



## WHAT ARE LOCAL RENEWABLE & EFFICIENCY ENERGY DISTRICTS?

Legislation has recently been passed allowing cities to create “Energy Districts” to loan homeowners and businesses money for renewable power and energy efficiency (HB 1937).

Imagine a financing mechanism that loans you money for the up-front cost of installing energy efficiency improvements or a solar panel array on your home or business that is paid back in very small monthly payments.

- For many property owners, it makes economic sense to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and/or install solar panels. But they aren't doing it because of high upfront cost, long term commitment and difficulties with financing. How many of us would have cell phones if we had to buy 20 years of minutes up front?
- This new law allows municipal governments to sell bonds and use the proceeds to make loans to a homeowner and business that can cover the up-front cost of energy efficiency improvements and/or solar arrays. Property owners then pay back the loan through a voluntary line item on their property tax bills at a low fixed interest rate over a 20-year period. This program resulted from the hard work of Representative Mike Villareal of San Antonio.
- The loan is tied to the property, so if you move away the balance stays with the building. This adds value to the property. Because the loan repayments are tied to the property, it is recovered in the escrow portion of the monthly house payment.
- Given the benefits of energy efficiency and solar-- reducing energy bills and your own personal carbon footprint --such a program offers a phenomenal tool to positively shape our quality of life and create green jobs in Texas. Legislation authorizing this program has been adopted in 9 states.
- We hope to create districts in San Antonio, Austin, DFW, Houston, Corpus Christi and El Paso.



www.CleanEnergyForTexas.org



**LOCAL ENERGY DISTRICTS**  
**I Want One For My Town!**

# TARGET CITIES

- Austin
- Dallas/Fort Worth
- Houston
- San Antonio
- Corpus Christi
- the Valley



## HOW YOU CAN CREATE LOCAL RENEWABLE & EFFICIENCY ENERGY DISTRICTS IN YOUR TOWN

- Contact one of the organizations listed below or go to [www.cleanenergyfortexas.org](http://www.cleanenergyfortexas.org)
- Create a local group of citizens, solar and efficiency contractors along with their satisfied and potential customers, environmental groups, and churches to develop a local proposal
- Make a visit to your mayor and city council members. Explain the advantages of the program
- Find out who your city's bond counsel is and go visit them with one of our experts
- Hold a press conference to announce your campaign
- Meet with the editorial boards of your local papers
- Get large number of letters and emails asking your city council to act
- Bask in your new efficient solar home
- Count your savings from solar and efficiency

