



# Climate and Environment Council

October 28, 2022

## Meeting Summary

### **Members:**

Mike Kelly, Climate Action KC and Roeland Park  
Lara Isch, Kansas City, MO  
Pip Cross, Barkley  
Sherri Tauheed, CHW Swope  
Ben Postlethwait, Evergy Conservation/Social Impact Programs  
Kim Winslow, Evergy  
Matthew Robinson, Center for Economic Information & UMKC  
Chelsee Newkirk, Overland Park  
Dana Knapp, ArtsKC  
Gayle Bergman, WyCo Health-AQ  
Christy Engemann, Spire  
Amanda Odell, Black & Veatch  
Emily Randel, City of Mission  
David Johnson, KCMO Resident  
Adam Timmerman, GKC Chamber of Commerce  
Will Neds, HDR  
Brien Darby, Cultivate KC

### **Friends and Staff**

Ashley Sadowski, Building Energy Exchange KC  
Doug Norsby, MARC  
Tom Jacobs, MARC  
Karen Clawson, MARC  
Kate Ludwig – MARC  
McKenna Kozak, MARC  
Rachel Krause, MARC

## **1. Introductions**

## **2. Ground Rules & Guiding Principles**

The Climate Environment Council kicked off its second meeting by discussing what ground rules and guiding principles members would like the council to follow. Before the meeting, council members were asked to fill out a survey regarding ground rules they would like to see implemented, guiding

principles and action items members prioritized working on as a council. Karen Clawson shared the survey results, and the CEC members were pleased and in agreement with the proposed ground rules.

#### **Ground Rules:**

- Be active and commit to the work.
- Be mentally and physically present.
- Be open to new possibilities.
- Practice respect and civility. We are all friends working towards a common goal.
- Be in a learning posture at all times. It is okay to be uncomfortable.
- Be innovative. Think outside the box. Radical ideas are welcomed and encouraged.
- Embrace the tension. Reconcile our differences and perspectives.
- Let people lead with their expertise
- Stay on point and on time. Respect the group's time and keep comments brief and to the point.
- Think before speaking. Avoid jargon, acronyms, and phrases that can be misunderstood.
- Be an active listener. Listen to understand.

#### **Guiding Principles**

- Center the community. Impact those who need it the most. Prioritize accessibility over exclusivity.
- Center equity and justice in the work.
- Acknowledge weaknesses but leverage our strengths.
- Respect lived experiences and different points of view.
- Operate with integrity.
- Ensure purposeful, authentic, and meaningful engagement with community. Be intentionally inclusive and seek to involve all voices through participation.
- Balance short term, low hanging fruit with long term goals of the Climate Action Plan. Ensure that short-term successes build toward long-term goals.
- Humanize the data and tell the stories behind it.
- Acknowledge that the CEC will evolve, and members can initiate change.
- Take the work back to your organization.
  - No additions or revisions by council members.
  - Motion to approve proposed ground rules & guiding principles:
    - Jennifer Gunby moves to adopt guiding principles
    - Michelle Kriks, second

### **3. ClimateView**

Doug Norsby, who is an Air Quality planner with MARC, joined the Climate Environment Council to demonstrate a tool called ClimateView. As we look at data and numbers, ClimateView will help us better understand climate mitigation strategies and interconnections between them and trends of what could happen as different factors change. Some key pieces about the ClimateView platform:

- Depicts emissions inventory over time

- Can manipulate how GHG may shift over time
- Takes non-numerical targets and links them back to the model

### Questions

- Is KC data a baseline or is it generic?
  - The data comes from local sources.
- Does this consider natural sequestration? or just GHG?
  - Just GHG
- Does it have future projections for city and population growth?
  - Yes, it does. You can include various socio-economic factors.
  - City scaling characteristics
- Does it consider that we are currently using more energy per person? How is that represented in the model? Especially with the use of EVs
  - Assumptions built into the model
- Will we have access to this?
  - The dashboard can be published and is interactive.

