



Organizers' Guide

Conversation-in-a-Box

Make it your region.

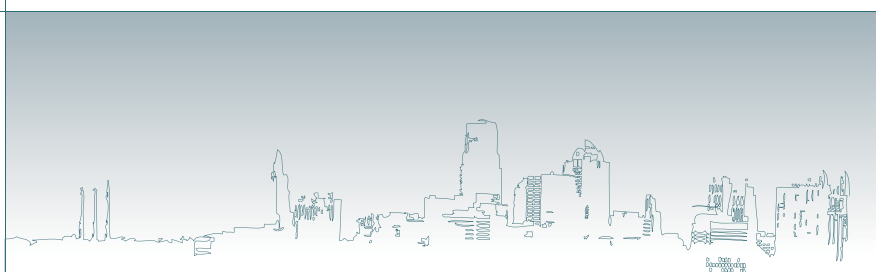
Thank you for choosing to take part in Imagine KC, a public input project that will shape our region's future.

We're asking groups around the region to hold conversations about a single topic: sustainability. But sustainability isn't just about the environment. We want to talk about our economy, transportation and redevelopment — strategic goals that our community wants to meet over the next several decades. You're invited to be a part of this process. What should our region achieve by the year 2040? This is your opportunity to tell us.

This guide will give you all the resources you need to hold a conversation with others in your community. The results will be used during a live, televised public forum on KCPT at 7 p.m., Earth Day, April 22, and shared with our community's leaders and elected officials.

We'd like to thank you for helping us ...

imagine **KC**



1. What is Imagine KC?

Imagine KC is a public input project that asks citizens to evaluate and provide feedback on a vision for a sustainable future for the Kansas City region. This vision results from years of community conversations and research. Imagine KC also conducted a Kickoff event in October 2008 and four subsequent workshops in diverse communities to verify elements of the vision.

2. So what is the vision?

The vision is actually a set of **13 strategies**, which are divided into three groups:

A region of vibrant places.

- *Maintain and develop healthy downtowns and urban areas throughout the region.*
- *Focus on revitalization and infill (redevelopment) projects in older communities.*
- *Develop dynamic corridors of economic, business and housing activity along major transit routes.*
- *Create major employment centers at strategic locations to maximize the region's competitive advantages.*

A connected region.

- *Develop a robust transit system.*
- *Develop a regional system of trails.*
- *Maintain our existing roads to a high standard.*
- *Maximize the use of the region's existing highway capacity.*

A green region.

- *Promote energy conservation and use of renewable resources.*
- *Develop programs to maintain drinking water quality, reduce runoff, and improve stream quality.*
- *Generate less solid waste and recycle or reuse the waste we do generate.*
- *Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*
- *Protect and restore the region's natural amenities.*

3. What is a Conversation-in-a-Box?

The Conversation-in-a-Box tool will guide you through a discussion with others in your community about the vision above. It's a kit that includes three main sections: this **DISCUSSION GUIDE**, a flexible **AGENDA** and a **RESPONSE FORM**. A **GLOSSARY** and an **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS** section are also included for your reference. These materials are also on www.onekcvoice.org.

4. What purpose will my discussion serve?

The feedback from the conversation you hold will be used to validate, redefine and add detail to our region's strategic goals, which will be communicated to local elected officials, planners and community leaders. This is a chance for you to tell our leaders what Greater Kansas City should accomplish by the year 2040.

5. How much time will this take?

If you send e-mails; spend time with friends in person, on the phone or online; eat meals with other people; go to church; volunteer; or attend community events or meetings, most of your work is already done! All we're asking is that you bring a group of people together to talk. The conversation can be 20 minutes long — or two hours long. Whatever amount of time you choose to commit, you'll be providing the Imagine KC project team with important information about issues that are vital to our region's future.

