



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/22/2024

REQUESTER: Michele Loudenback

PRESENTER: Michele Loudenback, Environmental and Sustainability Manager

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-61: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$171,050 TO FUND SOLAR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM.

BACKGROUND:

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) was designed to assist local governments and tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, cut carbon emissions, and improve energy efficiency. The program is authorized under Title V, Subtitle E of the Energy Independence and Security Act ("EISA") of 2007, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 17151 et seq., which was signed into law on December 19, 2007.

Additionally, on August 9, 2005, Mayor Haralson signed the United States Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement which consisted of 12 recommended action items designed to reduce global warming emissions and increase energy conservation. Norman's Environmental Control Advisory Board (ECAB) is tasked with creating and updating recommendations every five years. The most recent review was finalized in 2023. Recommendations include reducing City of Norman operations' greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2028 and increasing renewable energy use throughout the City with a goal of reaching 100% renewable energy consumption by the year 2050.

DISCUSSION:

The non-competitive eligible grant funds allocated to the City is based on population numbers for the City and County and is in an amount not to exceed \$171,050. Staff plans to use approximately half of the funding for solar energy installations for the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility and half for establishing a revolving loan program.

The solar panel project planned for the HHW Facility will reduce the facility's greenhouse gas emissions through the use of renewable energy. This reduction will help in the efforts to reach the emission reduction goals outlined in the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and its subsequent updates. The addition of the panels also takes advantage of the City-wide Norman Solar Initiative.

The revolving loan program will allow residents to make energy efficiency and conservation-based upgrades to their homes. This program will be open to all residents and is anticipated to include principal forgiveness for participants who meet income requirements. Recipients will be able to use the funds for the purchase and/or installation of appliance, fixtures or home improvements that increase energy efficiency and conservation. These simple acts will have a direct impact on participants' resources by lowering energy bills.

Resolution R-2425-61 authorizes Staff to submit an application for grant funding for the purpose of funding solar improvements at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility and for the establishment of an energy efficiency revolving loan program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution R-2435-61.