



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

City Manager

City Council Regular Meeting Date: July 15, 2025

To: City Council
From: Dana A. Souza, City Manager
Date: July 8, 2025

SUBJECT: Approve submission of an application to the US Department of Energy's, National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project (ETIPP): Coastal, Remote, and Island Community Technical Assistance program to develop a Strategic Energy Plan for Sanibel.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council is asked to approve a City application to the ETIPP program to develop a Strategic Energy Plan for Sanibel. If Sanibel is approved for the program. The NREL will provide the professional services needed to develop a plan to improve the resilience and sustainability of the island's electric infrastructure system and to critical city infrastructure. [Click here](#) to visit the ETIPP webpage.

The application is included in the agenda packet for this item. When reviewing the application, you will see that questions 21,22, and 23 are not shown. The application will be submitted through an online portal and those questions (21,22,23) are yes/no answers related to any energy planning the City has undertaken. Letters of support from COTI, SCCF, IWA, SanCap Resilience, and LCEC will be loaded into the application portal by those organizations. Bob Moore of SanCap Resilience has been instrumental in developing the City's application, has participated in the technical assistance calls that are required with NREL's Regional Partner, and reviewing the final application.

The NREL defines the development of the Strategic Energy Plan as a 4- to 8-month planning process that will support Sanibel in developing actionable goals for energy resilience planning. NREL's Regional Partners and supporting lab technical experts will work with the City, our community partners, and residents, to guide the planning effort, resulting in a completed strategic energy plan, which includes a high-level energy assessment, individualized community goals, and a Sanibel specific community action plan that identifies short-term and long-term energy resilience and affordability projects/initiatives.

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

Developing a Strategic Energy Plan for Sanibel is consistent with the City Council's Strategic Goal for Community Resilience, which states:

Build Sanibel's resilience to future threats from natural and manmade events by developing plans and implementing solutions that serve to harden and adapt critical infrastructure and mitigate hazards; promote energy efficiency and the use of reliable renewable energy sources; continually update vulnerability, response, and recovery plans; and promote community engagement concerning storm preparation, building codes, flood protection and the benefits of native vegetation.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the City Manager to submit the application to NREL.

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