



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, December 4, 2017
6:00 PM

Pre-Council

Conference Room
1A/1B
Columbia City Hall
701 E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:02 pm. Councilmember Peters arrived at approximately 6:05 pm and Councilmember Trapp arrived at approximately 6:08 pm.

Climate Action Plan Process Update

Attachments: [Climate Action Plan Update Presentation](#)

City Manager Mike Matthes introduced Barbara Buffaloe, Sustainability Manager. Mr. Matthes mentioned that the Office of Sustainability pays for itself through savings from energy efficiency. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that this presentation is a 6-month update on the status of the Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Buffaloe provided some background information on the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. She specifically mentioned that in June 2017 the Columbia City Council agreed to reaffirm Columbia's commitment to climate action. In doing so the City of Columbia signed on to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy - an international alliance of cities and communities supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and move to a resilient society. The city also resolved to create a climate action plan. The timeframe given for the project was two years from June - so we hope to have a plan back to Council by June 2019.

Ms. Buffaloe then discussed that a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan is basically a roadmap of strategies to reduce our impact. She then listed the three components of a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan: (1) an analysis of current system conditions; (2) a vision of what a transformed system could look like; and (3) a portfolio of strategies for moving toward that vision. Ms. Buffaloe noted that many cities' climate action plans focus on four large-scale systems that are the main sources of urban carbon emissions: (1) Energy Supply; (2) Building Energy Efficiency; (3) Transportation; and (4) Solid Waste. Ms. Buffaloe stated that these sources are the ones that we track via our GHG Emissions Inventory, which we completed this summer after the resolution was adopted. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan will have strategies designed for our community to reduce the impacts of these sources. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that a strategy that has already

been in place, like the demand side management programs that Utility Services offer for energy efficiency upgrades, have saved over 4000 mWh and about \$1.3M in lower energy bills in the last four years. Mayor Treece asked if part of the plan includes a baseline from which we can compare our progress. Ms. Buffaloe said that there will be a baseline which will be based on year 2000 levels.

Ms. Buffaloe mentioned some strategies for adaptation which are to increase biodiversity; incentivize water conservation; and increase urban tree canopy and green infrastructure to make us resilient to flooding or hotter weather. Ms. Buffaloe stated that the plan will not be a fixed plan and will require an iterative process that is measured and evaluated at set interval with course correction as we go along.

Councilmember Trapp asked if bond rating agencies are requiring climate action plans. Ms. Buffaloe stated that she had reviewed an article on that topic, but thought that the requirement was currently being applied to coastal communities and not cities in the Midwest like Columbia. Councilmember Trapp asked if we would partner with the Boone County Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Matthes said that the Office of Emergency Management would be a natural partner agency for this type of work, but pointed out that they are currently going through a transition with new leadership. Councilmember Thomas asked about how communities measure resiliency and adaptation. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that this would be something that Cascadia, the consultant for the plan, would be able to assist with. Councilmember Pitzer asked how we will measure the impact of surrounding communities on our data. Ms.

Buffaloe stated that we currently measure scope 1 emissions (direct emissions in our boundaries) and scope 2 emissions (indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy), but we do not measure scope 3 emissions (other indirect emissions not covered by scope 2 which includes the emissions used to create and transport a product in another location that is used or consumed in our boundaries). Councilmember Skala asked how dependent we will be on federal regulations and asked about our ability to be flexible when the regulations change over time.

Councilmember Skala mentioned energy star as an example. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that the consultant will conduct a wedge analysis to look at this issue.

Ms. Buffaloe stated that the City of Columbia has contracted with Cascadia Consulting Group to assist with this process and added that there are seven major tasks that they will complete for us. Ms. Buffaloe noted that they will help review our GHG emissions inventories to ensure we are capturing it correctly and will help in developing a municipal GHH inventory because we have not had the tools to do this in the past. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that Cascadia will also be working with our Climate Action Advisory Committee on the adaptation and mitigation strategies that we can do in Columbia.

Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that effectively communicating and engaging with our community is going to be key for success and there will be multiple opportunities for the public to guide the direction of this plan and provide their inputs for what is the vision and strategies we can take. The public engagement plan will help ensure this is a plan by and for the community with the community's vision for the future of Columbia.

