

Kansas City, MO Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC)
Online Meeting Via Microsoft Teams
February 28, 2022

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

CPSC Members Absent: Kristin Riott.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Chris Hays, Matt McKinley – OEQ; Delia Heffernan – KC Water.

Other Attendees: Jack Niemuth, Adam Rossi, Yazmin Bruno-Valdez, Jerry Shechter, Theresa Garza, Kelly Gilbert, Adin Alem, Teresa Edens, Carol Macken, Elizabeth Danforth, Kailee Ford, Mahreen Ansari, Jabbar Wesley, Charlie Sievert, Laela Zaidi, Raymond Forstater, Jason Klindt, Alissa Greenwald, Don Wallace, Jenn DeRose, Michael Wolfe, Eslun Tucker, Davonna Williams, Allen Dillingham, Christy Engemann, Ben Proffer, Carol Adams, Shaylyn Dean, Ryan Dickey, Geoff Marke, Nathalie Beauvais, Erica Flores, Ellen Pajor, Billy Davies, Jessica AdamsWeber, Jordan Seaver, Lemartt Holman, Caroline Davies, Beto Lugo-Martinez, Marty Kraft, Robert Moore.

Introductions & Overview

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

Chris Hays called roll for committee members; a quorum was present at that time.

Public Comments

- Adam Rossi – calls on Evergy to aggressively pursue closing the Hawthorne plant and other coal plants. His opinion is that there should not be any strategies involving fossil fuels in the City’s Climate plan.
- Yazmin Bruno-Valdez – calls on the CPSC not endorse Spires STL Pipeline plan which in her opinion is not accurately portrayed to the public. Yazmin also wants the CPSC to demand that Evergy close all coal plants (no date was mentioned.)
- Ellen Pajor – also against Spire’s plan involving renewable natural gas and wants Evergy to close all coal plants immediately.
- Laela Zaidi – in her opinion, the climate plan is not for the community.

Review Recommendations

Prioritization:

- Adopt the stretch targets recommended by Brendle and clearly show how goals will be met by providing recommended scenarios and a summary table in the main document.
- Summary table in main plan showing the costs for each strategy, emission reductions by strategy and how the strategies add up to the target reductions.
- Create a recommended scenario for emission reductions with measurable targets by strategy, a graph showing how emissions will go down over time, by strategy.
- Simplify prioritization scoring.
- Ann Arbor’s climate plan can be used as example.

- Include the following strategies in recommended scenario:
 - E1, E2, E5
 - B4
 - M1-M5, prioritizing people over cars
 - Assume there will be technological advances and we will outperform “best in class” expectations in order to achieve zero carbon by 2040 without purchase of offsets
 - List reduction potential by strategy in subject areas

*Robin Ganahl made a motion, seconded by Michael Kelley, to approve these recommendations from the prioritization work group. The motion passed.

Mobility:

- Creating clear metrics and benchmarks for strategies is crucial.
- Recommended ranking for maximum impact: M2, M3, M1, M5, M4
- Safety needs to be more explicitly stated.
- Explicitly state that the fastest way to lower transportation related emission is to help people drive less.
- M1:
 - Develop density throughout the city
 - Parking minimums need to be scaled back or removed
 - Elaborate on green infrastructure and include language about tree-lined corridors
 - Improve existing highway crossing and work with MDOT to reduce environmental harms related to highway development
- M2:
 - Reference Walkability plan and Bike KC Master plan, encourage city to regularly update
 - Include language about “interested but concerned” riders as justification for building protected bike lanes
 - Include “economic recovery” as a benefit
 - Additional key metrics: Clear timeline for building out the full network of the bike plan, a goal of at least 20 miles of protected bike lanes per year, a goal of least 40% of city streets considered “complete” by 2040
 - Explore programs to provide e-bikes and e-cargo bikes for city employees
- M3:
 - List health and wellness as a benefit
 - Note that electrification will take time, partly because of fuel issues and partly because of fleet usage
 - CNG is not expected to increase much further due to investments and focus on electrification
 - Metrics should be an increase in the number of overall bus routes, MAX bus routes and frequency of service
 - Align investments in walking, biking and transit along environmental justice tracts
 - Support effort to develop a regional funding mechanism for transit
 - Work with KCATA on implementing their fleet transition plan
 - Make zoning changes to support the city’s TOD policy

