

Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan

Executive Summary

Net Zero Kansas City Region by 2050

The Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan (CAP) aims to transform the metropolitan area into a more resilient, equitable and healthy community. An ambitious set of interrelated strategies will help to mitigate climate change by achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and adapt to and bounce forward from the many risks climate change poses. Linkages among plan strategies are abundant and intentional.

Our plan is ambitious, comprehensive and urgent.

It creates a new platform to build on, accelerate and scale up existing efforts through new models of collaborative regional leadership. Resilience-focused investment will catalyze long-term prosperity and health.

Interim net zero goals focus on local government operations (by 2030), energy generation (by 2035), and homes and buildings (by 2040).

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

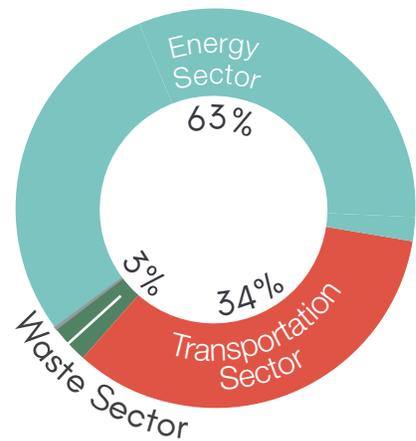
Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector

A Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory was performed in the region's energy, transportation and waste sectors using 2015 as the baseline year.

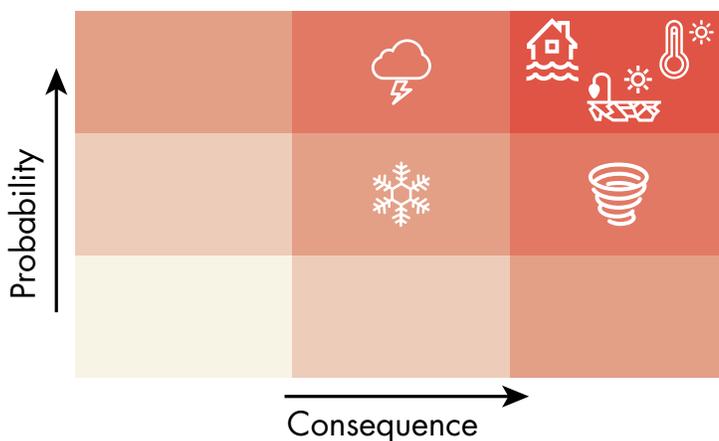
Based on the results of this study, the major sources of emissions are:

- **Energy:** energy use in commercial, industrial and residential buildings
- **Transportation:** passenger vehicles
- **Waste:** organic waste

Based on the results of the inventory, the region must reduce its 2050 projected emissions by 37 million metric tons of CO₂e in order to meet the 2050 net zero vision.



Risks and Vulnerabilities



Of the six natural hazards assessed in the plan, three hazards have been identified as the highest concerns for the Kansas City region: flooding, extreme heat and drought.

Climate change intensifies 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 climate action and policy forum along with a community engagement and education strategy that reflects the plan's commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion
- Launch the Regional Building Energy Exchange to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Launch 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 climateactionkc.com or contact us at cap@marc.org and info@climateactionkc.com.