

Kansas City, MO Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC)
Online Meeting Via Microsoft Teams
Special Session
October 29, 2021

CPSC Members Present: Robin Ganahl (Chair), Kristin Riott, Bill Griffith, Angela Crawford, Beth Pauley, Bridget Sanderson, Michael Kelley, Ellen Fairchild.

CPSC Members Absent: Thomas Grever.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Gerald Shechter, Rachel O’Neal, Chris Hays – OEQ; John Santner – Health.

Other Attendees: Billy Davies - Sierra Club; Ilyssa Block, David Albrecht, Eslun Tucker, Mary English, Anissa Parra-Grooms, Kelly Gilbert - Metropolitan Energy Center; Jacob Wagner - UMKC; Ron Achelpohl, Ashley Sadowski – MARC; Alissa Greenwald, Andrew Linhares – Renew Missouri; Christy Engemann – Spire.

Introductions & Overview

Michael Kelley opened the meeting at 4:02 pm with a brief welcome.

Public Comments

Billy Davies – wanted to express appreciation for helping shape Kansas City Legislative Priorities.

Legislative Priorities

Member of the committee were asked to identify any issues missing from the federal and state priorities list or make recommendations for refinement.

Federal - Resolution no 210950:

- Public health issues – equity and climate change can be expanded upon.
- Include specific funding for elements related to walking and biking (#3.) as well as increased accessibility and ADA support. Suggested having it added under transportation and infrastructure as a separate point.
- Add switching out lead service lines under Water infrastructure (#21.)
- Do not allow anyone in Kansas City to go without access to drinking water (#13) expand this to include electricity (#3) and gas.
- Strengthen Direct Pay tax credit language, this will help remove the barriers for residential homeowners to go solar.
- Support the Justice40 Initiative which will give at least 40% of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.
- Ensuring that we are pursuing funding for clean energy and efficiency.
- Land and Conservation Fund – has been permanently re-funded as of a year ago
- A suggestion to shorten this list – a number of these items relate to climate, investment and progress. Could they be folded into existing priorities example: all of these priorities should be considered with equity and climate change issues in mind.

Suggestions from Chat:

- The language about increasing the Transportation Alternatives STP set aside under "local decision making" would increase funding for active transportation.

- Building Efficiency should specify Pay as You Save
- Calling for specific language on STP to explicitly mention pursuing funding for "walking, accessibility for disabled facilities and needs, and cycling infrastructure"
- MARC also includes support for electric vehicles in our Federal agenda: "Encourage adoption of fuel-efficient and zero-emission vehicles to improve air quality and increase climate resilience."
- Suggest adding: "Support programs which offer incentives for substantially increasing energy efficiency in multi-family and single-family housing specifically targeted to communities experiencing high utility burdens. (could also include other uses like early-learning, K-12, public buildings, non-profit etc.)"
- Encouraging Congress to pass bi-partisan infrastructure bill and BBB Act together to ensure key climate legislation and support for public health and welfare is passed ASAP.
- Add that green infrastructure includes tree canopy.

*Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Beth Pauley, to include the language discussed, as well as the language in the chat, in the suggested additions for the major priorities as outlined in resolution no 210950. The motion passed.

State Priorities – Resolution no 210949:

- Economic Development and Transportation Funding (#3 and #10) – add language about climate protection.
- Transportation Funding (#3) – add additional funding for projects that support greater accessibility for the disabled and walking/biking infrastructure.
- HB 488 – aimed at stopping electrification and limits local control of utilities.
- Expand the definition of local control in relation to sustainable priorities.
- Add Climate Protection and Resiliency as one of the major priorities.
- Support efforts to transition to local zero carbon energy and make rooftop solar energy and storage more affordable.
- Add under Affordable Housing: To reduce the utility burdens of the communities served and bolster state-wide energy resilience, set priorities around higher levels of energy efficiency in the qualified allocation plan for receiving LIHTC credits.
- Add language about GHG reduction and Carbon Sequestration as a major priority.
- Encourage the city to specifically support road usage fees that treat all consumer vehicles the same, regardless of fuel type. It is increasingly important to pursue other ways to fund our transportation infrastructure in lieu of fuel tax.

*Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Bridget Sanderson, to include the language discussed, as well as the language in the chat, in the suggested additions for the major priorities as outlined in resolution no 210949. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

*Action Items