- M4:
 - Include language about exploring “light synchronization.”
 - Immediate or near-term goals need to be weighed against the work related to Vision Zero.
 - Emphasis on vehicle throughput at the potential expense of vulnerable road users is concerning about whether the listed benefits of environmental justice and health and wellness are warranted
- M5:
 - Shift away from electric generation through coal
 - EV’s should include electric busses, electric bikes and other small mobility vehicles
 - Expand charging infrastructure with an emphasis on catering to the needs of people with disabilities
 - Remove this sentence from M-5.3, “Explore other zero-emission vehicles as alternatives when available.”

*Michael Kelley made a motion, (not seconded) to add language about expanding charging infrastructure with an emphasis on catering to the needs of people with disabilities (strategy M5). The motion passed.

*Micheal Kelley made a motion, seconded by Bridget Sanderson, to add language about design elements to support people with disabilities as it relates to walking and biking infrastructure with an emphasis on universal design (M2). The motion passed.

Energy Supply:

- Executive Summary
 - Land acknowledgement: last sentence of 1st paragraph talking about implementation workshop is confusing
 - GHG Emission – change “heat” homes to “power” homes, along with gasoline to power our vehicles
 - Recommend more recent examples of migration
 - Targets
 - 2025: 7MT
 - 2030: 4MT
 - 2025: 9 to 7MMT
 - 2030 6 to 4MMT
 - Define climate justice as communities/neighborhoods that are still experiencing the effects of racist redlining policies and have been disinvested
- Page 41
 - Wind energy does not add to the rate base
 - Difference between subscription services
 - Clarification needed so residential and community solar availability is not conflated with subscription based solar and/or utility scale solar
 - Consistent with the building section
 - Focus on residential solar, community solar, heat pumps, energy efficiency
- Language that needs to be addressed
 - E.1, E.2, E.5 – wording implies that moving to renewables decreases reliability
 - E.1, E.2, E.5 – Fit under resiliency strategy

- Continue to explore new technologies (fits with 2040 timeline)
- Page 10
 - Make targets more ambitious (see targets above)
 - Add to Energy Supply:
 - Eliminate energy burden
 - Eliminate pollution from our energy supply
 - Utilizing homes and buildings as part of the energy infrastructure
- Page 42
 - Workgroup will create a more accurate graphic of Evergy’s energy mix, it will show how emission have gone down over time
- Page 41
 - Strategy Impacts
 - Resiliency benefits should be yes
 - Co-benefits should include economic, health and EJ
 - E.1.1 – Ask the city to go on record and close Hawthorn generation by 2025
 - The city does not have authority over the energy sector, in order for any coal plant (hawthorn is not the only coal plant to serve KCMO) to close it must go through the integrated resource plan with approval from the MO Public Service Commission
 - The city can intervene in the regulatory process and advocate for better policy
 - E.1.2 – Double down on HB 734 to not allow for coal plants during extreme weather, add city attorney’s office as a partner
 - This is already a law, but city can oppose revisions if necessary
 - Encourage and advocate for decentralized solutions including distributed generation and energy efficiency
 - Set a measurable target for amount of distributed solar installed, including on city lands
 - Enhance work with the workforce development board, have partnerships with UMKC and community colleges
 - Replace multicultural with “low income and historically red-lined communities”
- E2 – Prioritize job programs in BIPOC, historically disinvested communities in KCMO
- E-2.2 – Tighter statement: implement a solar ready ordinance, requiring all new residential, multifamily, commercial construction must be solar ready
 - Can city funds be used for energy efficiency?
- E.2.2 and 2.3 – should be immediate term
- E2.4 – Implementation leaders should be local installers and workforce development trainees. Work with installers to encourage subscription to community solar program
 - Add housing trust fund
 - Prioritize small, local solar contractors
- Top paragraph – Work with local solar installers and workforce development trainees/graduates to build community solar projects
- Near-term:
 - 2.5 – City participates in PSC in appropriate rate cases or relevant fillings to advocate for distributed energy, EE and other technologies

