



CLIMATE ACTION KC KANSAS 2022 STATE POLICY PLATFORM

Climate change is an increasing threat to Kansans' health, safety, and prosperity. The ongoing climate crisis demands immediate action from every level of government, from local to state to federal. Continued investment in our abundant wind and solar resources can maximize energy, economic, environmental and health benefits. With a commitment to rapidly and equitably decarbonize our electricity, transportation, agriculture and building sectors, Kansas can build community resilience and be a leader in the fight against climate change. In conjunction with the recently released [Climate Action Plan](#), Climate Action KC recommends the following actions for Kansas legislators to consider in their 2022 policy priorities.

CLEAN ENERGY

We strongly support efforts to move aggressively toward generating 100% of our state's electricity needs with **renewable energy**. We support a strong clean energy export market. With Kansas' ability to lead in wind and solar power, along with its relatively low population, we think significant progress is achievable by 2030.

We support a modernized grid to expand **distributed energy resources**, including microgrids for increased resiliency, energy efficiency, demand-side management, solar, wind and storage. We support policies designed to facilitate consumer transitions to clean energy, including utilization of third-party **Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)** to reduce operating costs using onsite clean energy.

We support action to enable and foster both **commercial and residential solar**, including fair rate structures.

We support legislation that incentivizes energy efficiency improvements in commercial and residential buildings. To maximize energy efficiency opportunities for all Kansans, we urge the inclusion of on-bill financing or **Pay As You Save (PAYS)** and energy savings goals in utility energy efficiency programs. We support joining 35+ other states and enabling **commercial property-assessed clean energy (C-PACE)** voluntary financing to fund climate-related building improvements including energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water efficiency projects.

We support opportunities to relieve the burden of high energy bills on vulnerable populations, through affordable **energy efficiency** for all customers, whether supplied through utilities or other public or private organizations. Finally, we urge the development of a **Utility Safety Rule**, which will prevent electricity disconnections during extreme weather events or medically-necessary situations to safeguard the health and safety of Kansans.

We support **securitization** to retire uneconomic coal power assets with the aim of expediting the transition to clean energy technologies. Securitization, with proper oversight by the Kansas Corporation Commission, should save ratepayers money and can provide worker retraining and community economic development funds for impacted communities.

We are opposed to the continuation of **horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing**.

We support the development of a statewide energy plan with robust stakeholder engagement, to guide the transition to a 21st century energy system.

We encourage the State of Kansas to set **energy savings targets** for new and existing state government facilities and require them to benchmark their energy use.

Finally, we encourage Governor Kelly to join a bipartisan group of Governors in the U.S. Climate Alliance.

TRANSPORTATION

We support the preservation of funding and policy improvement for **alternative transportation options** within the state of Kansas, from encouraging traditional mobility alternatives like walking, biking, and train travel to modern methods such as electric vehicles, electric-assist bicycles, and expanded public transportation options.

We support policies designed to facilitate transitions to **electric and hybrid vehicles**, including the state fleet when possible or available. We support the expansion of **electric charging station infrastructure** within the state in order to increase the pace of electric car adoption, including state/local incentives for the installation of electric vehicle charging equipment and/or the purchase of pluggable electric vehicles. Finally, we oppose any possible future tax increases on electric and hybrid vehicles.

When hybrid or electric options aren't available or feasible in the interim path toward carbon-free transportation, we support policy efforts toward increasing fuel efficiency and use of low-emission, renewable, and waste-to-fuel transportation in a holistic effort to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions.

We support the continuation and expansion of **Rails to Trails** in Kansas, which is a boon to both sustainable transportation and tourism.

AGRICULTURE

We support legislation that incentivizes **regenerative agriculture** and carbon farming through grants and loans; we support expanded state promotion of climate resilience and carbon sequestration practices through education and research.

We support the practices that Kansas farmers can adopt and that the state can incentivize include: composting; reduced or no use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides; cover cropping, which provides multiple benefits including carbon sequestration, soil improvement, and water retention; reducing or eliminating tillage; rotational grazing; and others that address carbon, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions.

LAND USE/ENVIRONMENT

We support expanding **utility-scale wind and solar production** in a fair and equitable manner by balancing societal and ecological impacts.

We support the property rights of Kansans to put their land in **conservation easements** in perpetuity.

We support increasing **dedicated state funding** for climate action, including programs that enhance land and water conservation, healthy soils, and parks. Including definitions of healthy soil and watershed through **Healthy Soils Legislation**.

We oppose **preemption of local control** as it relates to clean energy, environmental, or climate change policies.

We support the **30X30 initiative** to conserve 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030, in order to protect the natural beauty and biodiversity we all love in Kansas.