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Project: Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Update

Ideas: Comments [2022-02-22 to 2026-06-07]

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Likes	Comments
1	Idea: City vehicles using higher ethanol blends like E15 and E30 would be an easy way to lower carbon intensity, lower cost, and improve emissions Description: Higher ethanol blends are the only way to reduce emissions from the existing vehicle fleet at a lower cost to taxpayers. E15 @ 88 octane is a \$0.15/gallon discount to regular gasoline, and E30 @ 93 octane is a \$0.30/gallon discount to regular gasoline and an \$0.80/gallon discount to premium gasoline. Ethanol is over 46% lower carbon intensity compared to regular gasoline and improves other emissions due to being an oxygenate in combustion. E15 is EPA approved for all vehicles 2001 and newer. Ethanol is produced in MO from local corn and supports farmers and rural areas. If fuel sourcing was coordinated between the City and Mizzou, the benefits and savings would be even greater for the community.	stevem	28 Oct 2025, 01:42 PM	0	1
2	Comment: Corn ethanol is a net negative for the environment. Our farmers need programs to convert their land to growing more sustainable produce rather than increasing inedible grain consumption.	RScheidt	01 Apr 2026, 02:23 PM		
3	Idea: Greenhouse gases seem to be the focus for concerned citizens. Cascadia's pro-forma processes may dilute that focus rather than address it.	DoughHunt	01 Nov 2025, 02:20 PM	1	0
4	Idea: NO!! All this will do is increase cost. Description: All this will do is increase the cost which will then be passed on via increases in bills. Columbia is already cost out of control.	jg5087	11 Dec 2025, 05:21 PM	1	0
5	Idea: No!! also. :) Description: Columbians love the Earth, no dispute. Its a priorities and impact thing, in regards to gov action. Let's triage. Thanks!	nerfnada	26 Dec 2025, 11:56 PM	0	0

Idea: Based on my comments to the WALB on renewable energy

Description: Regardless of how the city intends to replace the Sikeston piece of its energy portfolio, utility scale battery storage has been shown to be an effective way to address pressure at the regional grid level that is beyond the city's control. Battery storage will also help address capacity concerns, especially if paired with renewable energy production such as solar or access such as wind power for climate action. Battery storage may eventually result in rate savings for customers. The cost of batteries is expected to decline over the next few years. Therefore, the City should expedite, not postpone, efforts to plan, fund and incorporate utility scale battery storage.

Given the city's interest in climate adaptation and action, I would like to see a plan to pursue robust partnerships with the largest electricity users and sectors to install energy efficiency retrofits or large scale measures such as the use of industrial heat pumps. I believe Columbia's commercial sector is currently the biggest GHG emitter

6 from electricity use. That could be from all the parking lot and security lighting. Expanding community solar projects (neighborhood solar power for apartment blocks and industrial parks?) could also be a feature of such partnerships. Financial flexibility mechanisms will be necessary to facilitate these efficiency innovations for major users. We already have a structure in place for low interest loans and rebates. Retrofits and upgrades are likely to play a significant role in reducing GHG emissions while planning for the city's expected growth in energy usage. One sensible suggestion is to support the current proposal that all new residences be built as electric ready, including panel upgrades to accommodate future options such as roof top solar. This concept should also be considered on a larger scale, for new commercial, industrial and apartment buildings. The upfront cost is much, much less than a later upgrade. Might it be possible for the duration of gas contracts to last for shorter times while the city develops its renewable energy portfolio? Natural gas use should be regarded as more of a bridge mechanism.

Howard Fenster

25 Jan 2026, 03:26 PM

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Idea: CAAP and Transportation

Description: Address of transportation for CAAP is so hard because it is related to development patterns that depend on driving private cars. EV charging stations are not enough, nor should we assume that wide scale use of EVs is realistic unless automakers sell smaller, cheaper ones. That is beyond our control. Much more promising is scaling hybrid technology to larger vehicles. That is also beyond our control. We really do need to think seriously about driving a lot less AND at the same time design alternatives that prioritize the comfort and convenience that are the major advantages of private cars.

7 There needs to be incentive for building higher density housing clustered in attractive parks, play areas and garden spaces. They would include workshops, offices and small retail spaces. These ecovillages would be served by an integrated transportation system based on the following features:

Howard Fenster

25 Jan 2026, 03:36 PM

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- a. Shared sign out community vehicles or ride hail, for short duration trips.
- b. Scheduled neighborhood shuttle vans for commuter trips (like school buses) and cross town travel. These could offer curbside pickup and drop off.
- c. Scheduled intercity buses to JC, STL and KC.
- d. Encourage telecommute and delivery services.

