



*transforming energy use in
America's Heartland since 1983*

DATE: August 24, 2022

TO: City of Kansas City, MO Transportation, Infrastructure and Operations Committee

ATTN: Mayor Lucas and Members of the Committee

RE: Resolution No. 220596, Adopting the Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the Committee:

Since 1983 Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) has worked with communities across Kansas and Missouri, including the City of Kansas City, MO, to improve access to healthy homes, energy efficient buildings, and low and no-emission transportation. For instance, with our assistance the City has converted entire sections of its fleet to clean alternative fuels, and we are aggressively working to raise building energy benchmarking rates and drive participation in energy efficiency programs across the City. MEC staff were also members of four working groups who contributed to the 2008 Climate Protection Plan and are listed in the updated Plan's priorities for immediate action 21 times. In summary MEC is dedicated to working with the City, other organizations, and the community to execute the Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan proposed before you.

We outlined below why MEC is urging the Committee to pass the Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan *without any weakening amendments*.

- **60% of Jackson County residents think local officials should do more to address climate change¹:** Research by Yale University shows a large portion of Kansas City, MO residents are calling on Council members to do more. As such, adopting the aggressive, equity focused Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan before you is a crucial opportunity to meet the needs and requests of your constituents.
- **Aligns with the Council's previous commitments to its residents:** In 2020 the Council passed Resolution No. 200005 directing the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) to update the Climate Protection Plan to include new greenhouse gas reduction goals, resiliency, and equity. The goal of the Plan is to adapt to the climate impacts our residents are already facing and to create a carbon neutral, equity focused, and resilient Kansas City by 2040.
- **Ensures the City is a good steward of taxpayer dollars:** In a 2021 the City Council passed Ordinance No. 210088 authorizing the City to execute a contract with The Brendle Group, Inc. to work with OEQ, additional

¹ <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us/>

City staff, and the Plan's Steering Committee to assist in the development of a Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan. In addition to the countless hours OEQ dedicated to developing the Plan, through the contract the City also onboarded two Climate Justice Workers and an intern to support their efforts through community engagement and empowerment. Disregarding the time and money spent on the Plan would be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

- **By not adopting the unamended Plan, we are telling community members their input and time is not valued:** OEQ, The Brendle Group, and Climate Justice Workers developed and executed a thorough four-phase engagement plan to work with residents to identify strategies to create a healthier, more resilient, and equity focused Kansas City. **The Climate Justice Workers and project intern alone invested roughly 600 hours in community outreach and engagement from July 2021 to January 2022.**² Through their efforts, they engaged with hundreds of community members and several nonprofit and for-profit organizations through conversations, surveys, workshops, and open houses. We should honor their engagement by ratifying this work and encouraging residents to continue meaningful engagement with their City and fellow community members.

Thank you for your time and the invaluable work you do for our community. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for questions or additional information.

Sincerely,

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² <https://www.kcmo.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8647>
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