



Summary Report

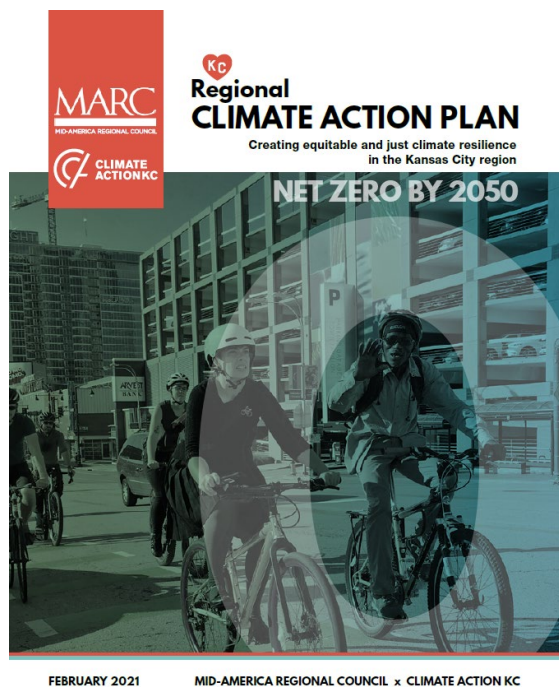
July 2024



Background

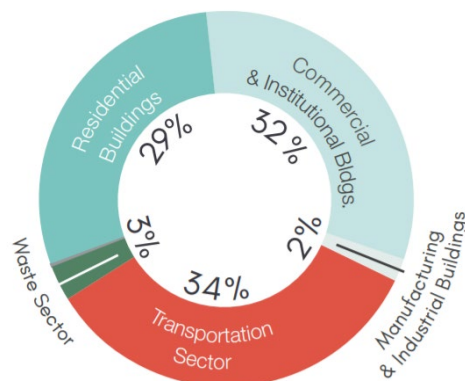
[Climate Action KC](#) and its signature initiatives, Building Energy Exchange KC and Plug-In KC were founded to help the region achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

In partnership with over 150 elected leaders and 1,000 volunteers, Climate Action KC (CAKC) and the [Mid-America Regional Council \(MARC\)](#) developed a [Regional Climate Action Plan](#) that was subsequently adopted by the MARC Board of Directors in March 2021. The plan conveys a comprehensive strategy heavily influenced by community input, the lessons of [Project Drawdown](#), and the needs of our most vulnerable communities.

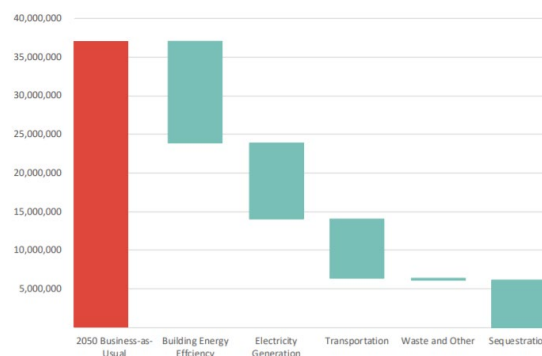


The Regional Climate Action Plan sets forth three timelines for achieving net zero: 2035 for all municipal government activities, 2040 for all buildings (2030 for all new buildings), and 2050 economy wide.

The Regional Climate Action Plan developed a Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Inventory which showed that 63% of GHG emissions in our region are attributed to buildings and 34% to on-road transportation. The Climate Action KC board recognized that this requires a robust support system for the building, design, construction and real estate industries, and support for the transition to electric vehicles. Building Energy Exchange was formed in spring 2021 to meet the first need and Plug-In KC launched in spring 2024 to meet the second.



(Figure 1: GHG Emissions Inventory for the KC Region)



(Figure 2: Breakdown of CO₂e reduction by action area.



Our Vision

A net zero heartland before 2050.

Our Mission

Catalyzing cooperative climate action across the Kansas City region.

Climate Action KC's Strategic Goals for 2023-2026

1. Reach operational stability through increased staffing capacity, contracted support, and resource development.
2. Increase federal climate funding to the Kansas City region by leveraging the organization's network and programs.
3. Strategically scale and enhance the Building Energy Exchange Program and Plug-In KC initiative and their impacts.
4. Support implementation of the regional Climate Action Plan.





Our Vision

Zero Barriers to Net Zero

We envision a future in which technical, social, and financial barriers are lifted to achieve full market transformation across Kansas City's real estate industry.

Net-zero practices are embedded in all real estate transactions dramatically shifting the performance of our regional building stock over time.

Equitable access to the benefits of energy-efficiency, clean energy technologies, and climate-resiliency will permeate Kansas City's historically disinvested communities and mend past energy injustices.

Our regional building stock will achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 to mitigate the global impact of climate change while elevating the quality of life for current Kansas City residents.

Our Mission

To advance building energy performance by mobilizing the professional expertise, funding, and technical resources needed to address affordability, improve the health and comfort of residents, and position Kansas City as a resilient and carbon neutral region.

Our Values

Connected: We convene a broad network of stakeholders across the real estate industry. We believe BE-Ex KC serves a vital role in cultivating these relationships, amplifying diverse voices, and building a robust coalition of partners to influence our regional market.

Pragmatic: We believe that transforming the real estate industry requires a healthy respect for its transactional nature. We serve our audience best by providing an efficient and practical path to evolve practice over time. We strive for program content to be accessible to a wide range of audiences allowing everyone to find their path towards advancing building energy performance.

Impactful: Achieving an ambitious mission requires us to focus our time and resources where we can have maximum impact. We evaluate the barriers for each market sector and set program goals accordingly. We consider co-benefits of energy affordability and environmental health and will prioritize programs that offer triple bottom-line outcomes.

BE-Ex KC Program Goals for 2023-2026

1. Evaluate the carbon footprint of our regional building stock and provide insights for how local stakeholders can collectively move the needle towards net-zero.
2. Demystify high-performance building practices through educational events and digital tools
3. Provide direct support to building owners to assist them in navigating resources and connect them to the BE-Ex KC network.
4. Catalyze energy efficiency upgrades in disinvested communities and develop a concierge service that will pair technical assistance with funding opportunities.





Plug-In KC is a new initiative by Climate Action Kansas City launched publicly in March 2024. Plug-In KC's programs are designed to scale up both the electric vehicle market and the infrastructure needed to support a transformation in both the public and private sector.

- **EDUCATION/ADVOCACY:** Plug-in KC's mission will focus on education about electric vehicles, advocacy for greater funding for EV infrastructure, and aggregation of demand to encourage automakers to sell more EVs in Kansas City.

In partnership with Evergy, Plug-In KC will manage the website pluginkc.org. The site will operate as a resource portal for new and potential EV buyers, as well as provide news and updates about the EV markets.

- **ADDRESSING MARKET GAPS:** Plug-In KC will work to ensure non-taxpaying entities can use tax credits to purchase EVs. Plug-In KC will create partnerships with third parties who can take those tax credits and pass those savings on to non-taxpaying entities.
- **Creating a consortium of smaller cities:** Sufficient fundraising and grant awards will be necessary to sustain Plug-In KC. Dedicated personnel are critical for the project's success. More information about the budget will be found at the end of this report.



Climate Action Summit

As Climate Action KC was emerging, the inaugural Climate Action Summit in 2019 provided an exhilarating opportunity for leaders across the region to connect and build alignment with common goals. Since that time, Climate Action KC has hosted a total of three summits with each summit attracting over 600 attendees, the largest climate-related summit in the region. The summits have been held on both sides of the state line and have featured highly regarded local and national speakers, panels, vendor booths, demonstrations and discussions. The summit has served as Climate Action KC's largest fundraiser and is a signature event that continues to occupy a prestigious place on the calendars of climate leaders and stakeholders in the region and beyond.

Past Climate Action Summit dates and locations:

- September 14, 2019 – Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS
- April 9, 2022 – Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS
- September 9, 2023 – Rockhurst University, Kansas City, MO

Planning is currently underway for the next summit in April 2025.