

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Online via Microsoft Teams



Commissioners Present: Carol Adams, Scott Klamm, Marty Kraft

Commissioners absent: Caroline (Molly) Davies, Michael Kelley

Staff: Sarah Benal, Regan Tokos, Stephanie Dresen, Jensen Adams, Kellie Herman, Vicki Peters, Kacey Eis

Guests: Brittanie Giroux, Don Wallace, Janet Blauvelt, Shaylyn Dean

- A. Chair Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
- B. Minutes – Carol made a motion to approve the minutes. The Commission approved the minutes as drafted.
- C. Go Vocal Presentation – Kellie Herman
 - a. Kellie Herman, OEQ Sustainable Communities Coordinator, presented on Speakeasy, the City’s community engagement platform through Go Vocal. Access to Speakeasy is located on the City’s homepage on the website. Community members can sign up and use the platform to offer their input and insights on various City projects, their concerns and ideas about their neighborhoods, and offer suggestions on ways to improve the City.
- D. 2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory – Regan Tokos
 - a. Regan Tokos, OEQ Sustainability Analyst, reviewed some high-level results from the 2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory. In 2024 Regan worked with Brendle and stakeholders to gather data for both community and municipal greenhouse gas inventories. A detailed report will be published in 2025.
 - b. Community emissions in the City of Kansas City Missouri boundary increased 5% since 2019, the last year an inventory was conducted. The next inventory is planned for 2025. The largest emissions continue to be residential and commercial building use, as well as on-road transportation, which make up 87% of the total community emissions.
 - c. This was the first year that tree canopy sequestration data were available, it was found that 82,000 MTCO₂e is sequestered annually from the tree canopy
 - d. A highlight of the inventory showed vehicle miles traveled per person was 10% below 2019 levels, which potentially indicates a positive impact on transportation emissions from work-from-home policies
 - e. 2022 data from the Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory indicated the largest source of emissions is electricity use in buildings, which accounts for 70% of total emissions. This has decreased due to the City’s investment in Renewable Direct.
 - i. Renewable Direct is the City’s purchase of green energy, which accounts for 21% of electricity directly from the grid.
 - ii. Net municipal emissions were down 14%
- E. Office of Environmental Quality Report
 - a. At the end of 2024, OEQ has been part of over \$30 million in federal funding, which touches every one of the strategies in the Climate Plan
 - b. Forestry Grant – Council has approved this grant, and all documentation has been signed. OEQ, Neighborhood Services, Parks & Recreation, and nonprofit partners will begin implementation. This includes work for additional trees in Environmental Justice areas, tree maintenance, updating the tree

inventory, and additional staff in Parks & Rec.

- c. ARPA – In partnership with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, The City received \$5 million in funding for 200-250 acres of restoration work on the Blue River.
- d. USDA – Cultivate KC was the primary grant awardee and the City is a sub awardee to hire a food policy coordinator. The Food Policy Coordinator is planned to begin in January 2025.
- e. Stephanie Dresen and Kellie Herman have worked to increase compost support and drop off locations. This program is beginning to transition to Public Works.
- f. EPA Environmental Justice Government to Government – The grant will address lead contamination in Ivanhoe neighborhood, and includes hiring an Environmental Justice advocate to act as liaison between OEQ and Ivanhoe neighborhood. Hiring for the EJ Advocate is in process.
- g. CFI Grant – The grant’s goal is to increase electric vehicle charging. OEQ amended the scope regarding the number of charging stations. Because of the scope change, the scope must be reviewed again.
- h. Building Performance Standards – OEQ is currently waiting on next steps from the Department of Energy.
- i. Solar for All – The project would magnify the “Share the Sun” program up to 2200 homes. OEQ’s partner, Growth Ops, has submitted negotiations to the EPA.
- j. Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities – Bloomberg has removed the job postings for the “Innovation Team” and OEQ will go through Council with an ordinance to allow OEQ to accept the funding and conduct an internal hiring.
- k. Department of Transportation – OEQ submitted an application for round two of an award to build out our electric vehicle charging equipment. The application is in process.
- l. Community Change Grant – OEQ’s application is currently being reviewed.

F. Liaison Reports

- a. Carol Adams – From the Air Quality Forum: The Kansas City Region had six ozone exceedances during the 2024 season. St. Louis had worse air quality and is expected to be redesignated non-attainment for ozone.
 - i. 2024 PM 2.5 data showed a non-attaining monitor in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. The state of Kansas is going to contest some of the data.

A. Old Business

- a. There was no old business.

B. New Business

- a. There was no new business.

C. Remarks from Visitors

- a. There were no remarks from visitors.

D. Adjourn

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Office Teams

to RSMo Section 610.021 subsection 1 or subsection 3, during or after the meeting to discuss designated items.

“Any person with disability desiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting may contact the 311 Action Center at 311 or (816) 513-1313 for TTY 513-1889 or by email at actioncenter@kcmo.org.” The meeting room is accessible.

The Kansas City Environmental Management Commission was created to make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, staff and all other boards and commissions of the City concerning the issues of environmental planning, management and compliance with Federal, State and local regulations and programs.