



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**#16-0947**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** September 7, 2016

**TITLE:** Motion to Approve Participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's Better  
Building Initiative Performance Contracting Accelerator Program

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the City's participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Building Initiative Performance Contracting Accelerator Program, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

**Background**

The Better Buildings Initiative is a national leadership project calling on state and local officials to make substantial commitments to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and plants, save money, and increase competitiveness. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is expanding this initiative to engage leaders in a set of Better Buildings Accelerators designed to demonstrate specific innovative approaches which, upon successful demonstration, will accelerate investment in energy efficiency. The Performance Accelerator aims to catalyze public sector energy efficiency investments and disseminate innovative and best practice approaches to enhance performance contracting programs.

By joining the Accelerator Program, the City of Fort Lauderdale will gain access to expertise in standard performance contracting approaches and receive tailored technical assistance. As part of this agreement, the City pledges a financial commitment for Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) and agrees to participate in forums and resource sharing. The financial pledge represents funding the City already anticipates spending on energy performance contracting regardless of participation in this program. The agreement and pledge are voluntary and may be terminated by the City without penalty.

ESPC is a budget-neutral approach to make building improvements that reduce energy and water use and increase operational efficiency. By partnering with an Energy Services Company (ESCO), a facility owner can use an ESPC to pay for facility

upgrades with guaranteed energy savings. On August 18, 2015, and July 12, 2016, the City Commission approved a total of three contracts with ESCOs to perform Investment Grade Audits (IGA) at selected City facilities. Of the three ESCOs to date, two have provided IGA reports recommending implementation of Energy Conservation Measures totaling over \$4,000,000. During FY16 and FY17, ESPC contracts to implement these recommendations will be brought to City Commission for approval.

### **Resource Impact**

The approval of this motion has no additional fiscal impact on the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Although the City pledges a commitment of \$4,000,000 to implement ESPCs, the City anticipates that these funds would be expended regardless of participation in the Accelerator program through energy performance contracts already initiated. In addition, the agreement and pledge are voluntary. Any expenditure of funds for ESPC contracts would be brought to Commission separately for approval.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018 Initiative, included within the Internal Support Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 12: Be a leading government organization, managing resources wisely and sustainably.
- Objective 3: Provide safe, efficient, and well-maintained vehicles, equipment and facilities and integrate sustainability into daily operations.
- Initiative 3: Conduct water and energy conservation and efficiency audits.
- Initiative 5: Integrate energy efficient retro-fits and sustainable design elements in City facilities.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan 2035: We Are United*.

### **Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Better Buildings Initiative Performance Contracting Accelerator Agreement

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