6. Who's behind Imagine KC?

Imagine KC is a collaboration among One KC Voice (a regional civic engagement program), the Mid-America Regional Council, Kansas City Public Television, the Regional Transit Alliance, Bridging The Gap, and the University of Kansas. One KC Voice is the entity responsible for creating this kit and will compile the feedback that results from it.

1. Read through the AGENDA

The **AGENDA** is flexible. There are three color-coded sections:

- **RED SECTION:** *A region of vibrant places (development)*
- **BLUE SECTION:** *A connected region (transportation)*
- **GREEN SECTION:** *A green region (environment)*

You can do one section, two sections, or do them all. All we ask is that you record your comments carefully on the **RESPONSE FORM**. You can also use the optional **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS** sheet if you want to answer specific questions about the individual strategies. If you're mailing your form, please remember that our records are only as good as your handwriting!

Also consider setting up some ground rules for your group. Even if your participants know each other well, it's helpful to outline some basic expectations before the discussion begins.

Here are a few examples:

- *Listen actively and respect others when they're talking. Allow everyone a chance to speak*
- *Speak from your own experiences (use "I" not "you," "we" as opposed to "they")*
- *Question others' ideas, but refrain from personal attacks — focus on ideas*

Check www.onekvoice.org for a list of resources that provide basic tips for guiding effective conversations.

2. Find a location for your event

The bottom line is: You may hold your conversation wherever you are most comfortable. That could be in your home or at friend's home, at a library, in a restaurant, at a local school, or at a community center.

But where you hold your conversation also depends on who you're planning to invite. Perhaps you'd like to hold an event with your neighborhood organization that meets regularly at a community center. Or with members of your church congregation that hold dinners one Tuesday per month. Don't hesitate to use this kit at a regular meeting you attend; the **AGENDA** is included, so part of the work is already done!

Below, we've provided the contact information for some larger cities and library systems, but feel free to do your own research. If you intend to use a public facility to host your conversation, please book early, as rooms fill up quickly.

LIBRARIES

Kansas City Public Library

www.kclibrary.org

Call 816/701-3402 or e-mail space@kclibrary.org to inquire about room availability.

Johnson County Library

www.jocolibrary.org

Libraries with meeting and study rooms include Antioch Library, Blue Valley Library, Cedar Roe Library, Central Resource Library, Corinth Library, Edgerton Library, Gardner Library, Lackman Library, Oak Park Library and Shawnee Library. Contact the individual branch to make a reservation.

Kansas City, Kan., Public Library

www.kckpl.lib.ks.us

Rooms may be available for public use at the Main, West Wyandotte and Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Schlagle libraries. Call these branches for more information on space availability.

Mid-Continent Public Library

www.mcpl.lib.mo.us

Contact individual branches to inquire about reserving space or using library meeting areas. A list of branches can be found at www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/branch or call 816/836-5200.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Planning the conversation

COMMUNITY CENTERS AND CHURCHES

The easiest ways to find community centers in your area are to check your Yellow Pages, call your city, or do a Google search online. You can also check your local gym or recreation center, or contact your church.

RESTAURANTS

Chances are you already know some of your favorite places to eat. But if you need suggestions, check out *The Pitch* (weekly print edition or online: www.pitch.com), KC Restaurant Guide online (www.kcrestaurantguide.com), the Kansas City Convention & Visitors Association online restaurant guide (www.visitkc.com/where-to-eat/index.aspx), Kansas City Menus (www.kansascitymenus.com), or Kansas City Citysearch (www.kansascity.citysearch.com).

ONLINE

If it's too hard to get your guests together in person, why not hold a virtual conversation? There are Web tools that allow you to create free, instant, temporary online chat rooms. Some may not even require you to create a profile.

