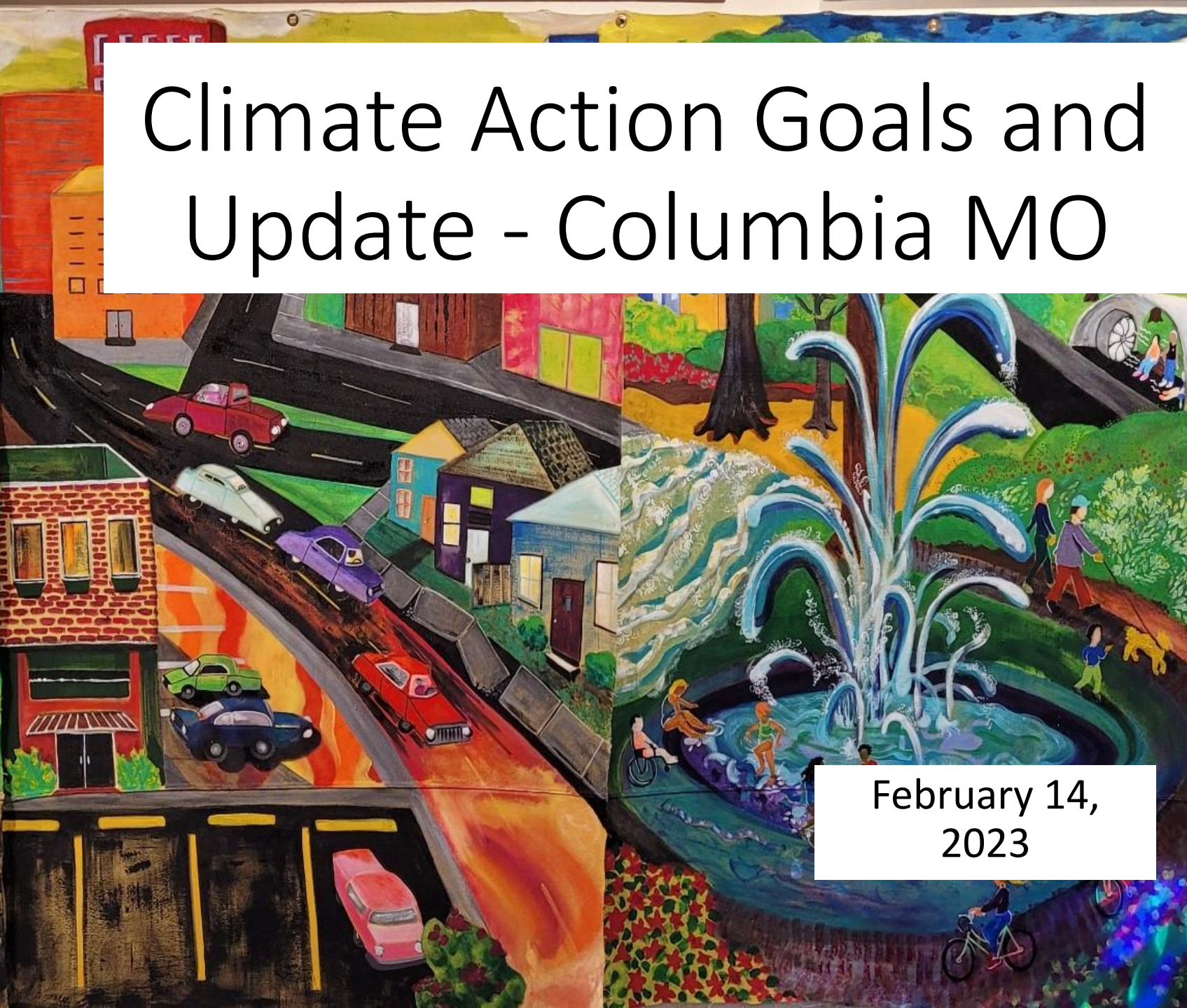


Climate Action Goals and Update - Columbia MO



February 14,
2023

Agenda

- Why the changing climate is important and action is needed
- Top priority goals for the Columbia Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and progress
 - Columbia Climate and Environment Commission
 - Sierra Club Mid-Missouri Group
- Climate justice and equity considerations for low income households
- How you can help and next steps

Additional Information

Past Presentations: Available at <https://lwvcbc.org/> under videos or the DBRL video page

- Lunch & Learn – January 9, 2022 – Deep dive into the 100% Renewable Energy Goal for 2030
<https://youtu.be/sNM3vNUBASg>
- Lunch & Learn – April 13, 2021
Climate Action Plan Overview and Energy Resource Planning
<https://youtu.be/0w4MiDirbDs>

Columbia City Government Climate Action Dashboard (progress reporting)

- <https://comoclimateaction.org/dashboard>
- <https://www.como.gov/sustainability/areas-of-focus/climate-action>

What is the Sierra Club?

