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Mr. Will Wynn (Keynote Speaker)

Former Mayor of Austin, Texas (United States of America)



TOPIC: Austin's Journey Towards a Carbon Neutral City (by 2050)

Will Wynn consults with and advises public and private entities on matters related to urban revitalization, energy policy, economic development and sustainability.

Mr. Wynn served as two-term mayor of Austin, Texas from 2003-2009. He also served on the Board of Directors of Austin Energy for nine years, the last six as Chairman. At 6,000 megawatts, Austin Energy is one of the largest public utilities in the U.S. Its fuel mix is now 26% natural gas, 25% nuclear, 12% coal and 37% renewables (up from 0% in 2000 when Wynn began serving on the Board). Its current and approved generation plan has renewables growing to 50% by 2025.

Late in his tenure, Wynn oversaw the execution of two key purchase power agreements. A 20-year, \$2.3 billion PPA created a 100-megawatt (wood waste) biomass plant and a 25-year, \$250 million PPA created a 327-acre, 30-megawatt solar field, both completed in 2012. Earlier Wynn approved the execution of five wind power PPAs totaling 429 megawatts currently operating. Despite Austin's remarkable growth in population over the past decade, all of the additional demand for electricity has been met by conservation, efficiencies and renewables. At over one billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) in subscriptions, its GreenChoice program has been named the country's most successful utility-sponsored green energy program for seven consecutive years by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Under Wynn's leadership Austin dramatically expanded both the requirements and market penetration of its greenbuilding program; nationally promoted plug-in hybrid electric vehicles; created the country's most aggressive solar rebate program; pushed for substantial upgrades to the International Energy Conservation Code; dramatically increased its renewable energy portfolio; mandated energy audits prior to existing home sales; announced its smart-grid initiative; and created a city-wide climate protection program of which Newsweek wrote "...the City of Austin has taken the reins. Its climate protection plan, unveiled last February by Mayor Will Wynn, is seen by



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environmentalists as the country's most aggressive municipal initiative aimed at reducing greenhouse gases.”

Austin Energy’s construction of its 52,000-ton capacity Downtown District Cooling System has helped spur an unprecedented amount of downtown high-rise residential development bringing over 18,000 new residents into the urban core. There is now over 18 million square feet of new buildings tied into the ice thermal storage system that utilizes off-peak (disproportionately west Texas wind) power to cool. The closed-loop system has existing capacity for 20 million square feet of cooling, and is currently being expanded.

Mr. Wynn rose to a leadership position within the U.S. Conference of Mayors. As Chair of their Energy Committee from 2004-2009, he helped drive national debate on federal energy policy and climate protection. He was featured in Time Magazine’s watershed issue on global warming as well as Newsweek’s “The Greening of America” issue. President Obama said, “Mayor Wynn has emerged as a national leader on energy policy and I’m honored to have his support.”

Mr. Wynn received the Alliance to Save Energy’s prestigious Charles H. Percy Public Service Award; was named Energy Executive of the Year by the 9,000-member Association of Energy Engineers; and was honored for Outstanding Achievement at the U.S. Conference of Mayors 2007 Climate Protection Awards.

Mr. Wynn graduated cum laude with a degree in Environmental Design from Texas A&M University and in 2006 he was named a Distinguished Alumni of their College of Architecture. He has both U.S. and Irish Citizenship and lives in Cascais, Portugal.