

Kansas City, MO Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC)  
Online Meeting Via Microsoft Teams  
January 24, 2022

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

*CPSC Members Absent:* None.

*Staff:* Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Rachel O’Neal, Chris Hays, Matt McKinley– OEQ; Jeff Lee – City Planning and Development; Delia Heffernan – Water; Diana Radzevich – City Council Office; John Santner – Health.

*Other Attendees:* Jerry Shechter - Heartland Conservation Alliance; Scott White – Cromwell Solar; Eslun Tucker - Heartland Development Group; Adam Rossi - Jerusalem Farm; Allison Kite – The Missouri Independent; Carol Macken, Elizabeth Danforth, Jason Klindt – Evergy; Alissa Greenwald – Renew MO; Becca Stock, Jellie Duckworth, Justice Horn, Lynn Coppedge, – The Brendle Group; Stephanie Smith – Sophic Solutions; Billy Davies, Jim Turner – Sierra Club; Carol Adams – Environmental Management Commission; David Mitchell – Citizens Climate Lobby; Emily Wolfe, Kelly Gilbert – MEC; Lemartt Holman - Spire; Jeremy Knoll - BNIM; Karen Uhlenhuth – Midwest Energy News; Ryan Dickey, Laela Zaidi, Raymond Forstater, Michael Wolfe – Sunrise Movement; Warren Adams-Leavitt - Westside Housing; Mahreen Ansari – UMKC College Democrats; Bob Solger – Solar Design Studio; Beto Lugo-Martinez – Clean Air Now; Erica Flores – Climate + Energy Project; Dana Gordon – TRC Companies; Grace Tedder - EFS Energy; Tom Jacobs, Ashley Sadowski – MARC; Mary Kay McGinty – Mothers Out Front; Anna Graether,

### **Introductions & Overview**

Robin Ganahl opened the meeting at 3:00 pm with a brief welcome.

Rachel O’Neal called roll for committee members; a quorum was present at that time.

### **Approval of December 2021 Minutes**

\*Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Kristen Riott, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 2021. The motion passed.

### **Public Comments**

Adam Rossi – Supports utility shutoff moratorium letter. Thinks that Evergy should shut down coal plants much sooner than the current plan for 2050.

Laela Zaidi – Also supports the utility shutoff moratorium letter but wants to remind everyone that it is more than just Evergy – KC Water and Spire should be included.

Billy Davies – Thanks the committee for sending the letter to Evergy. In the last meeting someone mentioned that future available technology drives the direction that KCMO goes in relating to energy, but if that were the case, we would already be much closer to our goals.

Ryan Dickey – Does not think that changing from coal to natural gas will help the city reach it’s GHG reductions goals.

Mahreen Ansari – Appreciates the effort from the committee for sending the letter to Evergy about utility shutoffs.

Beto Lugo-Martinez – does not agree with the decision to have the CPSC review the draft plan before the public. Believes that the big polluters should be held accountable.

### **Solar Permitting – Scott White**

#### **See attached presentation.**

- Scott White works as a project analyst for Cromwell Solar.
- There are two sides to Cromwell Solar – the solar side and the environmental side which deals with indoor air quality issues such as asbestos and mold.
- KCMO Permitting –
  - Compass KC portal (current system) is easy to use and the instructions are clear.
  - Has the same process for all types of permits.
  - The fee is based on the cost of the project, not the complexity.
  - The cost of permits may be addressed by this committee. Some nearby counties and cities have flat fees.
  - Installers have felt that there is inconsistent interpretation of permit requirements.
  - Initial permit application can take up to 30 days and permitting staff is stretched which can delay the entire process.
- NREL has created free software that reviews applications for completeness (Solar App+). If it is incomplete, the app sends an immediate notification so that time in the permitting process is not lost.
- It costs \$25 per application to process on the app.
- Jeff Lee (New Building Official for the City) has noticed that the fees across the board are not uniform and has started looking into this issue. The changes must go to City Council by ordinance.
- Robin asked Jeff Lee to look at the app and let the committee know what he thinks at next month's meeting.

### **Utility Shutoff Moratorium Update**

- Evergy is not going to approve the utility shutoff moratorium.
  - In the last couple of years Evergy has only disconnected energy for 100 days.
  - Has many options for assistance and willing to help when people reach out.
  - Some committee members and guests feel that Evergy is not doing enough for Kansas City's vulnerable population.
- Ellen Fairchild offered to do a presentation about Evergy's transition from coal to net zero by 2045 at the next meeting.

### **Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan (CPRP) Update**

#### **See attached presentation.**

- Climate Justice Workers – heard a lot from the community about illegal dumping, safe and accessible transit, beautifying vacant lots, funds for weatherization of homes, rethinking urban agriculture codes.
- 3 main goals that Brendle tried to incorporate throughout the plan:
  - Accessible to the community
  - Technically creditable
  - Spurs urgent action
- Supplemental documentation will be sent out next week to committee members. It will include:
  - Equity-Centered engagement plan summary
  - GHG inventory maintenance standard operating procedure
  - Climate risk and vulnerability assessment methodology

- Mitigation scenario analysis methodology
  - Short-Term implementation plan
- The data for the 2021 GHG inventory will most likely not be available by the time this plan goes to City Council. OEQ plans to conduct GHG inventories every 2-3 years through the implementation process.
- The maps could be updated to reflect the new council district boundaries, but it was decided to leave them to reflect the boundaries of when the data was collected.
- Complete streets are mentioned in the plan but are not in the “where we stand” section. It is an action step because it has not been adapted by the city.
- Brendle would like specific feedback on:
  - Do you like the interactive features?
  - Making sure the plan does not forget anyone.
  - A new name for the plan.
  - Call to Action – Implementation Roles: make sure they did not miss any important partners.
- Between now and 2030 we should focus on reducing energy in homes in the urban core, but a funding source needs to be identified.
- Cost per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> – will not be in the plan because it is assumption based rather than fact based. As of now, there is also not enough in the budget to complete this analysis. This may need further discussion as some committee members feel that it would have a large impact on community buy-in.
- There are concerns about including renewable natural gas as a step to net zero in the plan and having the City endorse that as a resource. This will be discussed further at the special meeting.
- Since the committee ran out of time for comments during this meeting, a special meeting will be scheduled for next Thursday or Friday.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

\*Action Items