The above would take much cooperation and amount to a transformative, cultural awakening, but I think the coming generations are ready and willing.

Idea: Please make Columbia more pedestrian friendly!

8 Description: There is a huge demand for more pedestrian-friendly infrastructure in our city! As a college town with a hefty student population, many residents do not have cars either for convenience or affordability reasons. I would love to see Columbia become a place where pedestrians can navigate effectively all throughout the city without having to worry about their safety. Infrastructure such as larger, more-maintained sidewalks, barrier-protected bike lanes, green space buffers, bus stop rest areas, and bike racks can be added in place of skinnier lanes for cars, or by creating pedestrian-only spaces that are completely car-free. Not only would this bring us closer to our climate goals, but it fosters a better, stronger community by encouraging socialization and community engagement! Please consider this vision for a brighter, community-focused future in Columbia.

Abby

18 Feb 2026, 11:19 AM

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9	Idea: Data Center Consideration Description: The energy demand for data centers in our state/region will likely continue to increase at an extreme rate over the next five years. Please consider implementing a proactive recommendation within the CAAP to addressing data centers, that would state IF they are to be built in our region they must bring their own new renewable energy. Thank you to all who contributed to this update!	Tyler Travers	19 Mar 2026, 10:13 AM	3	0
10	Idea: Waste communications strategy Description: The Iffy Creek Compost Collective is licensed and insured to work with residents in the City who are interested in composting their kitchen waste but cannot do it at home because of space or landlord or other barriers!www.iffycompost.com	RScheidt	01 Apr 2026, 02:19 PM	0	0
11	Idea: It would be great to see progress towards a rebated battery storage program and expand the community solar program to include low-income.	Philip Fracica	07 Apr 2026, 09:23 AM	1	0
12	Idea: A few goals that should be added to the CAAP: Description: First, I would love to see MISO invest in clean energy which would help Columbia reach its 100% emission reduction target by 2060. Additionally, it would be great to see Columbia consider TOU rates alongside the continued rollout of AMI, as Boone Electric is already doing this. I would also recommend adding battery storage to Columbia's solar rebate program, which the city can then access during high demand energy periods. Finally, the CAAP should expand upon the community solar goal and include a program offering for eligible low-income customers.	Maddie	07 Apr 2026, 12:07 PM	1	0

Idea: The overall plan appears well intentioned, but is still too general to work as an effective guide for action and

Description: shoots in so many different directions. The plan should feature more frequent timeframes that have a few operationalized objectives with their cost estimates and options for revenue. If I saw that kind of plan I would say it was a believable plan. There's a grid with a lot of actions which seem scattershot and unweighted with respect to what each action will do to reduce GHG emissions. In retrospect, the original 20 year goal for reducing GHG emissions had too much wiggle room. The time frames should be smaller, the deadlines quicker, with specific operational objectives that mandate work to be done immediately and ongoing until achieved. We should be looking for not a plan of vision that points to a lot of "maybes" but a plan of execution; robust and intrepid. At this point, two year goals might make better sense. The goals can be realistically linked to anticipated incremental reductions to be achieved every two years and accordingly measured. Here are some examples

13 of what I think are two year goals to illustrate my point: At least two major commercial emitters will be incentivized to install industrial heat pumps. Incentivize the same for at least two major apartment complexes or ten percent of large public buildings. Incentivize the same rooftop for solar installations on comparable structures. Build community solar for at least one residential neighborhood. All new natural gas contracts will be capacity contracts. Start a neighborhood based electric minibus/van subscription ride hail service for multiple passengers traveling back and forth to the same areas to supplement the bus system. Start electric car versions of ride hail service or taxi. Next, I do think the plan does point to the importance of the CAAP being a central priority of the City, the Finance Dept, the Planning Dept (admittedly a hard sell) that determines policy making overall instead of being just another plan to take into account. Any CAAP related goal should be budgeted on an annual basis with its attendant funding mechanism. Right now, climate related implementation responsibilities are scattered across numerous city departments. The Office of Sustainability principally exists for the City's own operations. A single

Howard Fenster

10 Apr 2026, 08:09 PM

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Idea: The plan needs to include a report of where future GHG emissions reductions are expected to be found and changes implemented.

Description: After six and one-half years and with only seven years to go until the first milestones in 2035 for emissions reductions, the plan should include a roadmap for how the city plans to meet the 2035 goals. Of course, these would be plans and estimates but without these, it is unlikely the goals will be achieved. According to the 2024 Greenhouse Gas Inventory report, municipal emissions are down 23.3% and community emissions are down 14% from the 2015 baseline. Where is 26.7% from municipal emissions and 21% from community emissions going to come from? There should be a table that breaks down a plan into hopefully achievable areas such as the following: Sector – Action Forecast implementation date Expected Emissions Reduction (MTCO₂e) % of 2015 baseline forecasted reduction examples: Energy - add solar to city buildings 2031 xxxxx yy% Energy – add 35% more renewable energy to power generation to replace coal contract with Sikeston 2031 xxxxx yy% Buildings – EE Retrofits on city buildings 2028 xxxx yy% Etc. Or at least allocate the emissions reductions into the major plan sectors such as Energy, Transportation, etc.

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Camparan

11 Apr 2026, 11:49 AM

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15	Idea: Implementing battery storage both at Utility-scale and by private owners is crucial to the next 5 years. Description: These actions must be retained in the plan: E-2.1.1 Develop energy storage (battery) programs for all customer types to reduce peak demand, support electric grid reliability and improve the effectiveness of storage and other renewable energy options. And E-2.2.3 Implement Utility Scale energy storage. Battery storage is critical to the future of the clean electric grid. In the past 10 years battery prices for utility scale storage have declined 87%. The 2026 IRP makes it clear that pushing battery storage implementation beyond 5 years is not a good plan. It would be helpful to customers to add battery storage to the City's solar rebate and low interest loan programs as well. Supporting more battery storage in the community would also enable W&L to "call up" this power when needed and create a Virtual Power Plant.	Campanan	11 Apr 2026, 11:51 AM	1	0
16	Idea: The 2026 IRP suggests possibly investing in new Natural Gas generating assets. We must understand the GHG emissions and the climate impact. Description: Action E-1.2.2 Must be retained within as a 5-year action. "Consider all renewable energy sources on a cost per metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent reduction in the City's integrated resource plan." At the time this was written the taskforce was concerned about biofuels, we did not anticipate W&L wanting to add fossil fuel resources. This action needs to be updated as follows: Consider all energy sources on a cost per metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent reduction in the City's integrated resource plan." No fossil fuel energy generating assets should be added to the W&L portfolio without full knowledge of the impact on GHG emissions and all the global climates.	Campanan	11 Apr 2026, 11:54 AM	1	0
17	Idea: The city needs to commit to a date to achieve 100% renewable energy. Without a commitment the necessary interim steps won't be taken. Description: Action E-1.3.2 to "Codify through ordinance Columbia Water & Light's responsibility to meet 100% renewable energy generation or purchase by 2035, etc." This action needs to stay in the 5-year plan as it is important that the community establish a long-term goal to achieve 100%. It can be updated to another target date or the date removed and left to be determined but it should stay in the plan. Within 2 years, this community should be able to make a plan and a commitment to a future date. Numerous U.S. STATES have committed to 100% renewable energy. If states can make the commitment so can Columbia.	Campanan	11 Apr 2026, 11:56 AM	1	0

18	Idea: A program to assist low- and middle-income homeowners and landlords to finance energy efficiency improvements is critical Description: Action item H1.1.2 needs to be retained as a 5-year action item. It is imperative that the city find a way to assist low- and middle-income homeowners or landlords of tenants improve the energy efficiency of their dwellings. This is another item where there is a lack of transparency regarding why it cannot be implemented. Saying it is infeasible is not an acceptable answer. If there are financial constraints, then those need to be built into the program with limits on the city's financial contribution within a fiscal year. If there is a cost associated with implementation, that needs to be shared with the public and the city council.	Camparan	11 Apr 2026, 11:58 AM	0	0
19	Idea: City needs to pass an ordinance that tenants be notified of the unit's flood risk before the lease signing Description: There are and have been proposed multi-family dwellings and their parking lots built or proposed in the 100-year floodplain. An 5-year action needs to be added to bring before City Council a resolution to require landlords to notify tenants before they sign the lease if any part of the building or the parking lot is in the 100-year floodplain or if any part of the building has flooded in the past such as a basement apartment. Additionally, the tenants should be notified to the extent to which the landlord does or does not have insurance to cover any potential loss of the tenant due to flooding. Before they move in, tenants deserve to know the risk of their personal property or their car flooding. As the likelihood of flooding increases with the changing climate, this is a matter of fairness and equity.	Camparan	11 Apr 2026, 12:01 PM	0	0
20	Idea: Columbia needs glass recycling Now Description: Columbia urgently needs glass recycling. The message is finally being accepted by the public that plastic is not good for us or the planet and one of the key alternatives is glass. Communities all over Missouri have Ripple Glass recycling. Why don't we? I request an action item to establish glass recycling within Columbia within the calendar year 2026. People are making extra trips to Jefferson City to recycle their glass and that is increasing transportation emissions.	Camparan	11 Apr 2026, 06:40 PM	0	0

