

Council Memo

Department Source: Sustainability

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 20, 2026

Re: Adopting changes to the City of Columbia's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

Staff proposes updating the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) following its recommended review. Staff has prepared a policy resolution that rescinds the current legislation and adopts and reaffirms the original Sector Goals and Strategies.

The proposed Policy Resolution maintains Council authority over the plan's Sector Goals and Strategies and management of the specific Actions will be administered by City staff.

Progress reports and significant changes to Actions will continue to be reviewed with the Climate and Environment Commission; reported to the Council in the Annual Report and provided as requested.

The Community and Municipal emissions reduction goals are established with Resolution No. 130-18 and will not be impacted by the proposed Policy Resolution.

Discussion

The City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan was adopted by Policy Resolution PR 89-19 A on June 17th, 2019. The Policy Resolution approved and adopted the entire plan, including goals, strategies, and actions. The CAAP recommends the plan be updated every 5 years, "Updating the CAAP every five years will allow Columbia to adaptively manage its climate actions and ensure that the Plan continues to optimally serve the community" (pg. 41, Adopted Climate Action and Adaptation Plan).

Beginning in 2024 staff reviewed progress on the first 5 years of plan implementation and consulted with other communities that have updated their climate plans. Staff insights concurred with the experience of other cities that updates are best used for focusing action for the next 5 years. Following a competitive procurement process the City engaged Cascadia Consulting Group (Cascadia) in August, 2025 to assist with the first update of the plan. The review and update process did not examine the sector goals, strategies or greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) reduction targets. The update process has resulted in a more manageable list of ~20-30 actions from the original list of over 160. Over the next 5 years, implementation will focus resources on these high-impact, achievable actions to move toward our Community's climate and sustainability goals.

During the review of the CAAP, Staff and Cascadia focused on engaging local, state, and national stakeholders with resources, interest, and expertise in supporting action over the next 5 years. Engagement included a hybrid community webinar, interviews, stakeholder

focus groups, a community leaders focus group, an implementation planning session, and numerous informal meetings and discussions. The engagement strategy is documented in the update report on pages 11-14 and in Appendix B.

Over the course of the project, actions were organized as follows to assist with prioritization:

- **5-year plan** for near-term priority actions.
- **Ongoing** for actions already in progress or expected to continue.
- **Long-term** for important initiatives to revisit in future CAAP updates or actions that will be more cost effective or technologically feasible later on (e.g., focusing on building energy efficiency in the near term and renewable energy in the longer-term).
- **Modified** for completed actions, those determined to be infeasible, or –most often– consolidated into the language of other actions.

Stakeholder engagement focused on selecting 5-year plan actions and beginning considerations for near term implementation. A BeHeard Page was launched at the beginning of the project and remained available for the submission of Public Comments to the CAAP Update process.

During the coming implementation the priority of CAAP actions will shift in order to respond to changing state/federal policies and funding; new technologies; new partnerships, etc. Replacing the policy resolution in the manner proposed will enable those closest to implementation to move more efficiently and effectively. Annual reports and updates upon request will continue and any changes to the sector goals and strategies would continue to require Council approval.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Date	Action
6/17/2019	Council approval of Policy Resolution PR 89-19 A

Suggested Council Action

City staff recommends Council approve the policy resolution.