



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Final

Climate and Environment Commission

Tuesday, July 22, 2025
6:00 PM

City Hall
Conference Room 1A
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 9 - Linda Godwin, Abra Spisso, Emily Gustafson, David Huhman, Alexis Hall, Richard Shanker, Andrew Sell, Nathan Elwood and Cherylyn Kelley

Excused: 6 - Leanne Tippet Mosby, Eric Kvam, Kira Smith, Abby Dickinson, Morgan Wozniak and Eileen Avery

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Carolyn Amparan, Chair of the Mid-Missouri Sierra Club, was present as a member of the public.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gustafson made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Kelley; motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kelley made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Godwin; motion carried.

Draft Meeting Minutes 6-24-2025

Attachments: Draft Meeting Minutes 6-24-2025

V. SPECIAL ITEMS

Missouri State Climatologist Presentation - Zack Leasor, PhD

Attachments: Missouri State Climatologist Presentation

State Climatologist Zack Leasor, PhD, presented to the Commission, followed by a Q&A session covering topics such as soil moisture and the CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network) citizen science program.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

CEC Priority Actions

Members reviewed and affirmed their ongoing priority actions. They noted that the presentation from the State Climatologist, delivered earlier in the meeting, provided valuable insight that supported progress on their Natural Resources priority and informed the status update.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

August 2025 Meeting Date

Commission members agreed to cancel the August meeting due to a lack of quorum and the absence of any time-sensitive agenda items requiring immediate attention.

Kelley made a motion to cancel the Climate and Environment Commission's August meeting, seconded by Huhman; motion carried.

VIII. REPORTS

Chair Report

The Chair informed the Commission of the success of past Swift Night Out mental health walks and will provide updates on future events, and encouraged members to follow news on the Grain Belt Express project and related federal developments.

Staff Report

Staff provided an update on Solarize Columbia, a new community-driven bulk-purchase campaign for solar panels and battery storage available to local homeowners, businesses, and nonprofits, which is now accepting registrations. Staff also briefed members on ongoing Office of Sustainability initiatives, including the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan update.

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Carolyn Amparan, Chair of the Mid-Missouri Sierra Club, spoke in support of the Solarize Columbia campaign as a meaningful step toward advancing clean energy in Columbia. Amparan encouraged Commission members to share the campaign within their personal networks to help interested individuals take advantage of the opportunity.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

September 23, 2025

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.