Try the following free Web services to start a virtual discussion:

- www.meebo.com
- www.chatzy.com
- www.stinto.net
- www.chatmaker.net

3. Invite people to attend

Your conversation group doesn't have to be huge, but we would prefer that you have **at least five participants in each discussion group**. You may find that groups larger than 20 make it hard for everyone to participate in the discussion. You can invite anyone to your conversation you want: call up your four closest friends, invite your co-workers, or announce the event at your next church service. Strive to get people with diverse perspectives from a variety of backgrounds to participate — it will make things more interesting. If you'd like to open up your discussion to the public, you can post your event on the One KC Voice Web site by visiting www.onekvoice.org/Get_Involved/addevent.asp. You can also post your event to social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter or Ning.

If you send out invitations, you should do so about two weeks prior to your event. There is an invitation available for download at www.onekvoice.org, or by calling One KC Voice at 816/474-4240. If you received your kit by mail, a sample invitation that you can reproduce is enclosed. You can also use a free e-invitation Web site such as www.evite.com.

4. Send out reminders

Even the most diligent and reliable people can use a friendly reminder! Send another e-mail out to your invitees about five days before your event, or call them to follow up. When you use a free e-invitation Web site such as www.evite.com, you will most likely be asked if you want to send out a reminder before your event.

5. Make it fun

Turn your conversation into a potluck or provide the **AGENDA** beforehand and have people draw their vision of a sustainable region — get creative! Your conversation will be more interesting if you allow people to express their ideas in their own ways.

1. Set up the room

It's best if your group sits in a circle so everyone can see everyone. Having a discussion where certain people are blocked from someone else's view can impede conversation.

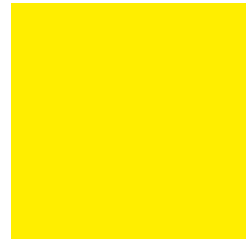
2. Walk your participants through the AGENDA

Be sure to take notes during your conversation, if possible, or see if one of your participants would be willing to take notes for you. You could even take notes on a laptop; when the conversation is over, you'll be able to cut and paste your group's responses directly into an online form.

3. Fill out the RESPONSE FORM and send it back to One KC Voice

The **RESPONSE FORM** is available in two formats:

- *As an online form: Our preferred method. Visit www.onekvoice.org/issues/environment/imaginekc/responseform.asp. Type in or cut and paste your conversation notes, hit submit, and you're done!*
- *Hard copy: You can download the **RESPONSE FORM** from www.onekvoice.org. If you don't have Internet access, call One KC Voice at 816/474-4240 and we'll mail one to you.*



DISCUSSION GUIDE Holding the conversation

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. Welcome

2. Explain the purpose of the session

Imagine KC is a public input project that asks citizens to evaluate and provide feedback on a vision for a sustainable future for the Kansas City region. The vision comes from work conducted by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), local governments and other collaborators.

Conversations with citizens, businesses, regional organizations, and local governments over the past decade have pointed to three clear goals:

- *A region of vibrant places*
- *A connected region*
- *A green region*

Our conversation will consider three sets of strategies that could achieve these goals.

This is one of many discussions being held around the region on this topic. Our comments and answers will be compiled with those from other conversations, and may be used during the Imagine KC live, televised public forum on KCPT at 7 p.m. on Earth Day, April 22.

3. Have participants introduce themselves

4. Optional: Go over ground rules

THE CONVERSATION

5. Select a section

As we just talked about, the vision for a sustainable future for the Kansas City region is a set of strategies divided into three groups according to the goal they seek to achieve. The three groups of strategies make up the three sections of this conversation. We can choose to talk through all three sections, or we can select one or two sections to discuss. The three sections are:

- **RED SECTION:** *A region of vibrant places*
- **BLUE SECTION:** *A connected region*
- **GREEN SECTION:** *A green region*

QUESTION: Which of these sections would you like to talk about?

Record your answer on the RESPONSE FORM.

6. Proceed through the discussion section(s) your group selected

RED SECTION: A region of vibrant places

The first goal of the vision is "A region of vibrant places." This means walkable neighborhoods in our community that have a mix of businesses and residences (apartments or homes). It also means that we try to preserve and revitalize older areas.

