



Climate and Environment Council

September 30, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Mid-America Regional Council - Board Room

600 Broadway, Ste. 200 Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Members:

Damien Boley, Mayor Smithville, MO
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
Matthew Robinson, Center for Economic Information & UMKC
Chelsee Newkirk, Overland Park
Dana Knapp, ArtsKC
Gayle Bergman, WyCo Health-AQ
Michelle Kriks, Johnson County Government
Ian Fannin-Hughes, JOCO Stormwater
Christy Engemann, Spire
Angelica (Jellie) Chavez Duckworth, LivZero
Amanda Odell, Black & Veatch
Jennifer Gunby, USGBC
Jesse Crupper, KEM Studio
Ryan Evans, SunSmart
Emily Randel, City of Mission
David Johnson, KCMO Resident
Jackson Ward, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment
Will Neds, HDR
Brien Darby, Cultivate KC

Friends and Staff

Ashley Sadowski, Building Energy Exchange KC
Lisa McDaniel, MARC
Tom Jacobs, MARC
Karen Clawson, MARC
Kate Ludwig – MARC
Martin Rivarola, MARC

1. Introductions

2. Get you know the CEC members

a. What are you working on/what are most proud of?

The Climate Environment Council consists of a diverse group of individuals with varying backgrounds. Each member had the opportunity to share the work they are most proud of, and the work they are currently doing.

b. What would be your first thing you'd want to accomplish by being on this committee?

Climate Environment Council members shared what they are looking forward to accomplishing first. The council is ready to hit the ground running and has the energy to help steward the Regional Climate Action Plan so that it can be a living/breathing plan. It is a priority to get grants and federal funds for climate projects. In addition, create shortcuts for smaller communities to be able to adopt parts of the plan. The council also addressed the importance of steering the private sector interest toward climate and connecting sectors.

3. Break out groups: Develop CEC Ground Rules & Principles

The council briefly broke out into small groups to discuss ground rules & principles they want the council to adhere by. Responses provided through Poll Everywhere will be synthesized by MARC staff and presented at the next meeting for approval.

4. Climate Action Plan presentation

Tom Jacobs shared a brief presentation on the Regional Climate Action Plan, specifically touching on the priorities of the plan. The Climate Environment Council is an action-oriented council working to implement the Regional Climate Action Plan, so it was important to review the Regional Climate Action Plan to lay the framework of the council.

5. Discussion: CEC workgroup activities

Next, the council broke into groups once again to discuss activities they would like to accomplish as a council.

- Develop program initiative that engages the community. In addition, the need to do more community messaging and better-targeting stakeholders.
- Need to pair short-term goals with long-term goals and how the short- and long-term goals play into each other.
- The need to create additional messaging. Create key messages that bring folks together. Move from the idea that climate change is a liberal agenda.
- How can/might we engage students?
- Tell the story of how actions directly affect our residents. Create metrics for what climate action does for health and safety.
- Show the "business case" that drives change..
- The 10% of high-income earners pollute the most. We have some data, but that's not enough. We need to depict what individuals are doing and how it affects the climate.
- Examine cross-sector work and put together a framework for community engagement. The council needs an introspective idea of land acknowledgment and how we got to where we are currently.
- We need to immediately create a task force so we can get more work done. It will be hard to get anything done trying to coordinate 30+ schedules.

6. Brainstorm: CEC workplan priorities

The Climate Environment Council then took time to brainstorm workplan priorities:

- The CEC will be sent a survey asking for members' top five priorities. These will be distilled for discussion at the next meetings.

7. Future meetings

It was determined that the last Fridays of each month at 9am works best for the majority of the Council.