

Climate + Environment Council

February 28, 2025

9 -11 a.m.

MARC Board Room

600 Broadway, Ste. 200 Kansas City, Mo

Summary

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Sharing

- a.** Lea Loudon, works as the council liaison for the city of mission.
- b.** Antwan Daniels, works for MCC and is a community member for the fourth district.
- c.** Leslie Scott, founder of re.use.ful which is a sustainability nonprofit that helps people find a place for their still-good stuff.
- d.** Christina Hoxie, Community planner with Hoxie Collective.
- e.** Beth Sarver, Art Teacher at Schlegel art center and youth leader at The Temple Buddhist center.
- f.** Briana Anderson, teaches biology at MCC, on the board of The Resilient Activist and recently started a new job as director of community engagement at scraps KC.
- g.** Elizabeth Snell, works at the Mid America Arts Alliance. It is a regional arts organization that oversees art around the region.
- h.** Xue Wood, is working on a community wide native planting policy for NKC. Also working on NKC's comprehensive plan. Sustainability will be at the core of this plan.
- i.** Mata Townsend, is a community member and has experience working with an environmental justice nonprofit.
- j.** Lemartt Holman, manages energy efficiency for spire.
- k.** Josh Thede, is on the Mission Sustainability Commission and a part of the Johnson County transportation commission.
- l.** Emily Randel, works for CAKC and is also a consultant for the environmental community.
- m.** Carl Stafford, is the founder of My Region Wins. MRW! works at the intersection of Arts, Neighborhood, and environment.
- n.** Jay Jones, works as a community organization with MORE2. Jay is organizing an environmental justice hub on the east side at the Central Christian Church.
- o.** Taylor Neff, community forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation. MDC is working to detect invasives species early and ensure we have a healthy canopy.
- p.** Christian Gallindo, works at Olsson.
- q.** Svev, environmental intern with MARC.
- r.** Jensen Adams, is with the city of Kansas City Missouri and is currently working to get AmeriCorps Vistas for a yearlong community food system.
- s.** Alej Martinez, works for the National Science Foundation and is working on adaptive infrastructure.
- t.** Lisa Maione, association professor of graphic design KCAI.

- u. Brittany Giroux, works with MEC and is working on their job's workforce program
- v. Gayle Bergman, is with the City of Overland Park and works as their sustainability programs coordinator. OP is working to release an RFP for a solid waste consolidation effort.

2. Approval of November meeting minutes*

- a. Motion: Christina Hoxie
- b. Second: Brianna Anderson
- i. APPROVED

3. Ground Rules and Guiding Principles

Ground Rules

- o Be active and commit to the work.
- o Be mentally and physically present.
- o Be open to new possibilities.
- o Practice respect and civility. We are all friends working towards a common goal.
- o Be in a learning posture at all times. It is okay to be uncomfortable.
- o Be innovative. Think outside the box. Radical ideas are welcomed and encouraged.
- o Embrace the tension. Reconcile our differences and perspectives.
- o Let people lead with their expertise
- o Stay on point and on time. Respect the group's time and keep comments brief and to the point.
- o Think before speaking. Avoid jargon, acronyms, and phrases that can be misunderstood.
- o Be an active listener. Listen to understand.

Guiding Principles

- o Center the community. Impact those who need it the most. Prioritize accessibility over exclusivity.
- o Center equity and justice in the work.
- o Acknowledge weaknesses but leverage our strengths.
- o Respect lived experiences and different points of view.
- o Operate with integrity.
- o Ensure purposeful, authentic, and meaningful engagement with community. Be intentionally inclusive and seek to involve all voices through participation.
- o Balance short term, low hanging fruit with long term goals of the Climate Action Plan. Ensure that short-term successes build toward long-term goals.
- o Humanize the data and tell the stories behind it.
- o Acknowledge that the CEC will evolve, and members can initiate change.
- o Take the work back to your organization.

- a. In summary, we want to treat each other respectfully, be mindful of conversations, and think outside the box. We ask folks to be in a learning posture and actively listen.
 - i. Discussion:
 - Any changes/additions to the Ground Rules & Guiding Principles?
 - None at the time.

4. Climate Action Plan Update Orientation

- a. Update Status
 - i. The Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan (CAP) aims to transform the metropolitan area into a more resilient, equitable and healthy community. This plan creates a voluntary framework to guide and align local action in ways that make a difference for the entire Kansas City region. The comprehensive set of strategies found in the plan can be tailored

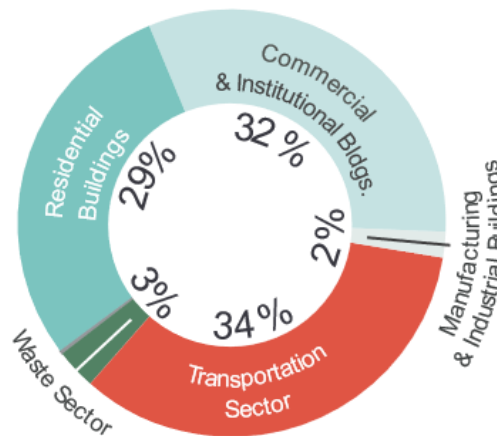
to meet local community needs and priorities.