- Oldest and largest grassroots environmental advocacy organization in the United States
- Volunteer-led
- Works at the local, state and federal levels
- Mission: Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet[™]
- Help by joining, donating or volunteering
 - <https://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/MidMo>
 - Email: sc.midmo.group@gmail.com



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Solving the climate crisis is urgent

- Scientists say the world must keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius
- The world has already warmed at least 1 degree Celsius
- United States 2nd largest producer of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- United States commitment to reduce U.S. emissions by 50-52% from 2005 levels in 2030 (Glasgow Scotland UN COP 2021)
- Columbia needs to do our part by 2030
 - Electricity production is the biggest category of local emissions (42% of 2019 emissions)
- Disaster Cost Avoidance - In the last year alone, extreme weather has cost the United States more than \$100 billion
- The impacts will generate the most harm for women, children and those with limited financial resources

Our Top Energy Priority Goals for Columbia

- Commit in 2023 to a goal of 100% clean, renewable energy for Columbia Water & Light by 2030
- Adopt minimum energy efficiency standards for rental housing in Columbia
- Adopt the 2021 International Building Codes for Energy Conservation
- Reduce emissions and energy demand for all city buildings

Goal: Commit in 2023 to a goal of 100% clean, renewable energy for Columbia Water & Light by 2030

- Why It's Important
 - City can not achieve 2035 50% emissions reduction goals without achieving 100% clean renewable energy for CWL
 - Everyone must help reduce greenhouse gas emissions to stop runaway climate change and this is an efficient approach to a major reduction
- Status:
 - Current Columbia' Renewable Energy Ordinance: 15% renewables at present; 25% renewables by 2023; **30% by 2029**
 - With City Council approval, Columbia Water & Light and The Energy Authority are working on a study to provide additional information
 - Report delivery between May and June of 2023
 - The report will provide
 - Multiple case studies of approaches to 100% renewable energy to serve CWL by 2030
 - Evaluate both how to provide sufficient capacity and sufficient energy to meet 24/7 demand and regulations
- How you can help:
 - Attend City Council Candidate Forum for Wards 1 and 5 on March 15 at 7 pm and Vote on April 4, Boone County Government Center, Commission chambers and via Zoom
 - Speakers at City Council in future – attend to show your support, dates TBD
 - Contact City Council when the report is available to express your support for a 100% by 2030 commitment via ordinance
 - Organizations can show support with a sign-on letter
 - Both Letter and Background: <https://tinyurl.com/endorse100by2030>
 - Send questions or completed form to sc.midmo.group@gmail.com

Goal: Adopt minimum energy efficiency standards for rental housing in Columbia

- Why It's Important:
 - Renters often pay a high percentage of income for their energy needs-> leads to financial difficulties
 - Rental units comprise over 50% of Columbia housing inventory
 - As landlords often don't pay the utility bill they are not motivated to upgrade for energy efficiency
 - Helps reduce or maintain peak demand for electricity, stabilizing rates for all users
- Status:
 - In 2022 Climate and Environment Commission submitted a proposal to City Council and received support from City staff
 - City Council approved city staff to begin work
 - City Staff is currently conducting a survey of renters and focus groups
- How you can help:
 - Take or share the survey
 - **Deadline(today, 2/14/2023)** <https://beheard.como.gov/rental-housing-ees>
 - Stakeholder Focus Groups to be held February – March 2023
 - If you are interested in participating in a focus group, please reach out to sustainability@como.gov(External link) or call 573-874-2489 (CITY).
 - Contact City Council in the future to support adoption of standards

Goal: Adopt the 2021 International Building Codes for Energy Conservation

- Why It's Important
 - All new construction will be required to be energy efficient to high standards
 - Helps lower utility bills for renters and home owners as well as in commercial properties (including schools, fire stations, etc.)
- Status
 - Columbia is currently using the 2018 energy conservation code for residential and commercial
 - Building Codes Commission evaluated 2021 codes and identified supply chain constraints that would impact compliance.
 - Recommendation to wait for implementation until fiscal budget year 2024 (starts in October 2023)
 - Sierra Club investigating next steps to drive adoption to enable October start
- How you can help?
 - Contact City Council members to request adoption of the 2021 Energy Conservation Building Codes

Goal: Reduce emissions and energy demand for all city buildings

- Why It's Important
 - Reduces energy demand and related greenhouse gas emissions
 - City displays leadership and demonstrates path forward for commercial buildings
 - Saves tax dollars for investment in other CAAP priorities
 - Reduces peak demand for electricity, stabilizes rates for all customers
- Status:
 - The City of Columbia has an energy reduction goal for its own facilities—a 20% reduction by 2025.
 - The City of Columbia has benchmarked and monitored energy usage across 36 of our municipal facilities. All municipal buildings are scheduled to be benchmarked by June 1st, 2023.
 - <https://www.como.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Benchmarking-Report-Final-1.pdf>
 - Priorities have been established for energy efficiency improvements for the group 1 buildings and funding including grant funding is being pursued.
- How you can help?
 - Pursue benchmarking and improvements in a building you own or with your employer – ask what they are doing?

