

# Clean Air Action Plan

2011 Update Executive Summary

## WHAT IS THE CLEAN AIR ACTION PLAN?

- A comprehensive, community-based, voluntary strategy to reduce ground-level ozone pollution in the Kansas City region
- Adopted in 2005
- Set in motion projects to reduce diesel and power-plant emissions, strengthen public education and promote long-term regional sustainability initiatives

## WHY UPDATE THE PLAN?

- Strengthen the original plan by identifying new strategies (*shown on right*)
- Explore how new strategies could contribute to a larger vision of regional sustainability
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and integration across other programs, such as transportation, water quality and waste management
- Prepare the region for a likely nonattainment designation by the Environmental Protection Agency due to stricter national ground-level ozone standards
- Identify sustainability-related co-benefits, including reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions and other criteria pollutants

## NEW STRATEGIES

### OPTIONS THAT ARE PEDESTRIAN, BIKE AND TRANSIT FRIENDLY FOR COMMUNITIES

1. Develop transit-oriented development guidelines for existing bus rapid transit routes.
2. Promote alternative commute options, such as walking, biking and transit.
3. Work with local governments to adopt complete-streets policies.
4. Establish an urban car-sharing program.

### NATIVE, SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING, STREETSCAPING AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GOVERNMENTS AND RESIDENCES, AND BEST PRACTICES FOR COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPING

1. Work with local governments to adopt native-landscaping, green-infrastructure and pervious-pavement policies.
2. Establish an Academy for Sustainable Communities curriculum for commercial/municipal landscaping best-management practices.

### GREEN BUILDINGS, SUSTAINABLE SITE DESIGN AND IMPROVED BUILDING CODES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

1. Provide training for local governments and nonconstruction professionals on LEED, EnergyStar and IECC building codes.
2. Encourage the adoption of new construction guidelines requiring LEED silver standards for government buildings.
3. Work with local governments to adopt 2012 IECC building standards for new residential and commercial construction.

### ENERGY-EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS

Get consumers involved in energy-incentive programs — such as Home Performance with ENERGY STAR — that provide home energy evaluations, tax credits for energy-efficiency upgrades and appliances, or financing for energy-efficiency upgrades and small renewable-energy systems.

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## CONTINUING EFFORTS

### Reduce emissions from power plants and diesel engines

**Successes:** Selective catalytic reductions and no/low-nitrogen-oxide burners reduced emissions from KCP&L's La Cygne, Iatan and Sibley plants by 71 tons per day; 628 school buses retrofitted to reduce tailpipe emissions

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Diversify energy sources through sustainable, clean fuels

- Assess viability and support for new alternative fuels, such as compressed natural gas and biodiesel
- Continue to support the development of new alternative-fueling facilities
- Encourage local governments to expand their fleets of alternative-fuel vehicles and fueling capacity

### Support electric vehicles

- Plan for mass availability of plug-in electric vehicles
- Ensure sufficient charging infrastructure is in place to accommodate an emerging plug-in electric vehicle market
- Inform residents of advantages and limitations of electric-car ownership
- Encourage manufacturers to direct vehicles to the region for sale
- Ensure technical expertise is available to maintain and service plug-in electric vehicles

## SYNERGIES

### WATER EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

Municipal water treatment uses a significant amount of electricity, which contributes to power-plant emissions. Water conservation intersects with the Clean Air Action Plan's focus on green infrastructure, urban forestry and native vegetation. Conserving and reusing water, along with using it more efficiently, improves air quality and protects vital water resources. This update includes new strategies that support efficient water use and water conservation, to be carried out concurrently with regional efforts to conserve green infrastructure.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

Reusing, reducing and recycling waste is fundamental to developing sustainable communities. The Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District has adopted a goal of diverting 80 percent of waste from area landfills by 2023. Although direct relationships between air and water quality are difficult to quantify, clear consensus exists on the multiple benefits associated with waste diversion. Keeping recyclable waste out of landfills keeps harmful chemicals out of groundwater, and reusing materials decreases demand for energy-intensive material production. The waste-diversion strategy also embraces emerging concepts — such as sustainable materials management, green building and industrial ecology/byproduct synergy — to help achieve a sustainable region.

### TRANSPORTATION OUTLOOK 2040

Land-use, transportation and environmental planning are inextricably linked, but are most often addressed as separate issues. Integrating these areas into a cohesive plan is key to planning a sustainable region. The region's long-range transportation plan, *Transportation Outlook 2040*, embodies this approach. Envisioning the region's future using different lenses offers an opportunity to address air quality from multiple angles. The strategies outlined in both the Clean Air Action Plan update and *Transportation Outlook 2040* include sustainable urban design and place making, transit-oriented development and ecosystem-based mitigation. These approaches strive to maximize the "triple bottom line:" people, planet and prosperity.