Strategies for creating a region of vibrant places include:

- *Maintain and develop healthy downtowns and urban areas throughout the region.*
- *Focus on revitalization and infill (redevelopment) projects in older communities.*
- *Develop dynamic corridors of economic, business and housing activity along major transit routes.*
- *Create major employment centers at strategic locations to maximize the region's competitive advantages.*

QUESTION: If the Kansas City region is going to achieve the goal of becoming "A region of vibrant places," which of these strategies do you think we should spend the most money on? Why? As a group, rank these four strategies in order from highest priority (1) to lowest priority (4). Why did you rank them the way you did?

Record your group's answers on the RESPONSE FORM.

BLUE SECTION: A connected region

The next goal of the vision is "A connected region." This means that our area provides residents with transportation options for going to work, shopping, recreating and other activities.

Strategies for creating a connected region include:

- *Develop a robust transit system.*
- *Develop a system of regional trails.*
- *Maintain our existing roads to a high standard.*
- *Maximize the use of the region's existing highway capacity.*

QUESTION: If the Kansas City region is going to achieve the goal of becoming "A connected region," which of these strategies do you think we should spend the most money on? Why? As a group, rank these four strategies in order from highest priority (1) to lowest priority (4). Why did you rank them the way you did?

Record your group's answers on the RESPONSE FORM.

GREEN SECTION: A green region

The last goal of the vision is "A green region." This means protecting and conserving our natural environment by using resources intelligently and efficiently.

Strategies for creating a green region include:

- *Promote energy conservation and use of renewable resources.*
- *Develop programs to maintain drinking water quality, reduce runoff, and improve stream quality.*
- *Generate less trash and recycle or reuse the waste we do generate.*
- *Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*
- *Protect and restore the region's natural amenities.*

QUESTION: If the Kansas City region is going to achieve the goal of becoming "A green region," which of these strategies do you think we should spend the most money on? Why? As a group, rank these five strategies in order from highest priority (1) to lowest priority (5). Why did you rank them the way you did?

Record your group's answers on the RESPONSE FORM.

SUBMIT YOUR FORM ONLINE!

VISIT www.onekcvoice.org/issues/environment/imaginekc/responseform.asp

Or, you can mail this form to:

One KC Voice, ATTN: Imagine KC; c/o Mid-America Regional Council; 600 Broadway St., Suite 200; Kansas City, Mo. 64105

May we use your feedback on Imagine KC's live, televised public forum, which will be broadcast on KCPT at 7 p.m., Earth Day, April 22?

- Yes, you may use quotes from our discussion
- No, we'd prefer that our comments remain private

Group name: _____

Location of conversation: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Date: _____ **Number of participants:** _____

Main contact, phone/e-mail: _____

Participants' names (optional): _____

Sections of AGENDA covered:

- RED:** A region of vibrant places
- BLUE:** A connected region
- GREEN:** A green region
- All of the above**

Tell us a little about yourselves

We are from:

(Mark all that apply and note how many people)

<input type="checkbox"/> Jackson County Number of participants: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cass County Number of participants: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Johnson County Number of participants: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ray County Number of participants: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wyandotte County Number of participants: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Leavenworth County Number of participants: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay County Number of participants: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Platte County Number of participants: _____
	Where else?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of participants: _____

We are:

(Mark all that apply)

- Black/African-American
- White
- Latino/Hispanic
- Other:** _____

RESPONSE FORM



THESE IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS ARE COMPLETELY OPTIONAL.

Below are more in-depth questions about the individual strategies. If you'd like to answer them on the RESPONSE FORM, the floor is open! Please be sure to clearly identify which question you're answering, using both the color of the section and the question's number. For example, Blue #3 is "How can funds for trail development be increased?"

RED SECTION: A REGION OF VIBRANT PLACES

Maintain and develop healthy downtowns and vibrant places throughout the region.

QUESTIONS:

1. How can the region develop market strategies that lead to vibrant places?
2. What kind of land-use policies need to be adopted and what kind of public investments need to be made to encourage the development of vibrant places?
3. How are vibrant places developed so they enhance existing neighborhoods and make them a part of the re-energized community?

Focus on revitalization and infill projects in older communities.

QUESTIONS:

4. What can be done to identify and encourage the market needed to support these redevelopments?
5. How can we design redevelopments to reinforce and enhance existing neighborhoods?

Develop dynamic corridors of economic, business and housing activity along major transit routes.

QUESTIONS:

6. Because corridors often cross multiple jurisdictions, how will the region identify the appropriate corridors and create joint development strategies?
7. How will the region develop a common plan and strategy for creating a unified network of transportation, dynamic corridors, and vibrant places?

Create major employment centers at strategic locations to maximize the region's competitive advantages.

QUESTIONS:

8. How can the region support new industrial developments located at outlying locations while minimizing transportation, environmental and economic costs and impacts and maximizing the economic benefits?
9. How can the region encourage the development of new centers of economic development?



BLUE SECTION: A CONNECTED REGION

Develop a robust transit system.

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of regional funding is necessary and how should it be put in place?
2. What kind of regional governance and management structure is necessary?

Develop a regional system of trails.

QUESTIONS:

3. How can funds for trail development and maintenance be increased?
4. What regional resources are needed to coordinate trail development and maintenance and assure a seamless trail experience throughout the region?

Maintain our existing roads to a high standard.

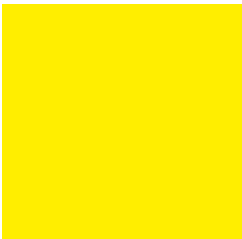
QUESTIONS:

5. How does the region assure that limited resources are targeted to maintenance?
6. Should maintenance be the sole responsibility of local governments or should federal and state resources be targeted to this priority?

Maximize the use of the region's existing highway capacity.

QUESTION:

7. How does the region assure that improving efficiency of the existing street system is considered before building new infrastructure?



GREEN SECTION: A GREEN REGION

Promote energy conservation and use of renewable resources.

QUESTION:

1. How can the region develop a common energy strategy that includes consumers and producers, as well as the public and private sectors?

Develop programs to maintain drinking water quality, reduce runoff, and improve stream quality.

QUESTIONS:

2. How can the region develop a coherent strategy to improve water quality, enhance streamways into recreation areas, and reduce runoff in watersheds that extend across multiple jurisdictions?
3. How can the region develop a regional drinking water strategy to assure a safe supply of drinking water far into the future?
4. How can the region manage the Missouri River, which defines the identity and culture of this area, so it continues to provide clean drinking water, while protecting infrastructure investments and creating new recreation opportunities and public amenities?

Generate less solid waste and recycle or reuse the waste we do generate.

QUESTION:

5. How can the region, including businesses, local governments and citizens, develop and commit to a common strategy to minimize waste and reduce the need for new landfills?

Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

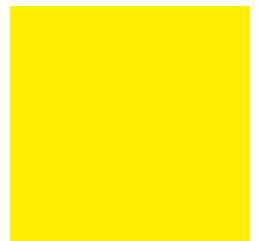
QUESTION:

6. How can the region develop and commit to a regional strategy to reduce greenhouse gases that is strong enough to make real reductions yet flexible enough to accommodate a wide range of stakeholders?

Protect and restore the region's natural amenities.

QUESTION:

7. What strategies can local communities and the region implement to set aside and develop natural places, parks and trails?



This section will help you understand the different strategies laid out in the vision.

RED SECTION: A REGION OF VIBRANT PLACES

What are “vibrant places”?

Vibrant places are walkable, mixed-use places that are the center of commerce and community. They create a sense of place and community. They are places that provide residents with lifestyle and housing choices; support affordable housing; allow the elderly to age in place; protect natural, cultural and historic assets; and help keep existing neighborhoods vital. Important in their own right, vibrant places can really transform the region when they form a network through the region connected by transportation corridors. Following are the key strategies that the public has said should be at the heart of creating a region of vibrant places:

Maintain and develop healthy downtowns and vibrant places throughout the region.

Vibrant places provide lifestyle options and strengthen the economy. These places are characterized by compact, mixed-use development, they are walkable and connect to transit.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *New projects such as the Power & Light District, revitalization of downtown Lee’s Summit, and the Lenexa City Center are examples of focusing resources to create vibrant places.*

Focus on revitalization and infill projects in older communities.

Such projects reinvest in existing areas to keep the economy strong, neighborhoods healthy, and provide housing and lifestyle options.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *Areas such as Gilham Road and 27th Street in Kansas City, Mo., and Northgate in North Kansas City are good examples of how well-planned redevelopment projects can bring new life to neighborhoods.*
- *A number of first-ring suburbs such as Raytown, Gladstone, and Mission have developed extensive redevelopment plans, which include infill development and development of vibrant urban places.*

Develop dynamic corridors of economic, business and housing activity along major transit routes.

Dynamic corridors strengthen local economies, provide lifestyle choices both to residents along the corridors and to residents of adjacent neighborhoods, and can be a strong base of employment. Transit in these corridors allows the easy movement of residents, workers and shoppers, and provides the density necessary to support a healthy transit system.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *Vision Metcalf is a recent corridor study that encourages mixed-use, transit-oriented development. After an extensive planning process involving over 5,000 residents and businesses, the city of Overland Park adopted a forward-thinking plan.*
- *Mission has developed a plan for the Johnson Drive corridor anchored by major mixed-use developments that integrate with the surrounding neighborhoods.*

Create major employment centers at strategic locations to maximize the region’s competitive advantages.

Ensure that these economic centers are connected with adequate transportation systems, designed to contribute to the area’s quality of life and minimize impact on the natural environment.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *Kansas City International Airport Area Development Plan.*
- *Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant Redevelopment Plan.*

BLUE SECTION: A CONNECTED REGION

What does “a connected region” mean?

A connected region provides residents with choices for how they get to work, shop, and access recreation and other regional amenities. Good connections support strong neighborhoods, a vital economy, and a healthy environment. Following are the key strategies that the public has said should be at the heart of creating a better connected region:

Develop a robust transit system.

Transit should be convenient to most residents and provide a web of connections throughout the region. The system should not only assure that those who are transit dependent, such as the elderly, disabled, and the poor, have enhanced transportation options, but that all residents of the region have new options.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *Smart Moves, the regional transit plan that includes improved local transit service as well as better connections across the region and between communities. The plan has been thoroughly reviewed and is strongly supported by the public.*
- *Local communities are already implementing parts of the plan, such as the MAX along Main Street in Kansas City, Mo., and more service on State Avenue in Kansas City, Kans. Further expansions are also planned.*

Develop a regional system of trails.

A system of trails connecting neighborhoods, natural areas, and regional amenities provides healthy recreation and an additional way to move around the community.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *MetroGreen is the regional plan for over 1,100 miles of natural areas, parks, greenways and trails connecting all parts of the region.*
- *Johnson County, in particular, has developed, and continues to develop, an extensive system of trails. Other communities such as Platte and Clay counties have well developed strategies. Most communities now include trails in their park and land-use plans.*

Maintain our existing roads to a high standard.

The public has consistently identified maintenance of existing roads as its number one priority when discussing transportation. Maintaining roads helps keep developed areas vibrant and is an effective use of scarce resources.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *Johnson County CARS (County Assistance Road System) Program.*
- *MoDOT's recent concerted maintenance program which reports that roads in good condition rose from 44 percent in 2003 to 78 percent in 2008.*

Maximize the use of the region's existing highway capacity.

New technology and cost-effective improvements to the existing highway system can help improve connections, extend the life of the transportation system, and reduce overall transportation costs.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *Operation Green Light is a regional program to improve the timing of traffic signals in the metro area. The program reduces travel times, congestion, and pollution, and increases the capacity of the road.*
- *The states of Missouri and Kansas have implemented KC SCOUT in the region to monitor the freeway system and provide drivers with on-road information about road conditions or accidents.*
- *The Kansas City SmartPort Trade Data Exchange is a cooperative initiative between private industry and federal, state and local governments to use information technology to improve the security, reliability and speed of truck, rail and air freight shipments from, to and through Greater Kansas City.*



GREEN SECTION: A GREEN REGION

What does it mean to be a “green region”?

A green region is more than just clean air and water. It is a region that has figured out how to simultaneously create an environmentally healthy, vital community at the same time that its economy thrives. It does not merely minimize the use of scarce resources, but finds renewable approaches that strengthen the economy and community. It preserves prime farmland as a part of the region’s strategy for developing healthy, local food sources. Following are the key strategies that the public has said should be at the heart of creating a greener region:

Promote energy conservation and use of renewable resources.

Creating an energy-efficient economy will strengthen the region’s communities, lead to cleaner air and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and insulate communities from market volatility while creating new economic opportunities and green-collar jobs.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *KCPL’s strategy to invest in renewable energy initiatives and change state regulations to allow utilities to more easily invest in energy conservation programs.*
- *Kansas City, Mo.’s Climate Protection Plan addressing all aspects of the city’s operations.*
- *The regional “million lights” campaign which encouraged the purchase of CFL light bulbs.*

Develop programs to maintain drinking water quality, reduce runoff, and improve stream quality.

Clean drinking water and stormwater and stream management contribute not only to a healthier community, but can greatly enhance environmental and recreational opportunities.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *Many local governments have adopted stream-setback requirements and adopted watershed programs, such as Lenexa’s “Rain-to-Recreation” program, which improve stream water quality, reduce streamway maintenance requirements, and open new recreation and trail amenities.*
- *Kansas City, Mo.’s, new program to clean its runoff by separating storm and sanitary sewers using neighborhood-specific green strategies to improve both water quality and neighborhood amenities.*

Generate less solid waste and recycle or reuse the waste we do generate.

This helps reduce the need for costly and contentious landfills.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *The Solid Waste Management District has developed a waste minimization plan which proposes strategies to minimize and dispose of waste.*
- *MARC’s Recyclespot.org is a one-stop resource for recycling information.*
- *Johnson County communities are developing aggressive recycling programs to minimize use of the existing landfill.*

Improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Air quality protection efforts reduce health risks to local residents; they also contribute to national and international efforts to reduce the use of carbon-based fuels and reduce the impact of global climate change.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *The region’s Air Quality Forum’s strategy to reduce ozone and particulate matter pollution in the region (Clean Air Action Plan).*
- *Local governments and businesses are converting buildings and fleets to alternative fuels to make them more energy efficient and less polluting.*

- *Local communities and businesses have joined together on joint initiatives such as the Greater KC Chamber Climate Protection Plan, U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, and Sustainable Skylines.*

Protect and restore the region's natural amenities.

Parks, greenways, farmland, and other natural areas provide recreation, contribute to clean air and water, provide a supply of local, healthy food, and help provide wildlife habitat.

Some examples of current plans and projects include:

- *MARC's inventory of natural resources helps local governments protect and restore natural areas.*
- *Urban foresters and state and local governments are working to expand tree planting and habitat restoration.*
- *MetroGreen will open access to and increase development of parks and habitat.*
- *Bridging the Gap helps individuals and families protect the environment by doing "Five Green Things."*
- *The Food Policy Council has adopted a strategic plan to support local, healthy food, which will lead to preservation of prime farmland*

GLOSSARY

