



Climate & Environment Council

Meeting Summary

June 28th, 2024 9 –10:30 a.m.

MARC Broadway Room

600 Broadway, Ste. 200 Kansas City, Mo 64105

Members Present:

Andrew Ngui, KCMO

Jackson Ward, Johnson County DHE

Carl Stafford, My Region Wins

Kevin Kennedy, Consultant

Lisa Maione, KCAI

Briana Anderson, Resilient Activist

Alej Martinez, KC NSF

Emily Randel, Consultant/ KCMO Resident

Brien Darby, Cultivate KC

William Neds, HDR

Gayle Bergman, OP

Michelle Kriks, Leawood

Jensen Adams, KCMO

Tamra B., ALSF

Other Attendees:

Caroline Renner, Climate Action KC

Brittney Drew

Jason Anarus

Sutton Rodgers, Pro X

Ailleasa Cornelius

MARC Staff:

Kate Ludwig

Tom Jacobs

Joe Gauer

Karen Clawson

Doug Norsby

Emily Rountree

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Sharing (20 minutes)

Members and attendees shared information on various projects, events, and plans they are working on. Examples included updating the MARC GHG inventory by including data from more sectors, increasing social media presence for the Johnson County Department of Energy, and partnering with Children's Mercy to educate and reduce the risk for indoor environmental hazards which can cause asthma.

2. Approval of May meeting minutes* (1 minute)

May meeting minutes approved.

3. Connected KC 2050 Regional Survey and Discussion (30 minutes)

Karen Clawson presented the findings from the Connected KC 2050 regional survey.

- A statistically valid survey was conducted to accurately represent the needs of citizens. The goal was to have 1,500 respondents and that goal was exceeded with 1,770 respondents.

- The survey focused on the importance/satisfaction of transportation, priorities for transportation funding, support for potential new funding sources, electric vehicles interest and barriers, and demographics.
- Demographics included 21% of non-white respondents, 10% are Latino, 50% have an income of less than 100,000 and 50% use transit (whether it is rarely or frequently).
- Very high priorities include affordable housing options and access to jobs via public transit. High priorities include road and bridge construction, housing choices, walkable and bikeable communities, and a healthy environment. Medium priorities include transportation choices, safety, travel time, bikeways, resilient infrastructure, and travel time for freight trucks.
- Most important categories of service include support projects and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged populations, reducing climate pollution and greenhouse gases, and increase in alternative transportation.
- High priority for funding projects included bike paths, bike lanes, and sidewalks and maintenance of highway systems.
- Over 50% of respondents said they have no interest in buying an electric vehicle. The greatest barriers include vehicle purchase price, insufficient driving range, and lack of charging stations.

MARC is asking for feedback about how to further connect the Climate Action Plan and the Transportation Plan. The goal is to add more detail and context to the transportation plan as well as the transportation survey. Additional engagement will be conducted in the Fall of 2024 to hear residents' thoughts on the survey.

Discussion, Transportation Survey

- A potential reason why "healthy environment" was not a top priority for survey respondents was because it was spread out into several narrower focuses for question two.
- Several people asked about the plan for the people who completed the survey. In the past most surveys ended, and the survey respondents were not followed up with. Potentially closing the loop either by sending a "thank you" or requesting additional feedback.
- An idea brought up was potentially adding a link to view the results of the survey when closing the loop.

Discussion, General

- When discussing transportation solutions for public transportation, access to food/grocery stores needs to be considered.
- Media literacy, as it relates to climate change, and how it relates to risk and vulnerability was discussed by several members. Making sure there is public awareness to better understand climate initiatives was very important.
- Feedback about the type of education was brought up. Demonstrate and display instead of traditional education could be more effective. For example, starting with businesses displaying environmental practices.
- Discussion regarding potentially adding education and demonstration to the metropolitan transportation plan was heard. The plan currently includes avoiding the need to travel, transportation technology, shifting transportation modes, and carbon sequestration.

4. Group discussion: Shared Community Learning for Climate Action (30 minutes)

- a. How are we helping each other learn about what's working and how to move action forward?

Current audiences include Local government, community-based organizations, community stakeholders.

Examples include resilience success stories, local government and sustainability leaders' meetings, climate summit (climate action KC), storytelling (blog, newsletter, videos, etc.), co-creative climate action.

b. Resilience Success Stories – December 13th

Kate Ludwig presented about the Resilient success stories event that will occur on December 13th. The purpose is to embrace positive change by highlighting local environmental achievements. The event bridges gaps for folks going about similar projects and uplifts the community.

- MARC is seeking involvement from CEC members with collecting stories and facilitating the event.

Discussion, General

- CEC has an opportunity to follow up with data collected by the CPRG. Qualitative data was collected, and it can be analyzed for common themes.
- Additional sectors that could be included are business hubs and universities which aren't currently involved in CEC.
- An idea brought up was using education institutions for climate solutions and engagement/outreach.
- When discussing missing voices, tech and startup organizations came up.

Discussion, Community Engagement

- When discussing community engagement, we need to focus on who are the stories about: climate organizations versus real people. Ensuring that stories are grounded ex. Stories about communities dealing with flooding and how they have adapted.
- Engagements need to be done with underserved communities such as the homeless population i.e., Planting native plants at homeless camps while engaging with the stories of the homeless people.
- In the past, engagement has worked well when done through group experiences ex. walking and talking with local people about the issues that impact them.
- Engaging with youth at a younger age to instill positive behavior and values.

5. CEC Community Service Event (10 minutes)

The community service event will be a pop-up cleanup partnering with the CEC. Tamara would like to have engagement with CEC members. Tentative date is September 14th. More details are to come.

6. Next Meeting – July 26, 2024