We will also be working with other recent plans, like Columbia Imagined, to review the public input that they gathered. It's an opportunity to reflect and respect previous citizen input and planning processes in this new plan. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that one of the key opportunities for public engagement will be through our Climate Action Advisory Committee. Ms. Buffaloe then discussed her recommendations for the advisory committee. She mentioned it should be a public committee made up of at least 11 members to guide the plans development. The key sectors should include council advisory board members; business, social, and environmental sectors; major stakeholders and subject matter/technical experts. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that the council can also appoint at-large members according to expertise and knowledge the individual brings to the committee as well as encouraging sub-committees of the group on specific topics or subjects so that we can involve more experts. Ms. Buffaloe put forward the following advisory committee tasks: develop CAAP goals and objectives; inform public engagement plan; review interim and final project deliverables; and provide direction on prioritization of strategies and consideration of technical and community input.

Mayor Treece stated that his preference is to have a larger group and would prefer for it to be a task force. He mentioned that he would prefer to have many stakeholder groups represented. He specifically mentioned having a member from the insurance industry on the task force. Councilmember Skala agreed with having a larger advisory group and felt that it would be important to ensure that there is engagement and participation throughout the process with the public. Councilmember Thomas also agreed with the idea of having a larger number for the advisory group and specifically mentioned the number 15. He stated that he would like to see someone from Public Transit Advisory Commission or the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission on the advisory group. Councilmember Thomas also mentioned that he believed that we need to have an advisory committee now. Mayor Treece recommended that staff bring back a resolution to form a task force and mentioned that councilmembers could use the next 30 days to submit names of possible task force members. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that the committee would meet monthly after being appointed. She also mentioned that the committee will assist with coordinating the spring public event and other community events.

Ms. Buffaloe then reviewed carbon reduction goals set by other cities, which all had "by 2050" timelines. A lot of cities are using 80% by 2050 because of the recommendation from the Union of Concerned Scientists. Councilmember Thomas asked if the progress was measured per capita emissions or total emissions. Ms. Buffaloe stated that it varied depending on the city. Councilmember Thomas asked when the goals on the slide had been created. Ms. Buffaloe stated that most had been done within the last 3 years. Councilmember Thomas asked if any of the cities had created goals addressing specific sectors. Ms. Buffaloe stated that some cities had done that.

Ms. Buffaloe stated that for a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan to be effective it will take a collaboration of multiple efforts. Ms. Buffaloe then referred to the fact that

there are many plans currently in place that will assist with goals. Ms. Buffaloe specifically mentioned the Strategic Plan and the overarching goal of social equity which would be an important aspect of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. She added that Cascadia will be evaluating anticipated social equity impacts of every proposed mitigation and adaptation action. She also mentioned the Electric Integrated Resource Plan and stated that it will help guide what energy resources the utility should be seeking and what programs should be included in their offerings.

Councilmember Pitzer asked if any communities that have done plans have learned lessons from their experiences that we may gain insight from. Ms. Buffaloe stated that Portland, Oregon did not initially include equity in their climate action plan. Fort Collins, Colorado did not initially include adaption in their plan. Both of those are important factors to include in the City of Columbia's plan and have been included. Councilmember Pitzer stated that he liked the idea of the dashboard. He also mentioned that when people can see what we are doing and how it impacts them then it can be useful in building and maintaining support for a program. Councilmember Skala asked if the consultant would make any recommendations regarding the City's renewable energy portfolio. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that we can ask them to look at anything. Councilmember Thomas asked about the feasibility of getting out of current contracts where energy is supplied to the city by coal. Ms. Buffaloe informed council that she did not feel she was the best person to address that question. Councilmember Pitzer asked how the university would be included. Ms. Buffaloe mentioned that she would encourage for them to have representation on the task force and discussed the fact that the university did have technological expertise that would benefit the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. Councilmember Thomas felt that having a younger person on the task force could be advantageous and he specifically mentioned the idea of having a student from Columbia Public Schools or the Youth Advisory Council. Councilmember Skala liked the idea of having youth on the task force and felt it might be beneficial to include youth on other task forces and/or commissions.

II. ALL OTHER ITEMS THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

None

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:46 pm.