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From the San Antonio Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2018/03/13/san-antonio-missing-out-on-program-to-boost.html>

San Antonio missing out on program to boost renewable energy

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State lawmakers enabled "property assessed clean energy" projects and created the Texas PACE Authority in 2013 as a means for commercial, industrial and multifamily residential property owners to add solar or make other improvements to decrease water or energy consumption.

Under the program, business owners can choose a private-sector capital provider to finance their project and voluntarily request that a city or county place a senior lien on the property for the total cost of the project. The owner then commits to paying the assessment in installments that can range up to 20 years.

Neither a personal nor business loan, PACE is a voluntary land-secured assessment that is paid off over the agreed amount of time. The energy and/or water savings are structured to exceed the cost of the assessment so that the projects that are cash flow positive. And because the assessment is tied to the property, the repayment obligation transfers to the next owner, if the property is sold.

Under state law, the program requires counties or cities to officially adopt PACE and set up the mechanisms for it in their jurisdictions.

During a recent event sponsored by the Business Journal to discuss the impact of the Trump administration solar tariffs, Texas PACE Authority Managing Director Jonathon Blackburn said the program could serve as a counterbalance. However, the program has been adopted in all of the Lone Star State's major cities and counties — except one.



GABE HERNANDEZ | SABJ

Texas PACE Authority Managing Director Jonathon Blackburn said San Antonio is the last big city in Texas that doesn't have the state-approved program to boost the adoption of solar, renewables and energy-efficiency technology.

"San Antonio is the last big city in Texas that doesn't have a program," Blackburn said. "Austin, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and El Paso — all of them have programs. They've all been driven because local folks have been asking for it. That's what it would take for San Antonio as well."

Over the past five years, Blackburn and other program officials have met with Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, all four county commissioners and San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg — who supports the program. The inertia, Blackburn said, is at the county level where its adoption would bring the program to all cities.

"No one is really opposed to it but we're at the point where these guys are tired of hearing some dude from Austin who walked in to talk about a clean energy program," Blackburn said. "Who they really need to from is local folks. To get the program moving, tell your county commissioner and tell them that they you want it. Let them hear from their constituents."

Sergio Chapa

Reporter

San Antonio Business Journal



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A horizontal banner with a dark background. On the left, there is a silhouette of an oil pumpjack against a lighter, orange-tinted background. To the right of the pumpjack, the text "IS IT TIME TO CONSIDER COMMODITIES?" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, the text "Explore Investment Opportunities Here." is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.