

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Meeting Agenda

June 10, 2008

6:00 PM

City Hall Room 16

Regional Utilities Committee

CALL TO ORDER**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA****APPROVAL OF MINUTES****080039. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for May 13, 2008 (B)**

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for the May 13, 2008 meeting as circulated.*

RUC Meeting Minutes for May 13 2008.pdf

CURRENT RUC ACTION ITEMS**071064. Project Share Program (B)**

Explanation: Currently about \$70,000 is contributed annually to Project Share by GRU customers. These funds are then distributed to three social service agencies that disperse the funds to customers who need help paying their utility bill. Based on an informal survey of these partnering agencies, the money being collected for utility bill assistance is not meeting the need in the community. For example, Gainesville Community Ministry has provided assistance to 70 customers since October 2007, but has received over 3,600 requests for assistance. Because of this shortfall, staff would like to encourage additional contributions and also encourage wise energy and water use for those customers receiving Project Share funds.

Staff has met several times to discuss options and will review these with the RUC.

Fiscal Note: None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) hear staff recommendations regarding Project Share goals; specifically, increase Customer awareness and opportunities to contribute to the program; work with partnering social service agencies to promote conservation strategies and resources for assistance with home efficiency improvements; and engage the faith based community, government and non-profit organizations in discussions to coordinate community-wide utility assistance opportunities; 2) provide feedback; and 3) recommend the item be removed from the referral list.*

Legislative History

3/24/08 City Commission Referred (7 - 0)

Regional Utilities
Committee

Backup for 071064 Project Share 6 10 08.pdf

061214.**Photovoltaic Policies (NB)**

Explanation: On March 27th, 2007 the Alachua County Commission established the Alachua County Energy Conservation Strategies Commission (ECSC). The responsibilities of the ECSC are to develop an exhaustive "menu of options" implementable by local government, with the goal of reducing per capita energy consumption in Alachua County. On April 22nd, 2008 the Board of County Commissioners directed the Manager and his Finance Team to meet with the ECSC and/or relevant ECSC subcommittees to develop, for Commission consideration, potential financing mechanisms to implement energy efficiencies.

In FY07 GRU implemented a solar photovoltaic rebate program and to date the program has resulted in 218 kW of solar installations. On May 27, 2008 staff met with solar contractors to identify and discuss potential for new performance criteria to be integrated as part GRU's solar rebate program.

On April 14th, 2008 the Regional Utilities Committee recommended that the City Commission: 1) initiate the process for adopting net metering for privately installed renewable energy generation systems; 2) schedule a public hearing to receive considerations, determinations and public input as part of the requirements of the Public Utility Regulatory Act; and 3) retain this item on the referral list. The City Commission scheduled the public hearing for June 9th, 2008.

Shade trees are an excellent form of energy conservation and also provide numerous other community benefits, but some customers might be tempted to remove trees to install solar. Staff recommends that the Tree Advisory Board and Planning and Development staff develop guidelines for review by RUC so that the value of both trees and solar is fully recognized

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Utilities Committee hear an update from Alachua County Environmental Protection Department staff on the County's consideration of a funding mechanism to implement energy efficiency, including solar; utility staffs' efforts to develop solar rebate performance criteria and policies to implement net metering; and recommend that the City Commission request the Tree Advisory Board and Planning and Development staff develop, for the RUCs consideration, guidelines to govern the interaction between solar energy and trees.

Legislative History

4/23/07	City Commission	Referred (7 - 0)	Regional Utilities Committee
6/12/07	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
7/10/07	Regional Utilities Committee	Approved as shown above (See Motion)	
8/27/07	City Commission	Approved as shown above (See Motion) (5 - 1 - 1 Absent)	
3/19/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Recommended for Approval, as shown above	
4/14/08	City Commission	Approved as Recommended (4 - 0 - 3 Absent)	

Backup to RUC item #061214 Mar 19 2008.pdf

Backup for RUC item #061214 PV policies Mar 19 2008.pdf

070516. Conservation and Energy Use Goals - Mid Year Efficiency Program Update (B)

Explanation: In July of 2006 staff began implementation of an aggressive Energy Efficiency Program. To date numerous programs have been implemented to help achieve maximum cost-effective energy efficiency. The report will provide a brief synopsis through the 2nd quarter of 2008.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Utilities Committee hear a report from staff on the progress of the energy efficiency programs.

Legislative History

9/24/07	City Commission	Referred (7 - 0)	Regional Utilities Committee
4/8/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	

Mid Year Energy Efficiency Report to RUC June 10. 2008.pdf

OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

080071. Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report and select items for discussion at the next meeting.

RUC Outstanding Referrals status report June 10 2008.pdf

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

NEXT MEETING DATE

Discuss schedule for next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT