

Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan

Executive Summary

Net Zero Kansas City Region by 2050

Overview:

The Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan aims to transform the metropolitan area into a more resilient, equitable and healthy region. The plan proposes a flexible framework to help mitigate climate change by achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It also shows how the region can adapt to and bounce forward from the many risks climate change poses.

The Climate Action Plan is technically feasible. Its success, though, hinges on leadership and high levels of voluntary collaboration from all parts of the community. No individual or organization can do everything; yet everyone can do something. The plan builds from a long track record of success along with shared community-wide goals to create stronger, healthier, more vibrant communities.

Priorities and Strategies

Climate Mitigation

Reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 means reducing emissions by a total of 37 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO₂e), or 1.2 million MT CO₂e per year.

Key mitigation (emissions reduction) strategies include:



Invest in renewable energy and decrease fossil fuel use



Increase energy efficiency of all buildings



Transition to electric vehicles and increase walking, biking, transit and sustainable development



Sequester carbon in the soil through sustainable land stewardship

Climate Adaptation

This plan includes practical, multibenefit solutions to manage risks from climate impacts, strengthen the resilience of the economy, improve public health and protect our most vulnerable, economically distressed communities.

Key adaptation strategies include:



Conserve and restore green infrastructure and expand local food systems



Create walkable 15-minute neighborhoods to support healthy active living and social connectivity



Develop livable wage green jobs through innovative partnerships



Support a circular economy to reduce waste and raise demand for reused and recycled materials

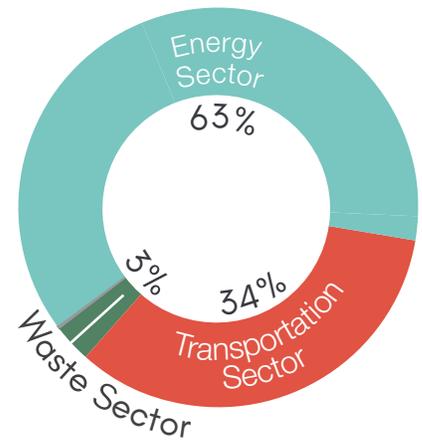
Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector

Tracking greenhouse gas emissions is important to understanding our region's carbon footprint and identifying areas of largest impact.

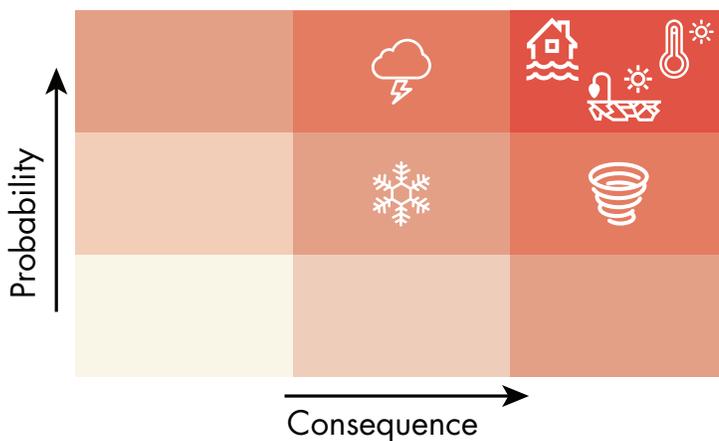
An emissions inventory estimated greenhouse gas emissions in the region's energy, transportation and waste sectors, using 2015 as the baseline year.

The study estimates that 34% of emissions come from transportation, and 63% result from energy use in residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

To meet the 2050 net zero vision, the region will need to reduce its projected 2050 emissions by 37 million metric tons of CO₂e.



Risks and Vulnerabilities



Flooding, drought and extreme heat are the most significant climate threats in the future.

Climate change will intensify these hazards and their risks to human and natural systems, infrastructure and the built environment. While all parts of the region are vulnerable to the impacts of these hazards, community vulnerabilities are concentrated in the urban core. Frontline communities—people of color, people with low incomes and indigenous communities—will be the first ones affected and the hardest hit.

Climate adaptation initiatives and investments will build resilience by addressing the systemic inequities that perpetuate vulnerability within these communities.

Next Steps

- Establish a regional leadership group to foster collaboration, guide plan implementation and facilitate community engagement and education reflective of the plan's commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Launch the Regional Building Energy Exchange to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Expand regional tree-planting and green infrastructure efforts.

Who We Are

This Climate Action Plan was developed during 2020 by a coalition led by Climate Action KC and the Mid-America Regional Council, together with hundreds of interested community members, stakeholders and decision-makers.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, a worldwide collaboration among 10,000 municipalities, helped guide the plan's development.

For more information, please visit kcmetroclimateplan.org or contact us at info@climateactionkc.com.