



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Councilman Cris Medina, District 7

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff; Chris Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Michael Bernard, City Attorney; John Peterek, Interim Management Services Administrator

SUBJECT: Environmental Policy Updates

DATE: November 7, 2013

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the City Council:

I, Councilman Cris Medina, along with the undersigned Councilmembers, request for the City Manager and appropriate city departments to develop standards that enhance the city's current environmental policy in order to enhance the quality of life and save both taxpayers and ratepayers money. Initiatives should include;

- 1) Prohibition of Single-Use Carryout Bags as recommended by the Citizen's Environmental Advocacy Committee within 90 days.
- 2) Updating the current Unified Development Code to reflect the 2012 International Electric Conservation Code within 90 days.
- 3) Evaluate the potential cost savings and elimination of waste by adopting a paperless system for all Council and Committee meetings. Should the staff's evaluation of costs produce a net savings to the city a paperless system should be employed within 60 days.

Brief Background

1) Single-Use Carryout Bags

Texas spends approximately \$25 Million per year, and San Antonio spends nearly \$1.3 Million per year in controlling single-use carryout bag pollution. Single-use carryout bag pollution threatens our infrastructure, costs small businesses money and makes our city less attractive to visitors. Austin, Brownsville, Laredo, Seattle, and Los Angeles have all successfully implemented this policy. Chicago, Dallas and New York City are currently considering a similar ban.

2) Updating San Antonio's UDC to 2012 IECC Standards

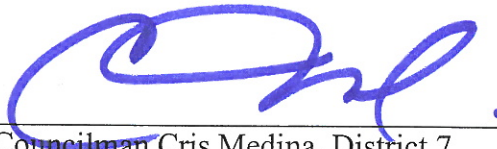
Currently, the City's UDC reflects the 2009 standard of the IECC. This standard regulates

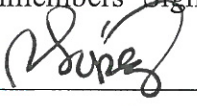
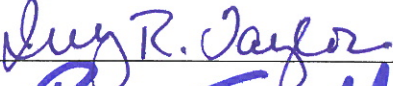

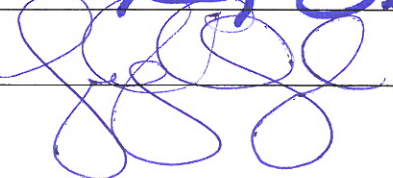
minimum energy conservation requirements for new buildings. The provisions of the 2012 update promote energy efficiency in a building's construction, heating and cooling system, and water heating system. This update aligns with our City's efforts to reduce energy consumption and provides for a more sustainable future. Energy cost savings for a home built with 2012 IECC Standard are estimated at \$252 per year quickly offsetting any initial cost increases of the new construction. By updating the current code to 2012 IECC standards; homeowners will realize in excess of \$7,500 in net energy savings over a 30-year mortgage.

### 3) Paperless Council

Philadelphia, Sacramento and cities across the nation are going paperless. Switching to a paperless system will save tax dollars by cutting printing costs, saving staff time as well as reducing environmental waste.

Submitted for Council consideration  
by:

  
Councilman Cris Medina, District 7

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)	District No.
1. 	6
2. 	2
3. 	5
4. 	9

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