

# 2025 CAAP Annual Report

## Implementation

### Progress in the Process

The Office of Sustainability understands that meeting our City's long-term sustainability goals not only requires teamwork and community connection but also a commitment to deep process integration. The Climate and Environment Commission (CEC) and City of Columbia staff have prepared this report detailing the CY 2025 CAAP-related activities of the Commission and City of Columbia staff.

### Columbia's CDP Score

In 2025, the City of Columbia maintained its "Leadership" level A- score from the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).

Earning this score recognizes the City of Columbia's formal identification of specific local climate risks of extreme heat and flooding; establishment of concrete adaptation and emissions reduction goals; and by providing public access to the CAAP and annual reports.

The City's score is on par with regional peers in adaptation and mitigation measures and exceeds the global average across all sectors. Columbia's continued environmental disclosure reflects strong performance in climate action and a commitment to transparency.

### CAAP Update

In 2025, the Office of Sustainability began the process for completing the first update of the Climate Action Adaptation Plan. Originally adopted in 2019, the City's CAAP sets short- and long-term climate goals and outlines strategies across energy, transportation, housing, natural resources, waste, and community health. This update will build on that foundation by refining and focusing the plan to prioritize the most practical, high-impact actions for the next five years. The Office of Sustainability engaged the service of The Cascadia Consulting Group through a competitive RFP process to assist the update. In late 2025 staff and Cascadia began hosting stakeholder meetings with dozens of local, state and federal organizations and experts. The Updated CAAP will be presented to the City Council in the Summer of 2026 for review and approval.

## Energy Sector

### A Greener Grid

In 2025, the City of Columbia Utilities department purchased or generated 22.57% of its total electric usage through renewable energy sources, which is a slight decrease from 2024. While the change in percentage of renewables was not positive, **the total renewable supply rose** by over 3,908 MWh. Temporary reductions in wind and landfill gas generation impacted the overall share, but increased output is expected in future years. Columbia's total system load is also growing which could continue to have an impact on the percentage of renewable power, even as the total supply of renewable energy increases. Learn more in the City of Columbia Utilities 2026 Renewable Energy Plan.

## Integrated Resource Plan

The Electric Utility began work with The Energy Authority (TEA) to update the utility's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). An IRP helps electric utilities plan for major power purchases and infrastructure investments. IRPs are becoming more frequent to help utilities adjust to rapidly changing energy demands, markets, and technology.

## Housing Building and Development Sector

### Updated Programs for Columbia Power Partners

The Utility Services Division (USD) rolled out updated energy efficiency, electrification, and solar customer incentive programs. New programs include incentives for heat pump water heaters, smart thermostats, and EV chargers. You can learn more about how you can benefit from these programs by visiting [Columbia Power Partners](#).

### Connecting Affordable Housing and Energy Efficiency

The Utility Service Division (USD) and Housing and Neighborhood Division partnered to continue implementation of the Home Weatherization Grant Program with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. Income eligible homeowners received insulation for their home and access to participate in additional energy improvement programs. USD also partnered with the Columbia Housing Authority (CHA) to install solar at the Kinney Point Resources Center.

### Performance Contracting

The Office of Sustainability, Public Works' Facilities Management division, City of Columbia Utilities and Parks and Recreation worked to find mechanisms to implement energy efficiency and facility improvements in City Buildings identified as low performing as a result of the City's Benchmarking Policy.

Staff developed a request for proposals to select a performance contractor for the City. Performance contractors guarantee the project's energy and operational savings generated over time. The selected contractor, Ameresco, audited facilities and systems, and began developing project proposals and pursuing approved projects that will be funded over time by the project's energy and operational savings. Parks and Recreation's Armory Sports and Recreation Center was selected as the first project. Updates to the facility will reduce the energy and repair costs to the City and make the facility more comfortable for users.

### Energy Code Update

Community Development, Office of Neighborhood Services, Fire Department, the Climate and Environment Commission and the Building and Construction Codes Commission began the process of updating the City's building codes from the 2018 International Building Codes to the 2024 standards. The update includes consideration for adopting the 2024 International Energy Conservation Codes that help increase the energy efficiency of new construction and major renovation projects.

## Transportation Sector

### Fleet Electrification

Since the City's Fleet Electrification Policy was signed and adopted July 21, 2023, the City has purchased fifteen Ford Lighting trucks, one Chevy Bolt and six BYD electric buses. Office of Sustainability staff worked to ensure that charging infrastructure for new fleet vehicles is readily available and is evaluating fleet charging needs for the next five years.

### CoMo to Zero - Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant

CoMo to Zero is Columbia's Vision-Zero initiative to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries from traffic incidents. Through this initiative the City secured USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All grant funding to carry out and update various policies. Funding was used to kick-off an update of the City's 2005 Complete Streets Policy, complete a Comprehensive Transit Study, develop pedestrian and bicycle level of comfort maps, complete a road safety audit of Business Loop, and start a Business Loop planning study. These studies and updates will help guide future investments in a safer, cleaner, and more sustainable transportation system for Columbia.

## Waste Sector

### Rebuilding Waste Diversion in Columbia

The City's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) building was completely destroyed by a tornado on April 20, 2025. The loss of this facility halted all recycling services provided by the City for months. By June 2, 2025, the Solid Waste Utility presented an updated report from RRT Design & Construction regarding plans to construct and refurbish a new Material Recovery Facility at the landfill property. Since that presentation, staff has worked both to divert collected recyclables to other MRFs and to evaluate the best options for rebuilding Columbia's MRF. The Solid Waste Utility is in the procurement phase for the construction of a replacement building that will be adaptable to future waste diversion needs.

## Health, Safety and Well-being Sector

### Tenant Education

According to the latest Census data 50% of Columbia residents rent. It can be confusing for tenants to know what they are responsible for in a rental property and what landlords are responsible for. That can include appliances, systems, and structures that impact the unit's energy efficiency. Questions like:

- "What do I do when my furnace and/or AC breaks?"
- "How long should it take for my landlord to fix issues?"
- "Should my windows have screens?"

and many more are becoming more common as Columbia's rental housing stock increases. The Offices of Sustainability and Neighborhood Services (OS and ONS) partnered to create a presentation to address these issues. ONS staff presented to home health groups and other professionals that visit residents that are often in low-performing rental properties.

## Show-me the Relief Outreach

The Office of Sustainability continued to work with community members and organizations to help everyone in Columbia stay safe during summer heat through community outreach and education. Office of Sustainability staff hosted pop-up cooling stations at 15 community events, where they met with 1,100 Columbia residents to provide resources and information to help community members stay healthy during extreme heat events heat resilience. The Office of Sustainability also worked with three community organizations to distribute 2,060 heat relief items—cooling towels, water bottles, sunscreen, electrolyte packets—to our most vulnerable community members.

## Natural Resources Sector

### CoMo Canopy

The Office of Sustainability and Missouri Conservation Corps launched the Como Canopy program in 2025. The program is designed to increase and maintain tree canopy. Support from Forest ReLeaf, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the City of Columbia Tree Board helped the program distribute free trees, tree care materials, and tree care education. The distribution is focused on community and residential properties in areas with lower tree canopy. Community volunteers, OS/ONS staff and the Community Connectors promoted the program with direct community outreach and canvassing resulting in the distribution of 299 trees in 2025. CoMo Canopy partners also distributed and assisted with the planting of trees at non-profits. 50 trees were planted at daycare centers, churches, and the offices in 2025. Moving into 2026 the program partners are formalizing the partnership, providing watering for trees planted at community properties, and evaluating the first year of program implementation.

### Native Vegetation

The Office of Sustainability staff continued the partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to provide no-cost consultations to landowners interested in restoring native plants and animal habitats on their property. USFWS staff performed 75 initial consultations and certified 5 CoMo Wild Yards. Two participant properties at the silver level, one at the gold level, and two at the platinum level. Staff also assisted Public Works with the Roadside Pollinator Program by developing the Request for Proposals and leading the procurement for services to maintain and expand the City's program. Converting publicly-maintained roadsides to native vegetation reduces the long-term cost of maintenance, increases habitat for pollinators, improves Stormwater management, and reduces risks to worker safety by decreasing the amount of time staff and contractors spend in dangerous roadsides and medians.

### North Providence Pollinator Art Poles

The City's Public Works and Community Development departments, the Office of Sustainability, the Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Tree Board collaborated to bring the North Providence Pollinator Art Pole Project to life. Inspired by a vision for community education and art from former Council Member Lisa E.A. Meyer, the site features a set of vibrant new art poles alongside newly planted trees, simultaneously enhancing local pollinator habitats and expanding Columbia's urban tree canopy.

This community-driven initiative uses art to highlight pollinators, native wildflowers, and environmental stewardship. The event featured a dedication ceremony with remarks from current and former Ward 2 Council Members, and artist Adrienne Luther, concluding with a community native wildflower seed-spreading activity.

Artist Adrienne Luther collaborated directly with a summer school class from Parkade Elementary to design and paint the colorful motifs, showcasing the power of public art and cross-departmental teamwork in fostering environmental awareness.

# Climate and Environment Commission 2025 Report

The Climate and Environment Commission is pleased to present these highlights from calendar year 2025. The commission held eight meetings in CY25, exceeding its requirement to meet at least quarterly.

## Commission activities:

- Reviewed FY26 budget priorities submitted by internal staff teams and submitted a statement to the city manager in support of staff recommendations.
- Collaborated with the Building Construction Codes Commission in reviewing the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).
- Provided a recommendation to the City Council on the adoption of the 2024 IECC.
- Discussed the Solarize Columbia campaign.
- Received regular updates from staff about the CAAP update process, including opportunities for input.

## Presentations and comments to the Commission:

- Aaron Decker provided a detailed review of the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code.
- Lelande Rehard presented a CAAP Team Update, including progress on CAAP implementation and updates on various projects.
- Todd McVicker presented the 2025 Renewable Energy Plan and Demand-Side Management Report, noting the introduction of new energy efficiency programs in the coming years and an overall increase in energy load, as noted in the Renewable Energy Report.
- Missouri State Climatologist Zach Leasor, PhD, presented on several topics such as soil moisture and the CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network) citizen science program.
- Carolyn Amparan, Chair of the Mid-Missouri Sierra Club, spoke to the CEC in support of the Solarize Columbia campaign and encouraged Commission members to share the campaign with their networks.
- Erin Holmes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Kaylee Woelfel, Missouri River Bird Observatory, presented on the Missouri Bird City Program.
- Dr. David Diamond presented a proposal regarding the Gans Creek Nature Preserve.
- Staff presented social media and outreach statistics for a snapshot in time.
- Staff presented CoMo Canopy project results.

## Participation in community events, engagement, and collaboration with staff:

- Garden cleanup at the City Hall garden.
- Swift Night Out, hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on April 29.
- Tabled at the Butterfly Festival at Jefferson Farm and Garden on June 21.

(Note: the CEC signed up to table at the Columbia Earth Day Festival, however, the original date was rained out and members were unable to attend on the makeup date).