

Climate & Environment Council

May 23, 2025
9 –11 a.m.
MARC Board Room
600 Broadway, Ste. 200 Kansas City, Mo 64105

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions

Jensen Adams	Taylor Neff
Bobby Evans	Jay Jones
Elizabeth Snell	Mata Townsend
Carl Stafford	Joseph Nelson
Jeremy Knoll	Josh Thede
Emily Randel	Lisa Maione
Christina Hoxie	Alej Martinez
Phaedra Svec	Antwan Daniels
Christian Galindo	Karen Clawson
Beth Sarver	Joe Gauer
Kate Ludwig	Tom Jacobs

2. Table Exercise: Create Your Own Future World with Emily Roundtree

- a. This collective visioning exercise challenges participants to imagine what could be, rather than what currently is. The psychology behind this activity fosters synergy and connection among individuals with shared motivations.

Participants noted that it's easy to get caught up in strategies and tactics, but this exercise encouraged more creative, free-flowing interaction and collaboration. The project is adaptable for all ages—Alej has successfully used it with students, helping them move beyond the limitations of their daily lives

- Key reflections:
 - How can we bring this energy into our planning work?
 - We aim to inspire and incorporate more future-oriented visioning
 - Joe mentioned upcoming summer programming, including the KCPS Summer Leadership Conference, as a great opportunity to engage.
 - KC360 offers resources for youth programming.
 - Antwan highlighted KC Leaders & Training.
 - Native food based infrastructure
 - Community & connectivity
 - Blue/Green Infrastructure
 - Sharing Economy
 - Rural-urban healthy systems

3. Approval of April meeting minutes*

- a. Motion: Taylor Neff
- b. Second: Carl Stafford
- APPROVED

4. MARC Performance Metrics and Targets

a. Review Tree Canopy Coverage Methodology and Proposed Target

- The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is required to establish targets to measure the performance of the region's transportation system. Some of the federally mandated performance measures include safety, infrastructure conditions, system performance and transit asset management. In addition, we track several voluntary performance measures.

To assess Kansas City's standing relative to other regions, the team used preexisting land use typology. The study examines activity corridors, current tree cover and opportunity for growth. Between 2017 and 2020, the tree canopy decreased by 3%. The primary goal is to restore the canopy levels by 2030.

Discussion:

- Are activity centers and corridors suitable for analysis?
 - The reason why these corridors were chosen is because these areas were seen as ripe for tree coverage and development. The corridors serve as intersectional bands.
- Roadway safety and the Urban Heat Island effect data would be helpful.
- The data associated with tree removal and tree planting will help create better data.
- Activity centers represent where people are at.
 - It would be helpful to add a layer depicting publicly owned property.
 - Another factor would be the dollar value per tree.
- If we attack the heat map, opposed to these corridors, it provides more bang for your buck.
- Creating a framework for how to go about zoning and ordinances with trees would be helpful.
- It looks like we are missing the bivariate reinvestment corridor.
 - We need to widen the central band.
- We are in a tall-grass prairie ecosystem, and we need to make sure we are doing things that are suitable for that type of ecosystem.
- Tree diversity is important. Biodiversity data would be helpful data to consider in this work.
- In your corridor analysis, is there a link for zero fare households? So, we could start seeing the connection with the current tree canopy.
 - Itree canopy is a great resource. You can import your GSI shape file and help assign aerial imagery per each corridor. The Forest Service also created a tool that shows where we have lost and gained tree canopy for the entire region.
- When you expand corridors, you allow adaptation and shade for pedestrians and foot traffic.

5. 2025 CEC Workplan

- a. Ideation: Projects that “amplify and validate”
 - What is it that we want to amplify? What is the purpose?
 - What we heard:
 - Build awareness
 - Lift up successful work already happening
 - Multiply Impact
 - Things we could do:
 - Workshops
 - Fieldtrips
 - Thoughts?
 - Whatever we do, do, we need to get all hands-on deck and have concrete things that people can get involved in.
 - Get on the news. One Friday of every month, get a 5-minute slot to uplift environmental work happening in the region.
 - Some kind of event to help us get on the news.
 - Build a toolkit that everyone can use to amplify our work. We need to make it easy for people.
 - MORE2 is currently working on all of this. I think it could be a great project to put momentum behind.
 - Community matchmaking, fill out a questionnaire and help match community members up with different initiatives that they are interested in.
 - The budget will help drive what we are doing.
 - It would be great to get sponsorship and additional streams of funding.

6. Language Review for Planning and Communications Follow-up

a. CEC and Newsletter Names

MARC is considering renaming the Climate Environment Council and the Climate Action Newsletters to refrain from using words that could get our work flagged. Discussion has occurred around changing the CEC name to the Environment Council and changing the newsletter name to Handprints. MARC also holds the Resilience Success Stories annually and we are looking at renaming that event as well.

- Discussion:
 - Alej is opposed to renaming and changing language.
 - Josh, I’m here to do climate action, and don’t want to take that language away.
 - Half the council is opposed to name changes
 - Some people shared that they like the ‘Environmental Council’
 - Maybe we should add regional into the name

7. Other Business

a. Community Conversations

- This is a project to help spread awareness about what is going on around the region. Community Conversations are recorded video conversations on different climate topics to share on our Youtube and distributed via email and on other platforms.

- Email Joe, Karen, or Kate if you would like to participate.

8. Next Meeting – June 2, 2025

* Action item

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Parking: Free parking is available when visiting MARC. Visitors and guests should park on the upper level of the garage. An entrance directly into the conference area is available from this level. To enter this level from Broadway, turn west into the Rivergate Center parking lot. Please use any of the available spaces on the upper level at the top of the ramp. For directions to the MARC offices, visit www.marc.org/mapandparking.htm

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