- City pursue federal funding for workforce development and moving strategies forward
- Prioritize local installers and workforce programs for community solar projects
- E3 – Co-benefits – add health
- E3.1 – add city attorneys office as supporting party
 - Prioritize smart grid strategies in low income and traditionally redlined areas
 - Implementation step – City intervene in rate case
- E3.3 – Change extreme heat days to extreme weather
- E4 – Move this strategy to the appendix and reword to “renewable natural gas”, “biomethane” or “fossil gas alternatives”
 - Add a section that states, “No new biomethane infrastructure construction within the city. Areas that are difficult to electrify can depend on extensive battery storage alongside near-site renewable energy production.”
- E5.4 – work with counties and other permitting entities to allow community and utility scale solar
- E5.5 – Create a city resource for households and business to go to for one stop climate action resources including energy, employment, trees, native plants, electrification

*Robin Ganahl made a motion, seconded by Bill Griffith, to adopt these recommendations. The motion passed. Ellen Fairchild abstained from this vote.

Natural Systems

Committee will skip this section until it can be discussed with Kristen Riott.

Buildings and Homes

- Priorities: B4, followed by B2
- Recommendations on Assumptions
 - Transitioning to efficient electric heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and induction cooktops/stoves will reduce utility bills
 - Since appliances and furnaces have a useful life of a decade or two, now is the time to transition to modern electric appliances and heating, especially AC units and furnaces
 - Include more details about assumptions along with supporting evidence
- Recommendation on Partners/Implementation Leads
 - The city should be the implementation lead on most programs and organizations should not be allowed to choose themselves for future partnerships, especially where city funds are involved.
- B1
 - List out existing programs, like PAYS
 - Inform businesses and institutions of all appropriate state and federal programs to access energy efficiency
- Immediate
 - B1.1 – Make benchmarking more transparent by creating a map on the city website. Fund and prioritize energy audits and enforcement

- B1.2 – Share the importance of energy efficiency, electrification and the benefits to local business
- B1.4 – Make 2nd sentence clearer: Phasing out natural gas should be a key focus of these energy efficiency measures
- B1.5: If a builder goes above and beyond the 2021 IECC code for efficiency, electrification, solar, and EV readiness, the City will look at providing incentives
- Near-Term
 - B1.6 – Ensure adequate staffing and provide one-stop shop for climate-related resources for businesses and residents
 - B1.7 – Promote reflective roof coating for industrial and commercial buildings
- B2 – Be more inclusive of renters. Help residents, landlords and properties make home improvements
- Immediate
 - B2.1 – Ensure adequate staffing and provide one-stop shop for climate-related resources for businesses and residents
 - B2.2 – Add the following sentence: Opportunities for engagement could include providing salary/stipend to climate champions, especially in energy burdened neighborhoods, or pursue similar grants.
 - Move E4.1 to this section
- Near-Term
 - B2.3 – Require home energy (energy and gas) and carbon disclosures at time of lease and sale. Require any home rented or sold within the city limits to disclose energy use at time of lease or sale to improve transparency and help inform renters and home buyers
- B3
 - B3.1 – Add: Assuming Kansas City passes the 2021 IECC code without weakening amendments, work with other cities in the region to encourage them to come up to where Kansas City’s codes are for consistency. If not already in building codes, provide incentives for heat pump, induction stove/cooktop, and solar-ready construction
- B4 – Include EJ and economic recovery as co-benefits
- Immediate
 - Move 4.1 and 4.2 to immediate
 - 4.3 – Transition all municipal buildings to all-electric by 2030. Prohibit energy performance contracts from installing gas heating or appliances in municipal buildings
 - 4.4 – Encourage Evergy to increase rebates for heat pumps, electric appliances, and other smart home technologies
 - 4.5 – Explore grant and private capital opportunities to issue low-interest loans to building owners, landlords, property managers, homeowners and businesses to help them electrify their buildings with modern, efficient appliances
 - Update existing programs to prioritize, promote and train on building electrification
- Near Term
 - 4.6 – Work with Vicinity to switch cooling system to clean, renewable energy sources

*Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Bill Griffith, to approve these recommendations. The motion passed.

