

Green manufacturer could bring 230 jobs to Pflugerville

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By Blake Rasmussen Thursday, 15 September 2011

PFLUGERVILLE — Complete Energy Systems LLC—a company focused on green jobs and manufacturing—could be the first tenant of the Pflugerville Development Corp.'s proposed business park.

Floyd Akers, executive director of the PCDC, said Complete Energy Systems, a Florida-based company, would bring about 230 jobs over five years to Pflugerville if the PCDC board of directors and City Council approve an economic incentive deal with CES.

The PCDC is set to vote on the conditions of the economic agreement Saturday, Sept. 17. The City Council would then have to accept the agreement, likely at its regular Sept. 27 meeting.

The agreement, dubbed "Project Sunshine" by the PCDC, would be a five-year deal that includes \$75,000 in moving expenses, a 50 percent property tax over five years, and \$3,000 per job created, Akers said. The details of the deal are subject to change prior to the final votes.

In exchange, the company will move eight people from Florida, hire up to 140 in the first year and increase to 230 total jobs within five years, Akers said.

If the agreement is approved by the PCDC and the city, Complete Energy Systems plans to move its corporate offices to Pflugerville almost immediately, renting a temporary space until their new building is ready, CES CEO Harvey Katz said.

Katz said the company plans to have 230 new employees within two years if all goes according to plan, which is faster than would be required by the agreement, and the company will work with the Texas Workforce Commission to hire veterans and the long-term unemployed.

"We're not just making jobs, we're trying to make careers for the people who come and work for us," Katz said.

CES has two subsidiaries that will relocate with it. Green World Systems manufactures portable, renewable-power stations. Energized by wind and solar rays, the power stations have solar cookers, solar water purification systems and can provide power for a small village, Katz said. They can be used for disaster relief or missionary work, he said.

Atlantic Solar will be a 60 megawatt solar panel manufacturing facility "that's going to employ a lot of people," Katz said.

The proposed renewable energy business park where CES could eventually be located is a 167-acre tract of PCDC-owned land located at the southwest corner of Pecan Street and Toll 130. Akers said the PCDC is looking to spend about \$2.7 million to make the site ready to build on.

Akers said he was examining a number of other projects to fill in the land, including projects he referred to as "Project Big Dog," "Project Big Cat" and "Project Black and White" and hinted that several of the interested companies are international companies interested in renewable energy.

Complete Energy Systems and other renewable energy-focused companies have become a big part of Pflugerville's plan for its economic future due to the proximity to Pflugerville's future solar farm, RRE Austin Solar.

Akers also said he was looking to fill the corner nearest the intersection of Pecan Street and Toll 130 with restaurants and, potentially, a hotel.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin