



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes: May 11, 2022

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Commissioners present: Carol Adams (Chair), Carol Macken, Duvel (DJ) Pierre, Jensen Adams, Nathan Madden, Ben Proffer, Scott Klamm.

Commissioners Absent: Michael Kelley, Marty Kraft, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Gloria Ortiz Fisher.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Chris Hays, Marleny Flores, Matt McKinley – OEQ

Guests: Jerry Shechter, Tyler Ketchem, Alissa Greenwald, Don Wallace, Billy Davies

A. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm; A quorum was present at that time. Chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.

B. Minutes – Ben Proffer made a motion, seconded by Carol Macken, to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 2022. The motion passed.

C. Annual Report- Work Group

- Nathan Madden is working on sketching out an outline of topical recommendations to solicit and organize EMC input.
- The work group shared and discussed some initial draft language and several questions were raised.
 - What recommendations are coming out of the Climate Protection and Resiliency planning regarding sustainable natural gas. Does the city do anything for the recovery of the landfill gas on South 71 HWY or for the rebuilt Blue River place treatment process?
 - Staff reported that the CPRP Steering Committee had concerns about renewable natural gas, and the Plan would speak to sustainable natural gas. The Plan has short term, intermediate, and long-term implementation strategies. Information library can be found on playbook site: <https://playbook.kcmo.gov/cprp>.
 - The city has landfills that are so old that the methane production from them is close to nothing and not worth capturing. The landfill on 71 Hwy is not a city landfill. The one on Sugar Creek is used for cement production. That gas is being captured.
- Suggestions were made regarding Annual Report content. Carol Adams will provide some language related to the need for resources to enforce environmental policies. The work group will also be reaching out to Marty Kraft regarding opportunities to improve land management

D. Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) Report – Andy Savastino.

- Climate Draft Plan

- Climate Protection Steering Committee made recommendations for the draft Climate Plan and voted on them group by group. Recommendations for the draft Climate Plan have gone to Brendle Group. Brendle will have an updated draft back to City staff by the end of next week.
- Plan will be going through an internal city staff review and input the last of May. Then, the Plan will go to the CPSC for their review and approval.
- Then, the Climate Plan will be scheduled for presentation at a Council Business Session with a target date in early June. From there, a formal resolution adopting the Climate Plan will be presented to Council where the Mayor will assign it to one or more council committees for review prior to taking final action.
- Energy Code ordinance
 - The IECC 2021 Energy Code Ordinance No. 220364 was introduced and held to allow time for public comment.
 - Councilman Bough will be hosting a public forum where City Planning will give a presentation on the code. A public forum/ listening session is scheduled for May 25 at 4pm.
 - Neighborhoods Committee hearing on the Energy code ordinance will be on June 8th, 2022
 - The EMC sent a letter in support of the IECC 2021 Energy Code in April 2020 and discussed sending a letter reiterating EMC support to council. Ben Proffer made a motion, second by Scott Klamm to send a letter to council recommending 2021 Energy code without weakening amendments. The motion passed.
- Solarized KC launch date moved back to 1st week of June (June 2nd, 2022)
- Consuella McCain has joined OEQ as a Fuse Fellow for 1 year.
- Environmental Achievement Awards (EAA) Application has been posted on the internal City website for employees to start the nomination process. EAA Subcommittee of EMC will review applications in mid-July 2022. EAA ceremony will be held in August 2022
- Meeting notices and links will only be sent to commissioners starting June 2022. Links/ public notices can be found on Clerks page: <https://clerk.kcmo.gov/Calendar.aspx>

E. Committee Monitoring/Liaison Updates -None

F. Old Business- None

G. New Business- None

H. Remarks from Visitors

- Billy Davies thanked everyone for all their hard work on the report and support on the plan.

The next EMC meeting is: DATE: June 08, 2022
 TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
 PLACE: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.



Environmental Management Commission
Special Meeting Regarding Balance Energy Resolution No. 220442
Meeting Minutes: May 19, 2022

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Commissioners present: Carol Adams (Chair), Jensen Adams, Nathan Madden, Scott Klamm, Michael Kelley, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Caroline (Molly) Davies

Commissioners Absent: Marty Kraft, Duvel (DJ) Pierre, Ben Proffer, Carol Macken.

Staff: Andy Savastino, Lara Isch, Chris Hays, Marleny Flores, Consuella McCain – OEQ

Guests: Billy Davies, Shaylyn Dean, Christy Engemann, Cortlynn Stark, Jim Turner, Wesley Jabbar

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm; A quorum was present at that time. Chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.

EMC input regarding Resolution No. 220442 prior to consideration by the City Council

Councilwoman Katherine Shields requested that the EMC provide feedback regarding a draft “Balanced Energy” Resolution before considering whether to introduce it. The item was discussed at the April EMC meeting, and there was consensus in opposition to the resolution. Councilwoman Shields informed the OEQ that she had decided not to introduce the resolution, so no official action was taken by the EMC.

Last week Councilman O’Neal introduced the same Balanced Energy language as Resolution No. 220442; it was assigned to the Council Transportation Infrastructure and Operations Committee. Katherine Shields reached out to OEQ and requested we have both the EMC and the Climate Protection Steering Committee review the proposed resolution and provide feedback.

A letter was drafted summarizing EMC opposition to the Resolution with input from EMC Members with professional knowledge about natural gas and renewable natural gas. Supplemental talking points were also prepared for staff to share in case additional questions were raised during review of the proposed resolution.

Michael Kelley made a motion, second by Gloria Fisher, to send the letter. Motion passed.

The next EMC meeting is: DATE: June 08, 2022
 TIME: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
 PLACE: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Mobilization, Education, Widespread Prosperity

With the newly drafted Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan and the Declaration of a Climate Emergency late last year (Resolutions 200005 and 210967, respectively), comes the responsibility by the city to activate and organize our civil society, community activists, business leaders and organizations of all kinds to meet the challenges before us. We have a framework and targets to get our community to a healthier place, and there is a lot to be optimistic and excited about. First and foremost is that this work is an empowering and balancing process. From electrification of our transportation and energy systems; the work to move away from single-use materials; the hiring and advancement of skilled green-collar workers, there is ample opportunity for folks all across Kansas City to reap an economic windfall by being a part of what the city has already committed to do.

We just need to create the programs and incentives that will make this transformation a reality, ensure there are real benefits and room for growth for these skilled positions, and recruit the next, Greatest Generation of skilled workers and professionals to fulfill this promise.

These are the recommendations we have to begin this work and activate the community to engage in this effort, along with the portion of the Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan that corresponds to them.

Community Climate Captains

Perhaps the first and most important step moving forward will be the coordination of dedicated members of the community who feel called to act as both sources of information and touchpoints for climate related emergencies. The most common emergency moving forward will likely be extreme heat, which is the deadliest extreme event we have; but it could also include floods, severe storms, and the compound dangers of power outages during extreme heat.

By creating and activating block captains (referred to as Community Climate Ambassadors on p. 49 of the CPRP) during successive heat waves in the 90's, the city of Philadelphia was able to drastically improve the community's health outcomes.

If these captains also receive a stipend and resources from the city, they could also act as disseminators of program material to further educate and empower their neighbors in the transformative work ahead.

Subsidies, Proofs, and Planning

Responding to the reality that lawn maintenance is the single largest water hog for their customers, the Southern Nevada Water Authority [offers \\$3 per foot](#) when lawn is replaced with native landscapes and plants. For a 300 square foot yard, \$900 is a decent incentive to ditch an ecologically damaging and *expensive* habit. When coupled with information for native plant

professionals who can help homeowners establish these new ecosystems and learn to tend to them, it could also be a kick-starter for green professionals in the community (strategy N-4.3, p. 36 of the CPRP).

From a transportation standpoint, we've already made riding the bus free; so, cost is clearly not the barrier for community members. There is also psychological attachment to the idea of load capacity for many drivers, even if 99 percent of the time the only thing Kansas Citians are hauling in their F-150 is their ego. While we may not be able to change those habits overnight, there are folks who *would* take public transit if it were as convenient as their vehicle, but it would be much better if it were *more convenient* than their vehicle. That is the proof that would get people to consider changing behavior. An expanded system with dedicated lanes and a roll-out that advertised taking "The Tiger Lanes" or "The Kaw Lanes" to the River Market from Waldo in 15 minutes could turn some heads. People who are driving but don't prefer it aren't worried about the money; they're worried about the time (strategy M-3, p. 27 of the CPRP).