Food and Waste

- Food: Growing and sharing local and nutritious food
 - F1.3 – Add “work with the Urban Neighborhood Initiative to incentivize land banks to sell vacant lots to communities in order to build community/urban gardens to support food production and soil regeneration
 - F2.6 – Add: “develop an e-commerce website to streamline food hubs across the city to provide up to date information on healthy, locally grown food availability. Include educational outreach in libraries, schools and government buildings
 - F2.? – Expand mobile market services across the city to deliver healthy, locally sourced food to disenfranchised neighborhoods and food deserts. Fund existing mobile market (Truman Medical Center’s Harvest Mobile Market) to continue service during emergencies
 - F2.-? – Incentivize and increase access to nutritionally-sound, plant-based food options in schools and government buildings
 - F2.-? – Adopt and encourage the use of a website or application to reduce food waste and redirect food waste to tables at a cost-effective price
 - Comment on Implementation plan: the difference between “equity considerations” and “implementation steps” for each measure is confusing. Most equity considerations look more like implementation steps. Many implementation steps are listed as “TBD”
- Waste and Materials: Reducing our impact and reusing our resources
 - W1.3 – Include “update and continue implementation of city-wide waste reduction target of 80% by 2025
 - W1.4 – Edit “...and explore opportunities to expand the program to rental households and multifamily properties...” to “...and include city provided curbside recycling programs for rental households and multifamily properties...” Addition “Incentivize developers of multifamily properties to provide curbside recycling services
 - W1.5 – Include “investing in educational services on contamination of recycled materials to increase eligible recycling services and prevent recyclable materials from going into landfills. Provide educational tools in businesses and schools on what is recyclable and compostable”
 - W1.7 – Evaluate policy for schools, universities and government buildings that provide any food options to ban single-use plastic or polystyrene foam plates, trays, food containers, or food packaging to decrease waste heading into landfills
 - W1.8 – Establish a zero-waste restaurant and business recognition and incentives. Explore creation of a “Zero- Waste KC” logo for restaurants, possible self-recognitional, for businesses that provide either compostable or reusable packaging
 - W1.9 – Discourage future advanced recycling or “chemical recycling” infrastructure within city limits
 - Be sure include verbiage for an exception for HHW

- W2.1 – Add “provide composting services for the urban core and multifamily properties through city-scaled curbside composting services.” Additionally, “City-wide commitment to maximize compost use in parks and buildings
- W2.2 – Incentivize restaurants and businesses to switch packaging to biodegradable produce composting. Explore opportunities for a city-provided grant program for businesses to reduce their cost and increase purchasing options for biodegradable packaging

*Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Angela Crawford, to approve these recommendations. The motion passed.

Natural Systems

*Robin Ganahl made a motion, seconded by Michel Kelley, to accept the recommendations for Natural systems. The motion passed.

Public Comments

- Michael Wolfe – Concerned that some people on this committee are prioritizing the needs of Evergy and Spire over the needs of the community. Thinks that Brendle has not reached out to certain community groups such as people who depend on KCATA.
- Laela Zaidi – process to get into meeting is difficult. Would like the two vacant spots on the committee to be filled.
- Mahreen Ansari – Thinks that the public should have been able to review the plan at the same time as the committee members. Doesn’t like the time that the committee meets. Reiterated the need to move away from fossil fuels.
- Ryan Dickey – same as above
- Kailee Ford – same as above
- Raymond Forstater – same as above
- Ben Proffer – Reminds everyone that some target can only be achieved successfully if policies are changed at the state level.
- Robert Moore – Calling for the end of sales of gas stoves and gas heating of building in the urban core by 2030. Ban on new construction that has gas connections by 2030. Energy efficiency weatherization programs be focused on electrification. End blind extensions by the city by 2030.

Next Steps

Lara Isch will send recommendations and a recording of this meeting to Brendle. They will have two weeks to integrate the recommendations into the plan before the plan goes out for public comment. The public comment phase will last for one month. At the next CPSC meeting, discussion about how to include the public comments in the plan will be had.

Robin Ganahl (Chair) wants the committee to review the updated draft for a couple days before it goes out to the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

*Action Items