



## Kansas City Climate Protection Steering Committee

Date: May 25, 2022

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of City Council,

As members of the Climate Protection Steering Committee, appointed by the Mayor to assist the City Council in updating the Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan, we urge the city council **to reject** Resolution No. 220442.

With the assistance of the Office of Environmental Quality, we have combed through the hundreds of comments from the public, community stakeholders, and city staff and incorporated many of those comments into the updated climate protection plan. That plan includes guidance on the usage of natural gas moving forward.

Last year, the state legislators in Jefferson City passed a bill that banned Kansas City from mandating any building codes concerning energy sources. At this point, the steering committee does not see a need for this resolution. Kansas City remains in a unique position to become a leader in climate action, with the update of the climate protection plan and other legislation which can enable us to provide clean air and water for Kansas Citians today and tomorrow.

Natural gas combustion, while better than coal burning, remains a volatile fossil fuel that produces methane and increases our greenhouse gas emissions. Burning natural gas in our homes and schools has detrimental effects on our health, but especially on higher-risk Kansas Citians including children, the elderly, and communities with lower incomes. Natural gas produces many air pollutants and is one of the leading causes of carbon monoxide poisoning. With regards to efficiency, natural gas has to be transported into our homes and businesses, along antiquated infrastructure with little knowledge of where methane leaks are occurring.

Studies have shown that methane leaks pollute our air leading to worsening asthma, pulmonary heart disease, and cancer. We want to see healthy homes, businesses, and schools in Kansas City, and keeping these buildings connected to natural gas increases health inequities across our city.

Throughout the drafting process, the steering committee has focused on an equitable climate plan with regards to affordability and reliability during our transition to a cleaner, healthier Kansas City. We understand that the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy will impact all Kansas Citians, and have put recommendations in the plan that reflect that.

This City Council has stated multiple times in legislation that climate change is an emergency that demands our collective attention and action. This process is an all-hands-on-deck situation and as quickly as possible, Kansas City must reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, including natural gas. Due to the preemption from Jefferson City and our need to upgrade our power grid towards renewable energy, this proposed legislation isn't needed. Please vote NO on Resolution No. 220442.

Sincerely,



Robin Ganahl, Chair

Kansas City Climate Protection Steering Committee