

**From:** [Don Wallace](#)  
**To:** [Public Testimony](#); [Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Barnes, Lee](#); [Bough, Andrea](#); [Fowler, Dan](#); [Loar, Teresa](#); [Ellington, Brandon](#); [Platt, Brian](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Ord. 220364: Adopt the 2021 IECC + Decarbonization Overlay Language  
**Date:** Monday, July 18, 2022 1:57:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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July 18, 2022

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Bough, and Members of the  
Neighborhood Planning & Development Committee:

On behalf of the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter, I am writing in support of the passage of Ordinance No. 220364, including the decarbonization overlay, without weakening amendments.

In the last two years, this Council has affirmed to the Kansas City community its resolve to address our climate crisis: declaring a climate and ecological emergency in Resolution No. 210967 and approving the development of a robust climate protection plan in Resolution No. 200005. It is worthwhile for the Council's decision on this proposed Ordinance No. 220364, which will ensure energy efficient housing and commercial structures for the future, to **recall some pertinent language the Council used in these earlier resolutions.**

**Resolution No. 200005 (May 24, 2020):**

\*\*\* WHEREAS, without **serious** intervention on the climate crisis, Kansas City will see more extreme high temperatures, intensified heat waves, more frequent severe precipitation and flooding, as well as longer dry periods in the coming years; \*\*\*

\*\*\* WHEREAS, climate change **affects all** residents and businesses, but **communities that already face socioeconomic and health inequities will be most severely impacted**, including youth, elderly, people of color, and low-income communities, and such communities therefor require an investment in resilience that is proportionate to these more severe risks; \*\*\*

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

\*\*\* Section 2. That the City reaffirms that climate protection and greenhouse gas reduction should be **key factors in all decisions and actions by the City.** \*\*\*

**Resolution No. 210967 (October 2021):**

\*\*\* WHEREAS, City Council has established, pursuant to Resolution No. 200005, aggressive new carbon reduction and climate goals \*\*\*

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

\*\*\* Section 1. That the City declares that a **climate and ecological emergency threatens our city**, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world.

\*\*\* Section 4. That the City commits to working with local, state, and federal governments to advocate for just and equitable **solutions** to the climate crisis that centers the **health and well-being of all in our community**, and especially those most impacted by climate change.

\*\*\* Section 6. That henceforth the City will require that **all future relevant plans, policies**, and other initiatives incorporate the goals of the Climate Protection

and Resiliency Plan and **consider ways to reduce climate impacts** on Kansas Citians  
\*\*\*

In these two Resolutions, the Council recognized that effective and necessary action to address the crisis of climate change will be emanating from municipal governing institutions. The **Council must now demonstrate its resolve**, declared in these resolutions, **and adopt Ordinance No. 220364 including the decarbonization overlay as has been proposed to Council throughout public discussions, without weakening amendments**, which will ensure energy efficient housing and commercial structures for the future of our city.

Councilmembers know that the 2021 IECC is workable. It was vetted by national experts and professional organizations in its development. Other jurisdictions in the U.S. have already adopted the 2021 IECC without weakening amendments. Councilmembers have heard from local experts that this Ordinance is workable for our City. Councilmembers know the significant impact that adoption of the 2021 IECC will have on this city's carbon footprint. These earlier Council Resolutions reference the science of climate change; Councilmembers know we don't have the luxury of waiting.

Councilmembers have also heard from parents who are quite reasonably alarmed by the future we are bequeathing to our children. Should this Ordinance not be passed, **what message does this send to our children's children?** That in a first test of its resolve to address the climate crisis, the Council said that it was just not yet ready to act?

Thank you.



Don Wallace,  
Member Legislative Committee  
THB Group of Missouri Chapter of Sierra Club  
Resident, Fourth District, KCMO