierra Club thanks Council Members Leslie Pool, Kathie Tovo, Ann Kitchen, Jimmy Flannigan, and Delia Garza for sponsoring this important ordinance to prepare Austin for a clean energy future. Solar-ready must be done in a way that is affordable and easy for developers to comply with. We believe this will lead to better buildings and make them easier to incorporate new technologies. We look forward to working with all stakeholders to make Austin solar-ready."

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