

Climate & Environment Council

June 27, 2025

9 –11 a.m.

MARC Board Room

600 Broadway, Ste. 200 Kansas City, Mo 64105

Agenda

Attendance

Carl Stafford, My Region Wins
Stacia Perron, Kansas City Zoo and Aquarium
Elizabeth Snell, Mid-America Arts Alliance
Gayle Bergman, City of Overland Park
Beth Sarver, Schlagel High School
Elizabeth Danforth, Evergy
Jensen Adams, City of Kansas City, Mo
Christina Hoxie, Hoxie Collective
Lisa Maione, Kansas City Art Institute
Leslie Scott, Re.Use.Ful
Xue Wood, City of North Kansas City
Josh Thede, Mission Sustainability Commission
Drew Arends, Metropolitan Energy Center
Antwan Daniels, Liberty University/ MCC
Mata Townsend, community member
Joseph Nelson, Keystone CoLAB
Brianna Anderson, ScrapsKC

MARC Staff

Karen Clawson
Tom Jacobs
Natalie Unruh
Ryan Umberger

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of May meeting minutes*

The minutes for April was APPROVED.

3. Climate Action Plan Update

a. Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Karen Clawson provided an overview of the recently completed greenhouse gas inventory of the Kansas City region. Total emissions across all sectors were just above 27 MMTCO₂e, which is less

that the previous inventory. However, it is difficult to compare inventories due to using different methodologies. She said that the main takeaway is that the energy, buildings and transportation sectors contribute the most emissions in our region.

b. Climate Risk Assessment

Clawson presented some findings from the Climate Risk Assessment. Understanding long-term changes in climate conditions is the first step in the assessment. Two main indicators used to understand climate condition are precipitation and temperature. MARC used information from NOAA's Climate Explorer tool. By 2050, precipitation will increase 3.6-5.7 inches compared to the historic observations (1961-1991 baseline). The range accounts for two different emissions scenarios used in the tool, a low emissions and a high emissions scenario. Clawson noted that while the change in precipitation appears minimal, the potential change around intensity, duration and frequency is important to consider. Flood risks may increase, as we see longer stretches of dry days, more extreme rain events and storms stacking.

Average daily maximum temperature will increase from 4.8-5.8°F above the baseline. Extreme heat—days when the temperature exceeds 95°F will increase between 30.2-41 days compared to the baseline. Clawson noted that the significant increase in these extreme heat days mean that this natural hazard is of very high concern. As seen on the risk matrix, heat and flooding are of most concern overall, but severe thunderstorms and winter storms have a higher probability of occurring as well.

Clawson noted that MARC has updated the socioeconomic stress index map for the region, with an expanded list of indicators. The map shows where at-risk communities are located throughout the region. It is these areas where adaptation strategies should be targeted.

c. Strategy Review and Discussion

Karen Clawson presented the climate action plan action areas that the CEC members will focus on in groups. These include: energy, buildings, transportation and land use, food and agriculture, urban greening and circular economy and waste. She asked each group to review the strategies for clarity and impact and whether any were missing. She also asked that each group review the actions associated with each strategy.

Report back from the groups:

Urban Greening and Food/Ag:

- Emphasize food sovereignty and food production
- Activate communities to feel like they are part of urban green space and more biodiverse land
- Community based public education/adult education. Focus on watersheds.
- Leverage existing native plant educators and provide a stream of funding to continue this work in neighborhoods.
- Community organizing around these solutions; activating communities that are not part of an organization yet.
- Some of the actions seemed like that could be brought together.

Transportation & Land Use

- Looked at organizational structure of the actions first, which could include legal, funding, education and innovation actions which apply to each. Then the group started to think about the responsible parties of the actions.
- On T-1, the group thought that T1.5 could be a better heading for the overall strategy.
- In starting to reorganize the strategies, moved "shift trips to transit biking and walking" higher under land use, followed by "redesign critical and vulnerable infrastructure." Moved low- and no-emissions vehicles to the bottom. The last strategy related to technology could be redistributed as an action under "redesign critical and vulnerable infrastructure."
- Under "redesign critical and vulnerable infrastructure," one missing action was to coordinate between state and locally managed corridors for safety. Several group members commented that some of the least safe corridors are ones managed by states.

Energy & Buildings

- Missing – noted that industry strategies were missing, especially thinking about data centers.
- Regulation and incentives both (building standards and incentives) as a two-prong approach
- EG-3 (Resilient and healthy homes) – this could be broken into more than one strategy.
- Talked about microgrids for better neighborhood resilience. This was presented in Drawdown. Right now, regulations don't allow for it.
 - State legislation needed to update smart grids, microgrids, net metering, etc. to make this all happen.
- Talked about Evergy's outages map.
- EG-3.3 – also talked about tree maintenance programs and "right tree right place" strategy for planting.
- Is there a way to highlight best practice and which communities are doing building codes the best? How is enforcement going?
- Talked about IECC 2024, make sure this code is adopted with the strengthening amendments.
- Need training on these new codes for city staff, building, architects, etc.
- Talked about pre-vetted building plans, like for ADUs or multi family housing, so they can have expedited review and permitting.
- City improvement grants as incentives for residential improvement. How do we add incremental investment to investment already being made? And how do we track progress?
- Community resilience 1.5 – sharing this information in a centralized hub (digital and physical outreach) is important. Resilience hubs might need to be pulled out as a separate strategy.

Circular Economy & Waste

- Priorities – Increase reuse, repair, reuse.
- Strategy number 5 seemed like a growth opportunity not to be missed out on.
- Boosting composting: add commercial composting requirements and composting education and awareness programs.
- Merge: 2.3 and 2.4.
- Increasing recycling - add a data component.
- CE-4 – whose purchasing processes are we talking about?
- Include bottle bill and recycling deposits under 4.1.
- On CE5 – looked at shorten 5.3 – already evaluating, focus on implementing.
- Education is a high priority in the different strategies.
- Adopt policies to support building reuse seemed like a high priority under CE-6.

4. Other Business

- a. No other business.