Our Transportation Priority Goals for Columbia CAAP

- Revise street design standards to prioritize people walking, biking and riding transit while also accommodating vehicles.
- Reduce/eliminate City vehicle fleet emissions
- Improve efficiency, convenience and reliability of bus service and infrastructure

Goal: Revise street design standards to prioritize people walking, biking and riding transit while also accommodating vehicles.

- Why It's Important:

- People must feel safe walking, biking or getting on/off public transit before they will engage in these alternative modes of transportation
- More equitable to address the needs of all people rather than just car owners
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions for every vehicle mile NOT traveled

- Status:

- Information: Lunch and Learn – November 1, 2022 – Local Motion – “CoMo Liveable Streets” <https://youtu.be/YtgeCN04UAM>

- How you can help:

- Stay informed, support and follow the CoMO Liveable Streets campaign
- <https://lomocomo.org/advocacy/livable-streets/>
- Start walking, biking, using public transit or at least combining trips

Goal: Reduce/eliminate City vehicle fleet emissions

- Why It's Important:

- City fleet and transit vehicles make up 9% of the City's municipal GHG emissions
- Transitioning to non-fossil fuel power sources reduces GHG emissions and air pollution, lower maintenance costs on vehicles

- Status:

- In 2021, Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVLs) were installed in 417 highway use municipal vehicles. AVLs allow the City to collect, measure, and analyze fuel consumption, vehicle miles traveled, and idling for each vehicle.
- City has already purchased multiple buses using Compressed Natural Gas or Electricity as replacements for diesel buses and is purchasing more electric vehicles for the fleet. City has also installed some EV charging stations in city garages
- Climate and Environment Commission and City Staff developed a Fleet Electrification Policy - it was being reviewed in 2022
- Final Adoption TBD- in final reviews

- How you can help:

- Convert your own vehicle to electric or use alternate modes of transportation
- Ask City Council members to prioritize purchasing vehicles that don't use fossil fuels

Goal: Improve efficiency, convenience and reliability of bus service and infrastructure

- Why It's Important:
 - Increases the equity of transportation access in Columbia
 - Reduce GHG emissions if transit trips replace private car trips and as buses convert to electric energy
- Status:
 - City of Columbia buses are still no charge for riders
 - City experiencing a shortage of bus drivers and it's impacting service & routes
 - Transit Study in 2023 budget currently preparing for vendor proposals
- How you can help:
 - Do you know someone who would be interested in getting their Commercial Driver's License? The City will help them.
 - Join the Public Transit Advisory Commission
 - Take public transportation when possible

Climate justice and equity considerations for low income households

- Must keep equity considerations at forefront of plans and decisions
- Energy efficiency (EE) programs can offset potential increases in electricity rates due to renewable energy and higher demand due to increasing hot temperatures
 - Rental minimum energy efficiency standards will lower utility bills for renters
 - Federal EE investments in low income, owner occupied or tenant occupied homes (with Landlord approval) through Central Missouri Community Action
 - EE Programs for income qualifying households (Columbia Water & Light)
 - Window A/C unit swap
 - Free Residential Energy & Water Assessment
 - EE kits
 - Enhanced Home Performance with Energy Star program
 - <https://www.como.gov/utilities/columbia-power-partners/residential-programs-and-tools/income-qualifying-programs/>
- Other issues: Buy-outs of homes in the flood plain, transportation, unhoused population, access to cooling for those without A/C, disaster planning

In General - How you can help

- Implement energy efficiency improvements and reduce your own peak energy demand (summer time between 4-7 pm)
 - Search on Columbia Power Partners for residential and commercial programs
 - Or visit <https://www.como.gov/utilities/columbia-power-partners/>
 - Great programs to switch to heat pumps, LED lighting, etc.
 - Check out incentives and low interest loans from all utilities and Federal and State Tax Credits
- Install solar at your home or business (check incentives)
- Convert to LED lighting
- Switch from gas to electric appliances, choose energy star certified
- Continue to follow CAAP progress

Questions?

Current Goals

- Current Columbia' Renewable Energy Ordinance:
 - 15% renewables at present; 25% renewables by 2023; **30% by 2029**
- City of Columbia's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) greenhouse gas emissions reductions level goals (based on 2015) are:
 - Community Wide
 - 35% reduction by 2035
 - 80% reduction by 2050
 - 100% reduction by 2060
 - Municipal Operations
 - **50% by 2035**
 - 100% by 2050
- CAAP Action Item – Achieve 100% clean, renewable electricity from Columbia Water and Light by 2035
 - **Climate and Environment Commission recommends to change this target to 2030**
 - **It is impossible to meet Municipal goals without aggressive conversion of CWL energy production**