

Austin Energy Workshop #5 Workshop Summary

Virtual, Webex | Wednesday, Nov.13, 2024 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Key Workshop Takeaways

- **Austin Energy hosted a fifth workshop to share final values and objective statements and to reveal the proposed Resource Generation Plan Toolkit.**
- **Workshop participants didn't suggest any additional changes to the updated values and objectives statements.** There were no objections or questions after reviewing the changes made to the values and objectives statements discussed in Workshop #4.
- **Workshop participants didn't suggest any changes to the toolkit categories** – Prioritize Customer Energy Solutions, Leverage Local Solutions, Achieve Decarbonization, and Foster a Culture of Innovation.
- **Workshop participants did provide suggestions of “tools” to add to the “toolkit”.** These additions were recorded and will be considered by Austin Energy.

Workshop Overview

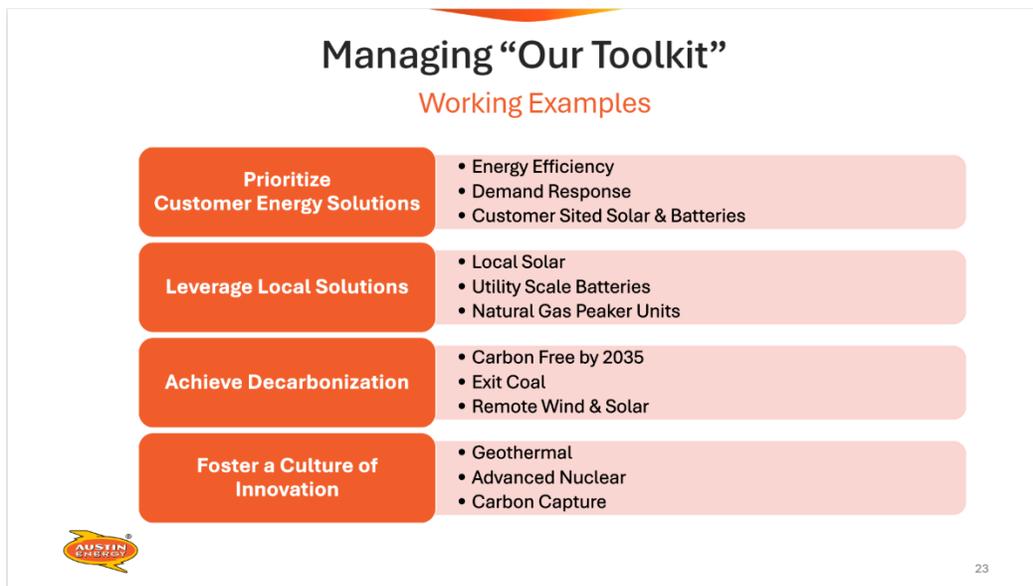
Austin Energy hosted the fifth in a series of workshops on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This workshop was entirely virtual and made available through a Webex link to both workshop participants and members of the public. The goals of Workshop #5 were to share with participants the updated values and objectives statements, learn about the key takeaways from the modeling, and to gather input on the “tools in the toolkit” of the Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2035.

Lynda Rife with Rifeline LLC welcomed participants and began the workshop by reviewing the key takeaways from Workshops #1 through #4, including the takeaways from Dr. Michael Webber from the UT Austin Cockrell School of Engineering. The following slides reviewed the changes made to the values and objectives statements that came out of the discussions from Workshop #4. Lynda paused to ask for questions and feedback, and the workshop participants didn't have questions or suggested any additional changes.

Lynda concluded her portion of the presentation and passed it to Lisa Martin from Austin Energy. Lisa began her presentation with reminding participants of the mission of the 2035 plan, which is to “meet Austin's rising energy needs while enabling an equitable clean energy transition reflecting our community's values of reliability, affordability and environmental sustainability”. The following slides outlined the current-day risks and immediate problems Austin Energy is facing while developing the plan. Lisa presented a timeline that spanned from 2020 to 2024 that showed significant milestones and/or events that have influenced Austin Energy's current approach to the 2035 plan, including but not limited to, extreme weather events, ERCOT market changes, increased energy costs, retirements of Decker Steam Units, peak demand growth records, and more.

Later, Lisa shared that extensive work went into the modeling with the goal of better understanding tradeoffs and resource plan needs. Lisa also shared with participants a list of key insights that came out of the modeling. Informed by these key insights, Austin Energy developed a “toolkit” of solutions organized into four major categories: Prioritize Customer Energy Solutions, Leverage Local Solutions, Achieve Decarbonization, and Foster a Culture of Innovation. The next slide identified working examples of tools or solutions within those categories. Please see Figure 1 below:

Figure 1



Lynda paused the presentation and asked participants if they had any questions about the toolkit categories and if anyone had suggestions or ideas of solutions that could be added to the list. Please see the *Participant Toolkit Comments & Additions* below to review. Overall, participants didn’t offer any changes to the four toolkit categories, but there was discussion on the “tools” included in those categories. There were participants who expressed concerns over the incorporation of natural gas peaker units as a solution and how this contradicts the goal of achieving full decarbonization by 2035. Other participants had questions and comments about the following:

- Transmission line upgrades
- Battery storage
- Previous Decker Steam Unit operating costs
- Emphasizing cost predictability
- The difference between congestion costs now compared to 2020 and years past
- Affordability targets as it relates to business and commercial entities

The workshop concluded with Lynda inviting workshop participants to attend the next Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee (AEUOC) meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. at Austin City Hall to be recognized and thanked by Austin City Council for their great work as participants in the workshops. There were 32 total attendees, with 22 workshop participants and 10 members of the public.

Here is the Webex recording link (enter access code Gm3R8HPH):

<https://austinenergy.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/austinenergy/recording/playback/e2da1bc38412103d9fefc6d438d3e0d7>

Participant Toolkit Solution Comments & Additions

Prioritize Customer Energy Solutions

- Virtual power plants (VPPs)

Leverage Local Solutions

- Upgrade transmission lines

Achieve Decarbonization

- Remove peaker units
- Have this be broader to include local air pollution
- Remote batteries co-located wind and solar farms

Foster a Culture of Innovation

- Geothermal
- Electric energy storage (EES)
- Utility-scale batteries
- Vehicle-to-grid