

# STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

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9/25/12
MVB

DATE: September 25, 2012

TO: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

FROM: Jason Caudle, Deputy City Manager  
Mark Bozigian, City Manager

SUBJECT: **International Energy Globe Award Prize**

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**Recommendation:**

Appropriate the \$10,000.00 prize awarded to the City of Lancaster as a winner of the 2012 International Energy Globe Award to Account No.'s 486-4770-201 and 486-4770-205, with \$5,000.00 allotted to each. Additionally, increase estimated revenue in Account No. 486-3601-100 by the \$10,000.00 prize.

**Fiscal Impact:**

This action will recognize \$10,000.00 in prize money awarded to the City in recognition of its sustainable energy efforts and appropriate funds to two expense accounts, thus making it available for expenditures made related to said energy efforts.

**Background:**

The City of Lancaster was recently honored for its groundbreaking initiatives in alternative energy with an International Energy Globe Award. The awards program, which is sponsored by Energy Globe founder Wolfgang Neumann, aims "to safeguard the future of the planet and the right of future generations everywhere to live healthy and fulfilling lives." In recognition of its ongoing renewable energy efforts which contribute to achieving this goal, Lancaster was awarded first place worldwide in the "Fire" category and third place worldwide overall. Program categories include Earth, Air, Fire, Water, and Youth.

Two pioneering projects garnered Lancaster this prestigious recognition: the "Home of the Future" and the Solar Lancaster Program. Both emphasize the immense value of public-private partnerships in developing sustainable energy projects as Lancaster continues its quest to become the Alternative Energy Capital of the World.

Solar Lancaster was launched in partnership with private solar energy firm SolarCity. This unique program set out to accomplish what so many previous solar programs could not: make solar energy accessible and affordable to the average resident and local business. Through an innovative financing program which allows customers to choose from a variety of financing options to find what works best for their property and budget, Solar Lancaster has achieved this goal. In the initial implementation period alone, 115 local residents and businesses adopted solar energy, including 79 residences and 36 businesses/institutions for a total of 12.5 MW of solar power generating capacity.

The “Home of the Future” marked another significant milestone in the development of green energy technologies. The project began in 2010 when Mayor Parris travelled to China to meet with battery storage giant BYD and saw the cutting-edge storage technology in use at their facility in Shenzhen. This sparked an idea – BYD would partner with the City and premier American homebuilder KB Home to construct the first affordable “Home of the Future” right here in Lancaster.

The City made the introduction between the two private firms. While both initially thought the project was not feasible, particularly if it was to be sold at an affordable price, the idea became a reality in only 45 days. A single-story, 1,519-square-foot home in KB’s Alamosa community in west Lancaster was built according to the Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star guidelines. It was outfitted with a number of environmentally-friendly technologies, including solar panels, smog-eating roof tiles, batteries, energy-saving LED lights and inverters. The battery technology allows the homeowner to control his or her own power supply, even at night, by extracting energy from the grid at night when it is least expensive and using it during the day. In addition, the system provides homeowners with the option of having up to 12 hours of energy storage, which would be available for use in emergency situations even during a blackout. The home is the first of its kind in the United States.

Lancaster was recognized for these revolutionary initiatives at the International Energy Globe Awards ceremony held in Vienna, Austria, in early September. Council Member Ken Mann travelled to Vienna to represent the City and accept the award. Your appropriation of the prize winnings into the above-referenced accounts will offset the costs of travel to the awards ceremony, as well as award application fees and other related costs.

JC:CD