



# A Strategic Vision for Urban Energy

Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council

March 10, 2021

## 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*



# 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



# VISION...

El Paso will be a leader among North American cities in renewable energy, *for our community, for the environment and for prosperity and health of the whole ecosystem*; with the goal of becoming the least fossil fuel dependent city in Texas making a lasting, large and equitable impact across the regional community; building a platform for future generations to thrive.



# MISSION...

The RREAC will advocate for partnerships between community, industry, public institutions and utilities to promote increased access to affordable renewable energy and reinforce grid reliability while driving renewable industry development and local innovation demonstrating clear action to mitigate the global climate crisis improving quality of life for all El Pasoans.

# 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.”

1  
Education , Outreach  
+ Advocacy

2  
Municipal Energy

3  
Industry  
Development

4  
Renewable Energy  
Infrastructure

6



## Education, Outreach + Advocacy



### Residential, Commercial, Inter-City Collaboration, Federal + State Advocacy

**Goal 1.1** Bilingual education campaign encouraging residential and commercial customers to adopt energy efficiency practices and distributed generation.

**Goal 1.2** Promote community-wide programs broadening energy literacy by providing education, resources and tools across all segments of the community including energy conservation, renewable energy and heat mitigation strategies.

**Goal 1.3** Advocacy at the state and federal level for policies and incentives to accelerate adoption of both renewable generation and storage.



### Municipal Energy

**Goal 2.1** Reduce overall energy consumption and enhance energy efficiency in municipally owned facilities.

**Goal 2.2** Increase efficiency for street and parks light infrastructure.

**Goal 2.3** Increase solar generation at City owned facilities.

**Goal 2.4** Enhance and increase EV fleet and chargers at municipal facilities





## Job Creation, Business Development + Attraction, Workforce Development

### Industry Development

**Goal 3.1** Support partnerships with local educational and workforce development institutions and advocate STEAM career pathways for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Energy management jobs.

**Goal 3.2** Recommend incentive programs targeted for businesses in the area of renewable technology with an emphasis on local innovation, small business, microenterprise and locally driven NGOs.

**Goal 3.3** Study the potential and identify a framework for a renewable energy industry cluster.

## Renewable Energy Infrastructure



### Generation, Integration + Storage

**Goal 4.1** Advocate for equitable access to solar for the community, prioritizing disadvantaged communities historically impacted by environmental concerns, including incentive programs and enhanced permitting and inspection processes.

**Goal 4.2** Promote collaboration between the City of El Paso and El Paso Electric to expand and enhance equitable, affordable access to community solar for commercial and residential customers.

**Goal 4.3** Identify and study the viability of solar/renewable energy code requirements.

**Goal 4.4** Support adoption the most current energy code available in the State of Texas.

**Goal 4.5** Promote investment in community wide energy efficiency initiatives.



# Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council

MIGUEL FRAGA, CHAIR / JOSHUA SIMMONS, VICE-CHAIR

Recommendations of the RREAC will be **aligned with strategic goals** in pursuit of the identified and adopted mission / vision

## KEY RREAC PRIORITIES BASED ON STRATEGIC GOALS

- Create a Bilingual Education Campaign
- Identify and study the viability of solar /renewable energy code requirements.
- Reduce overall energy consumption and enhance energy efficiency in municipally owned facilities
- Recommend incentive programs targeted for businesses in the area of renewable technology

# Benefits of the Strategy

## To the Community

- Lower City expenses means **more funding for new or existing City projects** that support the citizens.
- Potential for energy savings **to support other clean energy projects** across the city.
- **More jobs.** The USA has 242K+ solar energy workers. The solar workforce has grown by 159% since 2010 adding 150K jobs.

## To the City of El Paso

- Lower bills resulting in **extensive cost savings** potential
- Opportunity to **lead by example**
- Ability to take advantage of the **plummeting cost of technology** from generation to storage systems.



# RREAC Recommendations

1. Conduct an analysis of the cost effectiveness of PPA's
2. Create a plan to expand into other programs with the purpose of ultimately entering into a solar behind the meter Power Purchase Agreement. (PPA)
3. That City Council take no action regarding the **EPE “Dedicated Solar Plus” Program** until such time that the RREAC has an opportunity to analyze existing information and make a recommendation based on analysis of findings.

# Requested Council Action

Direct the City Manager to direct staff to:

1

- Identify city owned property that would be ideal for a PPA RFP.
  - An ideal site would be based on a usage projection, demand profile, and site capacity
  - Include diverse sites, in all 8 Districts in El Paso.

2

- Seek State, Federal and private grants that offset costs of installation, infrastructure such as batteries, maintenance to city owned property, and training programs for city electricians to upkeep panels/equipment.



## 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