



Department Source: Sustainability

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 17, 2023

Re: Authorizing an agreement between the City of Columbia and the University of Missouri – Columbia for support of a Commercial Building Efficiency Workforce Development Pilot Project

Executive Summary

The University of Missouri – Columbia's Midwest Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) provides energy assessment for local and regional industrial facilities. The IAC has received additional funding to establish the Midwest Industrial Energy Technologies Center of Excellence (COE). The COE will expand the IAC's support to include energy assessment of commercial facilities and workforce training in high-performing and energy efficient building systems. Two to three of the buildings evaluated each year will be city-owned buildings. The Office of Sustainability will support this program with in-kind technical assistance and \$3,500 per year.

Discussion

The University of Missouri – Columbia's Midwest Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) provides energy assessment for local and regional industrial facilities. As a result of the strong alignment of the City of Columbia's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan's goals of reducing energy use in buildings and its current partnership with the IAC, significant benefits as an organization from the addition of the Commercial Building Efficiency Workforce Development Pilot Project are anticipated. Direct financial and emissions reductions from energy savings to the City as an organization can provide significant operational benefit. Establishing a Center of Excellence at the Midwest IAC will provide important benefits to our community, the Midwest region, and the nation.

The addition of a Center of Excellence aligns with the City of Columbia's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan's strategy to "develop community leadership capacity for involvement in climate action by engaging with community partners, identify unmet community needs, barriers and opportunities to improve access to the green job economy for all community members."

There is a growing demand for qualified and experienced professionals in the design, installation and maintenance of modern energy efficient building systems without whom our ability make needed improvements will not be successful. Investing in the inclusive development and expansion of the local workforce makes our local and national goals of reducing energy use and associated emissions; introducing new and energy efficient technologies in the industrial and commercial buildings space; improving energy equity and reducing costs to businesses and consumers an attainable reality.

Two to three of the buildings evaluated each year will be city-owned buildings. The Office of Sustainability will support this program with in-kind technical assistance and \$3,500 per year.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$7,000

Long-Term Impact: \$3,500 / yr

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence,

Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Economic Development, Tertiary Impact:

Inter-Governmental Cooperation

Legislative History

Date	Action
	NA

Suggested Council Action

Staff recommends approval of this agreement.