

1311 Prairie Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66044

31 January 2008

re: Climate Protection Plan Task Force

Lawrence City Commission
City Hall
6 east 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor Hack & Commissioners:

Being that I consider the Climate Protection Plan Task Force to be an important issue, and appreciate your wanting to move it forward, I am disappointed that the initiatory resolution is on the consent agenda. Attempting to avoid conflicts with political caucuses that evening is commendable, but not at the expense of public discussion about the Task Force.

Normally I would simply ask that this agenda item be pulled from the consent agenda, but that's irrelevant because I will be at the caucus. So instead, I am submitting written comments, and hope you give them due consideration.

As you probably know, this Resolution #6752 borrows some parts of the Kansas City resolution 060777 from 16 August 2006. However, some of the most important elements of the KC resolution have been deleted from the Lawrence one.

Borrowed wording from Kansas City Resolution (paraphrased):

- 1) ". . .undertake a Climate Protection Planning Process in active consultation with the community."
- 2) " establish goals to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. . ."
- 3) ". . . while preserving economic development, transportation options and the ability of responsible producers of energy to provide a stable and cost-effective energy supply"

But more troubling is the wording Lawrence did NOT incorporate:

- 1) First of all, the KC resolution directs the City Manager to undertake the planning process. A City Manager has power, whereas our Task Force will not, but will only recommend.
- 2) KC wording is more powerful, and directs the City Manager to "establish goals" rather than "recommend goals or strategies" as in the Lawrence Resolution #6752.
- 3) The KC resolution has the City Manager "recommend specific actions that the City will implement", a stronger commitment towards actual implementation.
- 4) And the KC resolution has the City Manager "provide necessary staffing and resources for that process", possibly the very most important element.

Now, good plans are essential for communities to function efficiently and justly, but if good policies are not implemented to realize the plans, then the planning is a wasted effort. For Lawrence to make a good faith commitment to implement our Climate Protection Plan, then it is difficult to argue against assigning paid City staff to pursue well coordinated Plan goals on a daily basis.

I strongly suggest that Resolution #6752 include following directives:

- 1) The Task Force shall establish goals and strategies, and recommend specific actions that the City will implement.
- 2) The Task Force shall have at it's disposal key paid City staff to provide needed research.
- 3) Our City Manager shall provide necessary staffing and resources for the planning process and for plan implementation.
- 4) Our City Manager shall investigate how City organizational structure can incorporate an Office of Sustainability, including a full time paid Director of Sustainability.

In Kansas City, the implementation context is the Office of Environmental Quality, within which is the ongoing Environmental Management Commission, supported by committed paid City staff. This Commission does the heavy lifting, meeting monthly, and having various sub-committees.

Attached is the KC Resolution, and for reference is the KC Environmental Quality Office web site <http://www.kcmo.org/manager.nsf/web/oeqhome?opendocument>

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Almon