

Kansas City, MO Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC)
Online Meeting Via Microsoft Teams
April 6, 2022

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

CPSC Members Absent: Bill Griffith.

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

Other Attendees: Eslun Tucker, Carol Macken, Jeremy Knoll, Alissa Greenwald, Araceli Fritz, Michael Wolfe, Caroline Davies, Brittanie Giroux, Lemartt Holman, Quinn Biever, Karen Uhlenhuth, Elizabeth Danforth, Hilary Noonan, Don Wallace, Billy Davies, Kelly Gilbert, Jerry Shechter, Laela Zaidi.

Welcome & Introductions

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

The committee members introduced themselves; a quorum was present at that time.

Update on Intergovernmental Plan on Climate Change (IPCC) Report

The report states that the technology necessary to meet our climate goals is available, but action must be taken now. At least 50% reduction from current emissions by 2030 is essential. The Brendle Group has said that this is an attainable goal.

Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan (CPRP) Subgroup Discussion

Michael Kelley broke the public comments down by emphasis area, then identified the two main themes from that area.

Percentage of Total Comments - How much comments for this emphasis area made up for all of the comments submitted up to this point

Theme percentage - Within each comment, how much did these themes occur (as in, how often was there some mention in individual comments)

The numbers won't add up exactly to 100 because Michael excluded comments where the theme was left blank as well as plan implementation. Both combined made up five, so he didn't think it was needed.

- General
 - Public Education
 - Implementation and Finance
- Mobility
 - Transit Improvements
 - Green Infrastructure
- Natural Systems

- Plant more trees
- Water runoff
- Homes & Buildings
 - Changes in involvement
 - Electrification
- Energy
 - Solar and wind
 - Zero carbon over net zero
- Waste & Materials
 - Recycling
 - Ban on plastic bags
- Food
 - Reducing food waste

Second round of subgroup meetings needs to be scheduled between April 12th and 25th.

The contract with the Brendle Group has been extended.

Brendle will need one week to incorporate public comments into the plan after the public comment phase ends. That will give this committee from April 19th – April 25th to review.

*Rescheduling meeting on April 18th to April 25th in order for the committee to have more time to review the final draft.

Public Comments

- Hilary Noonan – feels like the plan addresses symptoms rather than problems.
- Michael Wolfe – it’s hard for working people to see themselves in this plan. Explicitly define “affordable”. Think about this from the perspective of someone who makes minimum wage, or less. Police department receives most of the city’s funds, but climate change is more important. Evergy had a record-breaking year last year, perhaps they could pay for the plan.
- Jeremy Knoll – Make sure final deliverable is connected to the regional action plan, and make sure the City Council adopts the most aggressive energy code that is available.
- Billy Davies – ensure final plan reflects a strong commitment to public engagement and ensure transparent policies and government processes.
- Kelly Gilbert – missing piece - changing the name to from Transportation to Mobility loses the focus area of commercial transportation.
 - Lara Isch – requests clear language for a strategy would be helpful.
- Michael Kelley – unfortunately the Mayor’s office appointments vacant seats on the committee. OEQ and CPSC members have no say over when or how appointments are made. It would be helpful to contact the Mayor’s office or your council person to urge them to take action.
- Michael Wolfe – using real metrics to define affordable, even internet connection can be a barrier for low-income households. The plan mentions “convenient” transportation, but what does that actually mean? All along the streetcar line, rents have increased which is an example of green gentrification.
- Beth Pauley – make sure the plan that addresses the affordable housing crisis and does not perpetuate it.

- Kristen Riott – will have to be smart about how money is used. Officials think citizens care most about plowing right after snowfall or potholes, but citizens may not know to ask for help regarding energy efficiency.
- Lara Isch – Reminder: The plan is not the policy – we need to make sure that people are involved in the process going forward. If you think you should be at the table during future conversations, please email oeq@kcmo.org.
- Michael Kelley – In response to Michael Wolfe’s point: The plan is meant to get terms out and then when the policies are being drafted the definitions can really be pinned down.
- Eslun Tucker – As was pointed out, it is not a perfect plan and we should continue to improve it to address issues of housing affordability (partially due to rising energy costs from Evergy & Spire) and housing availability (due to lack of market rate and affordable housing), equity and impacts to people at the margins. This is also an opportunity for how we move forward to not only tackle climate change but to also address our many disparities and defend human rights and democracy. This plan can also be a platform for spurring a jobs and economic boom in the region - creating clean energy jobs, good paying jobs for working people, and commercial activity needed to transition us to a clean energy future that's more affordable and equitable and inclusive.
- Jerry Shechter – if we define “affordable” would it be included in a glossary or modified text of the plan? Jerry sees this plan as a jumping off point. What is the role of education in the plan? How do you deal with behavior modification, people have a roll to play to reach our goals.
 - Lara Isch - convenient and affordable can look different for each strategy and then even further, some actions.
- Laeli Zaidi – important that there are publicly backed, publicly funded green jobs. Police department is well funded, as well as other city departments without anyone questioning it. Also, what can we do to bring more undocumented people into safe jobs?
 - Angela Crawford - I think we learned a lot about public messaging from these past couple years - for many people, a message of "for the greater health of the community" doesn't resonate. They need to understand individual impact beyond climate, as you note will likely be true for many people when it comes to this climate plan.
 - Eslun Tucker - Thanks Laela for speaking about public investment. We need the federal Build Back Better Plan and local initiating to help speed the transition and help communities and households that are at the margins not get left behind, but to benefit and thrive. One of the best investments we can make to fight crime, is not by throwing more money to a police department with limited accountability to our city, but by increasing economic investment and opportunities in the areas of highest crime.
- Michael Kelley – Reminder: it’s important to share your thoughts with your councilperson and the Mayor as well.
- Don Wallace - The more you can communicate to the public your terrific response on the process for further public engagement for implementation, even if a very rough broad-brush outline, would be helpful to insert in the last pages of the plan.
 - Lara Isch - I think we need to get a "next steps process together with the CPSC" We can post it on our OEQ page. The next steps after the plan is adopted is to go

back to the implementation leaders and get people on board – staffing is still low for the city so OEQ will need implementation and community leaders to help. A strong focus will be to have the right people at the table to get strategies implemented. The CPSC will be heavily involved in this process.

*Michael Kelley made a motion, seconded by Bridget Sanderson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

*Action Items