

Kansas City, MO Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC)
Online Meeting Via Microsoft Teams
December 20, 2021

CPSC Members Present: Robin Ganahl (Chair), Michael Kelley (Vice-Chair), Bill Griffith, Kristin Riott, Bridget Sanderson, Thomas Grever, Ellen Fairchild, Beth Pauley.

CPSC Members Absent: Angela Crawford.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Rachel O'Neal, Chris Hays, Matt McKinley– OEQ.

Other Attendees: Adam Rossi – Jerusalem Farm; Don Wallace, Billy Davies – The Sierra Club; David Mitchell – Citizens Climate Lobby; Jabbar Wesley, Christy Engemann, Shaylyn Dean – Spire; Kelly Gilbert, Emily Wolfe – MEC; Laura Corcoran, Francisco Ramirez – Renaissance Infrastructure Consulting; Zac Sweets, Jason Klindt – Evergy; Ryan Dickey – KC Tenants; Vicky Diaz-Camacho – KC PBS; Raymond Forstater, Laela Zaidi – The Sunrise Movement; Dana Gordon – TRC Companies; Mary Kay McGinty – Mother's Out Front; Jerry Shechter – Heartland Conservation Alliance; Laura Mullins.

Introductions & Overview

Robin Ganahl opened the meeting at 3:30 pm with a brief welcome.

Approval of November 2021 Minutes

*Robin Ganahl made a motion, seconded by Michael Kelley, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 2021. The motion passed.

Public Comments

Emily Wolfe asked if the CPSC will be providing feedback into the AdvanceKC (Economic Incentive Policy) process.

- The updated policy is scheduled to go to committee on January 12, 2022.
- The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) formed a sub-committee to form 3-4 policy recommendations to include in the plan.

*Robin Ganahl made a motion, seconded by Michael Kelley, to have OEQ share the draft policy and share feedback from individual CPSC members to the EMC. The motion passed.

Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan (CPRP) Update – Lara Isch

- Last week the strategy prioritization sessions were held. The Strategy spreadsheets are still open to CPSC members for comments. Specifically looking for information on Equity Considerations, Sequencing, Implementation Leaders, Implementation Partners, Funding Opportunities and Implementation Notes. Please DO NOT DELETE anything already entered. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1z8R9DErfqzNGNT4IbLZapPYbVf2TISbu/edit#gid=539556343>
- The Mitigation Analysis Review, which will be included as an Appendix to the plan was sent out to CPSC members and all who participated in the strategy prioritization meetings.
- Brendle is currently working on short-term implementation plans.
- The draft plan is about 90% complete. It will be sent out upon completion (early to mid-January), Brendle will be present at the next meeting to answer questions.

- Outreach and Engagement summary with metrics is near complete. This will allow the city to see what worked well and what will need improvement for future projects.
- GHG Inventory and Vulnerability Assessments are complete. Once OEQ has approved the documents they will be sent to the CPSC for review and comments.
- From reviewing the report, Robin believes that it is technically feasible to surpass the 2025 emissions reduction target.
 - If targets are adjusted, specific actions to reach new targets should be included.
 - OEQ recommends doing this as part of the Climate plan adoption. At that time the new targets can be rolled into the new resolution.
- Changing electric appliances out for heat pump technology, GHG emissions can be cut up to 2/3. This does not apply to gas appliances.
 - Heat pumps can save on a/c which can be valuable for low-income populations.
 - Is it possible for Evergy to increase the rebates of heat pumps and electric water heaters? Evergy cannot change rebates on its own but they could bring it up in a rate case.
 - This is an example of when what is right for the climate, is not necessarily right for the population.
 - Kristin is worried about the power of inertia to prevail, when it comes to making buildings more efficient. We need very proactive, human-touch-rich programs and probably even greater financial incentives than those offered by utilities to get people to make their buildings more efficient.
 - KC has approx. 220,000 residential units. A large majority of which are over 15 years old and built under older codes; plus many are occupied by renters; the question of achieving targets of necessity comes down to a range of combinable incentives - rebates, low interest loans, grants, sweat equity, etc. The city has historically used state and federal funds and NOT city funds - This needs study for strategies and tactics and resources.
- Are EV's supported by the city? One of the supporting actions in the climate plan was to support community wide EV adoption through education, incentives, and EV ready codes.
 - EV definition should be expanded to include electric bicycles.
 - A suggestion from chat: focus on fleet vehicles for EV's, but VMT reductions for consumers.
 - How can the city support the use of e-bikes?
- For the last 11% of energy that the City would not be able reduce with the strategies in place, is the city supportive of buying offsets?
 - The plan is a living document and offsets will be a last resort. Technology is always evolving and hopefully there will be a solution in the future.
- It's important to work with Evergy to ensure a collaboration on emission reduction goals. It's also important to stay informed at the state level because their rules and policies supersede city policy.
- Robin would like to include language in the plan regarding what future collaboration with Evergy might look like if they align their goals with city goals.
- There were differences of opinions within the strategy groups about renewable natural gas (RNG) and compressed natural gas. How will this be reflected in the climate plan?
 - The city will continue to use biogas until a new technology is formed.

- The ideas will all be included in the plan, but future technology will be what ultimately drives what direction the city will go in.
 - Bridget does not want to see the expansion of RNG infrastructure.
 - Will the committee take any action on Covid utility moratoriums?
- *Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Beth Pauley, to send letters to Evergy, Spire and KC Water recommending that they extend shutoff moratoriums. The motion passed. Ellen Fairchild abstained from voting.

EPA Methane Reduction Proposed Rule – Matt McKinley

- <https://www.epa.gov/controlling-air-pollution-oil-and-natural-gas-industry/epa-proposes-new-source-performance>
 - The EPA wants to extend guidelines to the state level, which has not happened before. The comment period is open until January 31st.
 - The distribution section is not covered by this new section – this could be an opportunity to weigh in on distribution requirements with the EPA.
 - There is an impact analysis study on the EPA’s website that addresses the 3 areas that the rule applies to.
 - Spire does report emissions from distribution to the EPA. It’s required under the subpart W rule. Infrastructure is continually being upgraded to address leaks. There are classes of leaks, based on size of the leaks (among other variables), that rule how fast a leak must be fixed.
- *Robin Ganahl made a motion, seconded by Michael Kelley, to form a subcommittee to draft a letter to the EPA to weigh in on the overall new rule and include regulations around distribution.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

*Action Items