## 4. Priorities

Karen Clawson and Tom Jacobs shared the rest of the survey results regarding work-plan priorities. The priorities were taken from the survey and grouped by theme; the themes match up closely with the Climate Action Plan. While priorities are different, there is a lot of overlap, especially for policy and equity-focused engagement.

To start the discussion around priorities, the council first talked about engagement & education, transportation & land use, as well as energy. The scores showed these three themes to be the council's most prioritized action areas.

- **Questions or comments (summary page 1):**
  - Evergy is nearing completion of community solar array and *Kim Winslow* noted energy efficiency is a priority to her.
    - The community solar array will allow low socioeconomic customers to enroll for 1 megawatt of energy come January 2023.
  - What will have the biggest carbon reduction in KC? (David Johnson)
    - Did not feel comfortable scoring until knowing more information on what could make the biggest impact
      - Tom Jacobs- Doug's tool will help make those decisions.
  - Mike Kelly wants to focus more on educating elected officials so they can better understand our changing climate.
    - Presenting in a way that is digestible and showing quick results to help with understanding there is a problem, but they don't always know how to solve them.
    - Cities have money and funds but need more information on how to spend.

- Education tools in the climate action plan giving the ability to move things quicker
- Add renewable natural gas? (Christy E.)
  - Have to get permission from PSE
  - Prove that they have customers that want it before it gets approved
- Is cost of living and inflation in the ClimateView model?
  - Rolling it out for ROI

The council continued to synthesize survey results regarding energy (building performance), urban greening and funding. The council then conversed around these priorities:

#### **Questions & Comments**

- Think about resources more broadly than just grants.
- More permanency in policy
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)
  - No incentive to provide sustainable building practices in renovating new affordable housing
  - Mechanics in buildings are not up to date with how the world is changing
  - Would there be a way to locally incentivize these practices for these projects
    - Build a different financing system
    - LIHTC is not the best system but it is what we have
    - Must be more creative at the local level to be more sustainable that doesn't have heavy compliance and oversight

Continuing, the priorities of Food & Ag, leadership, metric, and waste were discussed:

- **Questions & Comments**
  - The need for leadership on all levels and leadership training
  - GHG issues solved by keeping things out of landfills
    - Beyond composting and recycling
    - Circular economy
  - Are there opportunities for a city to tax or disincentivize what ends up in landfills?
    - In Europe, there are taxes or penalties for your packaging that ends up in landfills
    - Cradle to cradle
  - Demonstrating and inspiring
    - How do we demonstrate to the individual and inspire them to change
      - Education and communication

Lastly, the council covered the priorities of communications, job & economy, and policy:

- **Questions & Comments**

- Skill Up KC to partner with energy jobs
  - Built a facility on Troost
  - Improvement and establishing something that is revenue based
  - Not just messaging with communication
- Policy can be a best friend but need to think about impacts on the city, especially on housing
  - NY example on regulatory housing, affordable housing as too many codes. Builders are pushing higher end because of the lack of policies
  - In more places, is it just policy or is it more?
    - Inflation, zoning, land use, cost?
    - How best to recoup losses as soon as possible?
    - Think less profit because there is a greater need for change
      - Profits vs quality of life
      - How do we effect change? And at what scale?
- Policy and equity- robust stakeholder engagement process
  - Reduce unintended consequences
  - Listening to community
- Policy are sticks and carrots
  - Not just regulatory framework that may need to come with incentives
    - Where does that come from?
  - How are we using policy for market transformation?
    - May look like a bunch of different ways
  - Talk to local departments about comprehensive plan updates
    - How the comp plan comes together
    - Every person's voice in the comp plan – pedestal
    - Are we communicating with the local communities as they are going through their comp plan updates?
      - 20 years into the future look and plan
    - Starts with how we have policies in the comp plan

**5. Next Meeting**

- December 16 in-person 9:00 AM -10:30 PM