21	Idea: Strengthen the CAAP Description: I understand that the intentions of all who've worked to create the CAAP are the best, but from the start, the goals of the original CAAP were too weak to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions quickly enough to address the existential threat the climate crisis poses. In the nearly seven years since the CAAP was adopted the scientific community has declared that climate change is coming our way faster than expected and that this requires that we reduce our GHG emissions on an accelerated basis. Instead of calling for an accelerated timeline with revised targets, the proposed revision calls for no change in the targets and provides no specific targets for moving our electric generating mix in the direction of renewables—sun and wind—and no targets for adopting battery storage. It does not address the needed revision of the renewable energy ordinance, which has been on back burner for many months passed its expected date. The revised CAAP does not address the need to have a timeline to phase out the use of coal to generate electricity and does not address the need to commit to no new fossil fuel generation, or put another way, does not eschew the installation of new, fossil fuel generating capacity. We need to reject any proposal for new natural gas plants being added to our generating mix as any new units would be in operation, polluting the air and altering the climate with their emissions for decades to come. We need to phase out fossil fuel for electric power much sooner than the expected lives of new plants.	Mark Haim	11 Apr 2026, 06:56 PM	1	0
22	Idea: League of Women Voters - Comments submitted by Barbara Hoppe, Board Member and Climate and Energy Chair Description: The LWVCBC appreciates the City's effort and work to update the 2019 CAAP. The LWVCBC was key in both getting renewable energy standards set for the City of Columbia way back when and then working to gradually increase them. For about the last two years the LWVCBC has been part of a Coalition to raise the Renewable Energy Goals for the City of Columbia Utility to 100% by 2030. We reluctantly agreed to lower that goal slightly to 75% by 2030 and 100% by 2035 to give the City more time to achieve these goals. Given the urgent climate crisis in the world as well as the local impacts, much more needs to be done than what is indicated in the CAAP draft. Many other comparable cities have set higher and achievable renewable energy goals. For example Dubuque, Iowa, adopted a plan to reduce the entire Community Emissions by 50% by 2030. Dubuque, Iowa was the model I used when I advocated successfully for the Columbia City Council to hire its first sustainability director back in 2009 when I was on City Council. Ann Arbor, Michigan, where I lived and received my BA, has set the goal of powering the entire community with 100% renewable energy by the year 2030. In 2022, Ann Arbor City Council commissioned a study to analyze which pathways the city should consider. Specifically, City Council requested:• Creation of an energy options analysis that provides details about the various pathways the city could take to achieve its clean energy goals;• Completion of a traditional electric utility municipalization feasibility study; and• Completion of a two-phase rate analysis for a Sustainable Energy Utility. Ann Arbor voters then passed ballot Proposal A with 79% of the vote in 2024 approving the creation of a sustainable energy utility.	Lelande Rehard	13 Apr 2026, 12:54 PM	0	0

The SEU was proposed with the aim of supporting the city's carbon-neutrality goals outlined in the A2Zero plan. It created a city-owned alternative to DTE Energy service that can supply, generate, transmit, distribute and store electricity from renewable sources. The utility will not impact residents' taxes or energy bills unless they choose to opt into it because it does not replace the DTE grid.)Columbia should consider doing something similar. We had a community survey done in 1999 that showed the citizens would support a parks tax to buy Stephens Lake Park and provide for future parks and trails. Columbia's first Parks tax was passed overwhelmingly in 2000. We need to be a leader in our renewable energy goals and "make our reach exceed our grasp" to truly achieve as much as is possible in this crucial life or death crisis for us and the planet!As to the other aspects of the CAAP draft, our biggest comment is that there needs to be yearly goals set, with action items to achieve them, by each department involved, that they are held accountable for and are reported to the Council. Otherwise, this is just a plan that sits on the shelf, like so many other good intention but too vague plans.Thanks for your work, but the City's renewable energy goals and achievements are way to slow and personally very depressing to me and to many others in our community who have worked so hard on this for so many years!

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Lelande Rehard

13 Apr 2026, 12:54 PM

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END OF REPORT