



Item 9

# Advancing Climate-Oriented Energy Initiatives

An Overview of the City's Role & Opportunities

Goal 8. Nurture and promote a healthy, sustainable community

# Presentation Overview

- Advancing Climate-Oriented Energy Initiatives
- Our Strategic Plan + Energy
- Climate-Oriented Energy Initiatives
  - Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Committee
  - Renewable Generation Study
- Next Steps



# Advancing Climate-Oriented Energy Initiatives

## Built Environment

- City Facilities
- Infrastructure
- Private Development

## Economic Development

- Industry Development
  - Supply Chain
  - Capital Investment
  - Jobs

## Energy

- Energy Supply
- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Access
- Supply Chain
- Emissions Reduction

# Advancing Climate-Oriented Energy Initiatives

## Regulatory Action

Exercising City's original  
jurisdiction

Intervention in regulatory  
proceedings

Police powers over City-owned  
rights-of-way

## Strategic Action

Legislative Change

Organizational Goals

Incentivizing Development +  
Industry Development

Strategic Partnerships

# Regulatory Action:

## The Case of Newman 6

- A 228 megawatt natural gas replacement unit
- Replacing three older, less efficient units
- The result of EPE's 2017 Integrated Resource Planning study + RFP
  - Chosen as **lowest-cost**, reliable portfolio option to serve increasing demand
  - Not a stand-alone solution:
    - 200 megawatts of large scale solar power
    - 50 megawatts of battery storage\*
- The new unit, solar, and battery storage resources result in:
  - 32 megawatts of net new generation from natural gas;
  - 600 million gallons of water saved per year;
  - 25 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2025; and
  - Increase in share of renewable generation from 5% in 2020 to 16% in 2023.

\*Original proposal included two 50 MW battery storage facilities, but New Mexico Regulatory Commission denied one 50 MW facility due to cost



# Regulatory Action:

## The Case of Newman 6

2019

2020

Nov. 12

- EPE files application to amend its CCN for additional unit at Newman 6
- Council votes to intervene

Dec. 6

- City files motion to intervene

May 26

- Council votes to deny EPE's settlement proposal

Jun. 9

- Hearing held

Sep. 8

- Proposal for decision issued

Sep. 18

- City files exceptions to the decision

Oct. 12

- Council voices continued opposition through unanimous motion

Oct. 16

- PUC adopts proposed decision to approve the amendment to the CCN

- The PUC grants amendments to Certificates of Convenience and Necessity; City may intervene
- Cost recovery related to Newman Unit 6 will be determined after the unit is operational

# Our Strategic Plan + Climate-Oriented Energy Initiatives

## Vibrant Regional Economy

### 1.1 Stabilize + Expand El Paso's Tax Base

*Establish a support mechanism for resilient development practices for private sector projects across El Paso*

### ✧ 1.7 Identify and develop plans for areas of reinvestment and local partnership

*Define workforce needs and activate key networks in support of the environmental/creative economy*

## Safe + Beautiful Neighborhoods

### 7.1 Provide reliable and sustainable water supply and distribution systems

*Advance the Paso del Norte Region as a **leader in advanced energy** and water technology*

### 7.5 Set one standard for infrastructure across the city

*Institutionalize sustainable building design and development practices for all City-owned and operated property*

### 7.5 Set one standard for infrastructure across the city

*Design and implement infrastructure projects that simultaneously address flooding, heat and energy, and citizen mobility update*

### ✧ 8.4 Reduce operational energy consumption

*Create and implement the Urban Energy Plan and identify state and federal legislative and funding opportunities*

# Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council

## ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES + DUTIES

“The role of the RREAC is to advise City Council on **all matters related to renewable energy strategy + industry development** as initiated and requested by City staff.”

**Industry  
Development**

**1**

**Municipal  
Energy**

**2**

**Renewable Energy  
Infrastructure**

**3**

**Education +  
Outreach**

**4**



# Visionary...

- *Renewable energy is one of the biggest ways for us to make a lasting and large impact for our future.*
- *Providing renewable energy solutions to communities that can have a positive impact in our community and ecosystems.*
- *We can help our city to grow in positive ways and move toward a more sustainable future*
- *Solar Energy is El Paso's largest economic development opportunity for the coming decades and El Paso's largest upcoming opportunity to be of service to the nation and to the world.*
- *To forge key partnerships and collaboration across our community as we continue to develop and grow our renewable energy resources and other technologies.*

*\*Comments taken from RREAC Member Survey*



# The Triple Bottom Line

AS IT RELATES TO URBAN ENERGY PLANNING



## People

SOCIAL

Reducing Energy  
Cost Burden for all  
El Pasoans



## Planet

ENVIRONMENTAL

Reduce the  
environmental  
footprint driven by  
energy demand and  
generation portfolio



## Prosperity

ECONOMIC

Activate Industry and  
Workforce around the  
opportunity of energy  
efficiency and  
renewables

# The Renewable Generation Study

- As a **commitment** in the IIF Acquisition, El Paso Electric agreed to perform a **Renewable Generation Study**
- Primary objective is to **evaluate greater renewable energy integration** in the City and EPE's Texas service territory
- Completion due date is **July 2021**
- Includes **seven deliverables** relating to the goal of increased renewable generation
- **Opportunity for open dialogue** regarding balance among: reliability, affordability, and environmental requirements



# The Renewable Generation Study: Study Deliverables

1. The **technical feasibility** of integrating **utility scale-renewable generation** into EPE's utility system;
2. **Possible costs** and **operational impacts** related to the integration of utility-scale renewable generation into EPE's Texas service territory;
3. **Reasonable commitments EPE can make** to increase the integration of renewable generation in EPE's Texas generation portfolio;
4. Potential **voluntary renewable generation program offerings** to allow customers to increase their use of renewable resources;
5. Potential renewable generation programs to assist with **low-income assistance** programs;
6. **Legislative or regulatory changes required** to increase utility-scale renewable generation and legislative strategies necessary to implement those changes; and
7. **Grant opportunities** for EPE and the City to increase the integration of renewable generation in EPE's Texas generation portfolio

# Climate-Oriented Energy Initiatives

## Next Steps

- Developing and implementing the RREAC's Strategic Plan
- Evaluating greater utility-scale renewable generation integration
- Building on Existing Efforts
  - 0.25 MW installed in photovoltaic solar at the MSC, Main Library, Animal Shelter, Aztec Pavilion
  - Solar picnic tables at trail heads
  - Solar lights at Don Haskins Skatepark
- Advancing opportunities at the State and Federal level
  - Current and future State legislative sessions
  - Federal funding opportunities + engagement



# Climate-Oriented Energy Initiatives

## Next Steps

- Exploring Strategic Partnership Opportunities
  - Voluntary Programs such as the Dedicated Solar Plus Program
  - Airport – EPE partnership opportunities
  - Other ideas advanced by the RREAC as part of its Strategic Plan
- Executing our 25 by 2025 visionary initiatives
  - **Create and implement the Urban Energy Plan and identify state and federal legislative and funding opportunities**

## MISSION



Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community

## VISION



Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



## VALUES

Integrity, **R**espect, **E**xcellence,  
**A**ccountability, **P**eople