



CLIMATE ACTION KC MISSOURI 2022 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Climate change presents an increasing threat to our way of life, directly or indirectly affecting the health, safety, and prosperity of all Missouri citizens. Our ongoing climate emergency demands immediate and universal action from every level of government, from local, to state, to federal. By protecting the people of Missouri from the worst damages of climate change, including those communities most susceptible to climate disaster, we can assist in socioeconomic and racial parity in the state. Continued investment in our abundant wind and solar resources can maximize energy, economic, environmental and health benefits. With an active mitigation of global warming Missouri can continue to benefit from tourism because of our beautiful public lands, forestry, and water. With a commitment to rapidly decarbonize our electricity, transportation, agriculture, and buildings sectors, Missouri will shoulder its responsibility in helping to create the sustainable future required for the health and welfare of all succeeding generations of Missourians. In conjunction with the recently released [Climate Action Plan](#), Climate Action KC recommends the following actions for Missouri legislators to consider in their 2022 policy priorities.

CLEAN ENERGY

We strongly support efforts to move Missouri to **renewable energy**. Missouri should aim to generate enough clean, renewable energy to power all of Missouri's needs. We support partnering with electric utilities to make it easier for them to maximize their renewable energy portfolios. We also support legislative action to promote **clean energy storage** to maximize efficiency and reliability.

Thirty-two states, including Iowa, Illinois, and Arkansas, have enacted Climate Action Plans. Missouri, too, should develop and legislate a **Climate Action Plan** establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets and actions the state will take to achieve these targets. The plan should also specify resiliency strategies and social and economic goals.

Missouri should uphold Proposition C with a **Renewable Energy Standard** of 15% renewable energy by 2021. We support legislation improving our Renewable Energy Standard by a voluntary Renewable Energy Standard of 50% renewable energy by 2035 and being carbon neutral by 2050. We support the state legislation assisting in the implementation of municipal greenhouse gas emission targets and climate commitments.

We support legislation to allow for **third-party community solar development** in Missouri.

We support the legislature taking steps to improve the existing **Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act**. One improvement we encourage is a **statewide building efficiency standard mandate** of at least 1% as the average annual electric savings target for investor-owned utilities over the next 15 years, totaling 15% energy savings by 2035. We support programs that assist energy efficiency programs that will assist low-income communities to retrofit their homes for energy efficiency measures.

We support the construction of the **Grain Belt Express** across Missouri to add 2,500 MW of wind energy to the state, including \$1 billion in project infrastructure investment, up to \$7 billion in energy cost savings, and broadband access for rural communities along the transmission line route.

We support **Community Choice Energy/Aggregation** legislation to allow cities to use their group buying power to purchase cleaner, cheaper energy for residents and businesses.

Given the use and contamination of the state's precious freshwater resources, the associated greenhouse gases, as well as the occurrence of man made earthquakes from wastewater injection from oil and gas operations,, we are opposed to the continuation of **horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing**.

We support the encouragement of **private-sector climate commitments**.

TRANSPORTATION

We support funding and implementing **alternative transportation options and greater multimodal infrastructure** within the state of Missouri, including walking, biking, electric vehicles, and public transportation. We support investments in well-connected multimodal infrastructure, including increased funding dedicated to greater sidewalks and trails, protected bike facilities, and greater transit.

We support the creation of a network of statewide **electric vehicle charging stations and broadband expansion** to rural areas of our state. We support eliminating the use of tax disincentives with respect to **ownership of electric vehicles**. While we understand the state's infrastructure needs and how the current funding mechanism does not account for today's more efficient vehicles of all fuel types, we support the establishment of a committee to re-examine the underlying funding mechanism to promote efficient cars.

We support **Transit Oriented Development**, supporting zoning and land use best practices in areas well served by current and future public transit. This includes further studies on Missouri's **hyperloop initiative** as an alternative form of transportation to driving and air travel, alongside support for further investments into a **high-speed rail system**.

We also support the exploration of ways to support greater usage for **electric-assist bicycles** as a form of mode-shift for individuals and families.

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

We support expanding the Missouri alternative fuel tax credit to include other **cleaner non fossil alternative fuels** such as electric and hydrogen. Furthermore, we support any measures that discontinue our use of hydraulic fracturing.

AGRICULTURE

We support action to implement **regenerative agriculture practices**, including: no tillage; diverse cover crops; in-farm fertility (i.e., no external nutrients); reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers; and multiple crop rotations. Missouri should increase investments into composting for

farmers and encourage carbon sequestration through agriculture practices. Additionally, we support definitions of healthy soils and watersheds defined by **Healthy Soils Legislation**.

We also support the encouragement of **managed grazing** and **improved manure management** to decrease greenhouse gas emissions on animal feeding lots and to encourage methane gas capture.

We support incentivizing **urban farms** in food deserts.

We support responsible legislation of the **Missouri Feral Hog Eradication Plan**. Feral hogs have become a damaging invasive species in the state leading to a biodiversity hazard. They cause damage through rooting, wallowing, and trampling soils leading to an inability to implement carbon sequestration through soils. They can destroy acres of farmland, as well as habitat for native plants and animals allowing for more invasive species to take over. They carry pathogens that are dangerous to humans and destroy our water quality.

FINANCING/TAXATION

We support maintaining **commercial property-assessed clean energy (C-PACE)**. We support regulations with regards to consumer protections and combating predatory lending to residential property-assessed clean energy, adequate consumer protections and avoidance of predatory lending.

We support protecting **Missouri's 91 State Parks, trails and Historic sites**. Missouri has more than 1 million anglers, 576,000 hunters and 1.7 million wildlife watchers. Missourians and visitors spend more than \$3 billion annually on Missouri outdoor recreation which generates over \$428 million annually in state and local tax revenue. The Katy Trail alone generates over \$18 million annually.

LAND USE/ENVIRONMENT

We support reducing Missouri's Department of Transportation costs by **planting low maintenance native plants** on the sides of interstates and highways. According to the 2019 Transportation funding in Missouri, maintaining roadsides costs about \$37 million each year for crews to mow grass and remove litter, debris and dead animals. MoDOT mows about 400,000 acres of grass each year, which is equivalent to 300,000 football fields.

We support expanding **wind and solar options** in a manner that is equitable and fair, including the development of state guidelines for responsible wind energy development. We do not support artificial caps on renewable energy developments/requirements.

We support measures to incentivize more **green stormwater infrastructure**.

We support of any legislation to disincentivize **development on flood plains** to protect the river's natural course and lessen the damaging effects of flooding events.

We support **community conservation**, the practice of integrating nature into your city's landscape. Because every community is unique, different towns may integrate nature differently to bring the most benefit to residents. The Missouri Department of Conservation invests heavily in Community Conservation programs in the urban centers of Missouri by providing cost share and technical assistance

to municipalities for close to home fishing programs, pollinator gardens and urban tree management.

We support the restoration of our urban areas that are environmentally degraded. This includes investing in green spaces and incentivizing the **planting of trees** and added value of cooling our cities through vegetation.

We support the **30X30 initiative** to protect 30 percent of the world's total by 2030, in order to protect the natural beauty and biodiversity we all love in Missouri.

LOCAL CONTROL

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