Currently, MARC and their consulting team have been working on updating the Green House Gas Inventory and the Climate Risk Vulnerability assessment as part of the Regional Climate Action Plan. The team is working to move this effort along as part of the Climate Reduction Production Grant.

ii. Current 2015 GHG Inventory:

- Updating the GHG inventory will help with scenario development, refining measures, creating GHG emission targets and providing metrics.

GHG Inventory 2015



iii. CRVA

- The Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) looks at climate conditions, what possible risks are associated with said conditions, and how we can plan to adapt. CRVA looks at:

iv. Discussion:

- How are we referencing current data?
 - We are looking at 2021 data when doing these updates.

5. EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Grant

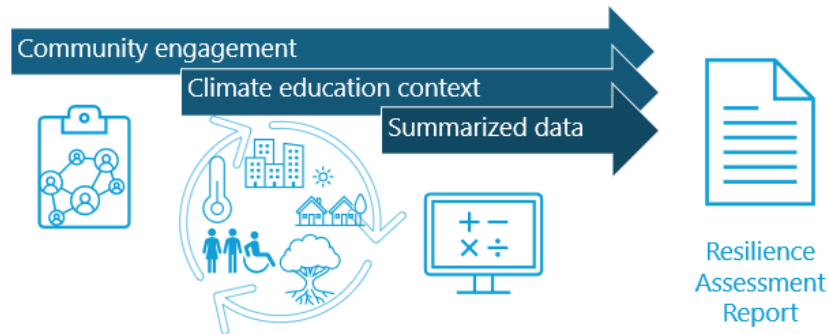
i. Community Resilience Toolkit

- There are four partners working on the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving grant, CABA, Westside Housing, GroundworkNRG, and Dunbar Neighborhood Association with support from Scott Schulte at the University of Kansas.

The team created a toolkit for community resilience, which provides context around the Climate Vulnerability assessment.

- Engagement material:
 - Workshop guidance & survey questions, community resilience two pager, climate 101 educational recording.
 - In development: Community Resilience Story Map

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TOOLKIT



• Questions:

- Antwan, Christina, and Jay are interested in additional information.
- Jay, is the goal for each neighborhood to have this toolkit?
 - Yes, we would love everyone to be using these toolkits.
- Antwan, could you present this to my MCC class?
 - Yes, we would love to share this with MCC as a resource.
- Elizabeth Snell, what is the timeframe you were hoping to release this?
 - The goal is to have this completed by late spring/early summer.
- Beth Sarver, American Resiliency website has great information: <https://www.americanresiliency.org/>

6. EPA Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program

- i. EPA transferred ten million to multiple groups around the county. The Group managing the money in our region is the Research Triangle Institute (RTI). There are three tiers that you can apply for this project: assessment projects, planning projects, development projects. The Research Triangle is receiving and reviewing applications on a rolling basis. Has anyone applied?

Types of Funding Opportunities			
Non-Competitive	Competitive		
Foundational Support Projects	Tier 1: Assessment Projects	Tier 2: Planning Projects	Tier 3: Development Projects
These grants are non-competitive, meaning they will be awarded directly to organizations that need them. The funding will help organizations build a foundation that will allow them to apply for future grant opportunities.	Competitive funding for community-based organizations to do assessments in their community to better understand local environmental and public health concerns.	Competitive funding for community-based organizations to plan on how to address local environmental and public health issues.	Competitive funding for community-based organizations to carry out projects that address local environmental and public health issues.
\$75,000 for 1 year	Up to \$150,000 for 1 year	Up to \$250,000 for 1-2 years	Up to \$350,000 for 2 years

Discussion:

- ii. Re.Use.Ful has applied for tier one noncompetitive funding. This would allow Re.Use.Ful to get a brick and motor location for repairs and a tool-lending library.
- iii. Jay, MORE2 is going after the tier three funding for their resilience hub. The hub will be for education, outreach, and preparation. MORE2 wants to connect with other EJ organizations.

- iv. Carl, MRW is applying for funds to support community members and how we can use those resources to support the seniors in our community.
- v. Briana, The Resilient Activist, applied for the noncompetitive funding.

7. Connected KC 2050

a. Proposed changes to language

- i. The ConnectedKC 2050 plan guides development of the regional transportation system for the next 25 years. Planning aspects include major streets & highways, public transportation, bike & pedestrian accessibility and freight transportation.

With administration changes, the team is looking at updating some terms, and we would like your feedback on possible changes.

- Discussion:

- Leslie, happy that access to the internet is a priority.
- Emily Randel, I'm opposed to language change all together.
- Antwan, could you use zip code language and GDP instead?
- Josh, we did community engagement, and we need to respect their feedback.
- Alej agrees that the wordage should not be changed. We can reframe but we cannot erase their feedback from the plan.
- Lemartt believes there are hills to climb and hills to die one. Let us be strategic in whatever we are trying to do.
- Taylor, who would suffer? The Communities we are consulting would feel betrayed if we changed language.
- Nine people are opposed.

8. Other Business

9. Next Meeting - March 28, 2024

* Action item

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