And, finally, each one of the initiatives we launch should communicate a plan that people can rally behind. Whether it be establishing community gardens and green corridors through the neighborhoods most at risk of the Urban Heat Island Effect; moving specific neighborhoods toward all-electric utilities and heat pumps; whatever—having a poster-ready vision that really moves the needle in the right direction could be the difference between offering community members an intention and giving them a purpose.

Education, Apprenticeship, Ownership

Finally, it's been estimated that we will need around one million new electricians if we are going to shift our infrastructure away from the kind of power you burn toward the kind of power you harness and grow. At the Climate Action Kansas City Summit, City Manager Brian Platt mentioned that by converting our streetlights to LED, the city stands to save \$5 million annually. That just so happens to be the amount of money that the Heartland Tree Alliance requested for their Urban Forest Master Plan in 2018. Now is the time to fully fund that plan (strategy N-4.1, p. 36 of the CPRP).

By taking the savings and windfalls we stand to achieve by following through with the Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan and reinvesting those funds into green jobs and smart infrastructure, we have the power to grow entire industries of skilled workforce; and by being firm with a decisive move away from toxic historical systems that are standing in the way of real innovation and growth, we can build the city we need and the society we can be proud of.

Regulation is not a bad word. Your body needs to regulate your temperature and the chemicals in your blood constantly. When done in smart ways, regulations can create the framework necessary for positive change, and maybe even community healing.

Further Strategies to Recommend:

- Using the Department of Energy's Home Energy Score and Building Energy Asset Score and requiring it be communicated prominently in the advertising of any real estate transaction (strategy B-2.4, p. 39 of the CPRP);
- Create an RFP or RFP's for high performance firms to create net-zero community resource and resiliency hubs in every district of the city; then retain those firms to act as educators and advisors for high performance workforce development (strategies B-3.5, B-3.4, and B3.2, respectively, p. 40 of the CPRP);
- Work regionally to support the Heartland Conservation Alliances banner campaign to restore the Blue River (strategy N-2.1, p. 35 of the CPRP).

Environmental Management Commission of Kansas City Missouri

May 20, 2022

RE: RESOLUTION NO. 220442



To Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council,

The proposed Balanced Energy Resolution No. 220442 pre-empts City flexibility to allow community energy policy to evolve with environmental, technical, and economic considerations regarding natural gas emissions over time and for various uses. The proposed resolution appears to handcuff the city from certain types of ordinances/codes. As drafted, the proposed resolution would specifically require keeping natural gas in the fuel mix for "the powering of buildings or fueling of vehicles." The EMC recommends that the city reserve its flexibility at this time.

The EMC would also recommend against a blanket ban on natural gas (NG) or renewable natural gas (RNG) for the similar reasons. There may be reasons to promote RNG for beneficial use, recovery of methane from landfills, for example. A detailed analysis by the city could identify sectors where NG is appropriate, emergency generation, for example; but also identify other sectors where energy solutions should be targeted to maximize benefits and minimize harms, by ordinance, if needed, such as fleet electrification (as envisioned by administrative regulation), and wind and solar power development and incentives in support of greenhouse gas reduction goals.

A transition away from fossil fuels is likely to require changes in local, state, and federal fiscal and regulatory approaches. Currently, about 43 percent of a natural gas bill covers the delivery, service costs and profits to operate, maintain, and upgrade natural gas pipelines across our service area. Roughly 49 percent is the actual NG usage. The cost of natural gas is passed through with no markup claimed by the NG provider. The remaining 8 percent of a natural gas bill is municipal or gross receipts taxes and is collected and paid directly to the municipality. Revenues are thus linked to infrastructure. The City can partner with NG providers on cost recovery strategies that match a transition in community use for NG and preserve the intent of taxation.

To our knowledge, there are no imminent city restrictions regarding NG or RNG under consideration. Fuel mix issues are complex, warranting thorough review and consideration. Resolution No. 220442 appears to circumvent these processes. It would be short-sighted to presume outcomes based on how these systems are structured today. The EMC recommends against adoption of Resolution No. 220442.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Carol T. Adams in blue ink.

Carol T. Adams, Chair, EMC

The Kansas City Environmental Management Commission was created to make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, staff and all other boards and commissions of the City concerning the issues of environmental planning, management and compliance with Federal, State and local regulations and programs.