



**EAST-WEST GATEWAY  
Council of Governments**

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

**AGENDA  
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE\*  
TUESDAY, October 25, 2022  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
In Person at East-West Gateway and Virtual**

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://meet.goto.com/613790661>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**  
United States: [+1 \(408\) 650-3123](tel:+14086503123)

**Access Code:** 613-790-661

**Chair**  
Dennis Gannon  
County Executive, Jefferson County

**Vice Chair**  
Mark A. Kern  
Chairman, St. Clair County Board

**2nd Vice Chair**  
Tishaura Jones  
Mayor  
City of St. Louis

**Executive Committee**  
Tim Brinker  
Presiding Commissioner  
Franklin County  
Steve Ehlmann  
County Executive, St. Charles County

Dennis M. Knobloch  
County Board Chairman  
Monroe County

Dr. Sam Page  
County Executive, St. Louis County

Kurt Prenzler  
Chairman  
Madison County Board

**Members**

Darlene Bell  
President  
Municipal League of Metro St. Louis

Honorable Rita Heard Days  
Councilwoman, 1st Council District  
St. Louis County

Robert Eastern III  
Mayor, City of East St. Louis

Mark Kupsy  
President, Southwestern Illinois  
Council of Mayors

Roy Mosley  
St. Clair County

David Schwind  
Madison County

Herbert Simmons  
President, Southwestern Illinois  
Metropolitan & Regional  
Planning Commission

Seth Speiser  
Vice President, Southwestern Illinois  
Council of Mayors

Donald R. Summers, Jr.  
St. Louis County

Joseph Vollmer  
Interim President, Board of Aldermen  
City of St. Louis

Mike Elam  
Councilman, District 3  
St. Charles County

Brad Zobrist  
Franklin County

**Regional Citizens**

Barbara Geisman

C. William Grogan

John A. Laker

Ron Williams

**Non-voting Members**

Holly Bieneman  
Illinois Department of Transportation

Vacant

Illinois Department of Commerce  
and Economic Opportunity

Patrick McKenna  
Missouri Department of Transportation

Taulby Roach  
Bi-State Development

Aaron Willard  
Missouri Office of Administration

**Executive Director**

James M. Wild

- I. Call to Order**
  - Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
  - A. Minutes of August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting
- II. Introduction to Air Quality Planning and State Implementation Plans**
  - Mark Leath, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- III. Overview of the 2022 Ozone Season**
  - Maureen McCarthy, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
- IV. American Fuels Report**
  - Kevin Herdler, St. Louis Regional Clean Cities
- V. Update Activities of the States**
  - Missouri Department of Natural Resources
  - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- VI. Other Business**
  - Next meeting will be in 2023
- VII. Adjournment**

\* Please note that this meeting will serve as a part of the Inter-Agency Consultation Process as detailed in the Missouri Transportation Conformity SIP.

Gateway Tower  
One Memorial Drive, Suite 1600  
St. Louis, MO 63102-2451

314-421-4220  
618-274-2750  
Fax 314-231-6120

webmaster@ewgateway.org  
www.ewgateway.org

MINUTES  
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, August 30, 2022  
10:00 am – 11:30 am  
VIRTUAL AND IN PERSON MEETING

Members Present:

Carol Lawrence, Chair – East-West Gateway Council of Governments  
Mike Henderson – Missouri Department of Transportation  
Kevin Jemison – Illinois Department of Transportation  
Susannah Fuchs – American Lung Association  
Aaron Cadman – St. Louis County APCP  
Francisco Cortalezzi – Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Betsy Tracy – Federal Highway Administration - IL  
Christopher Schmidt – Illinois Department of Transportation

Others Present:

Stephanie Doolan – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7  
Andrew Wynne – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7  
Tori Cheatham – Renew Missouri  
Kathrina Donegan – St. Louis County APCP  
Christine Favilla – Sierra Club  
Craig Giesmann – Ameren  
Jason Heitman – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7  
Lawrence Gonzalez – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7  
Wendy Vit – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7  
Allie Donohue – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7  
Nicole Weidenbenner – Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Mark Leath - Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Michael Hutcheson - Ameren  
Stacy Allen - Ameren  
Jed Wolkins – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski, Aaron Young, Jennifer Vuitel, Jim Wild, Lee Harris, Anna Chott, Maureen McCarthy, Saranya Konala, James Fister

**1. Call to Order**

- Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The meeting of the Air Quality Advisory Committee (AQAC) was called to order by Chair Carol Lawrence, East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG). The minutes of the June 28, 2022 AQAC meeting were approved as circulated.

## **2. Don't Pollute. Switch Up Your Commute Campaign**

- Susannah Fuchs, American Lung Association

The St. Louis Regional Clean Air Partnership is led by the American Lung Association and is made up of many different air quality stakeholders across the metro area who want to reduce air pollution, and improve air quality. The partnership is working to improve air quality by reducing single occupancy vehicles and, in turn, the precursors to ozone pollution to protect public health. The partnership's goal formed the basis of their new campaign, "Don't Pollute. Switch Up Your Commute." It took a different approach and was led by Citizens for Modern Transit. The other main partners were Ride Finders, Metro, St. Clair County Transit, Madison County Transit, Style Magazine, and Commute with Enterprise.

The Partnership's new campaign, "Don't Pollute. Switch Up Your Commute" started in May at the beginning of the high ozone season and will run to the end of September. The biggest goal of the campaign was to get people to consider alternatives to single occupancy vehicles as much as possible. At the start people were encouraged to go to [www.switchupyourcommute.com](http://www.switchupyourcommute.com) and download the color-coded air quality forecast. The first 200 people to download the forecast and committed to making a change in their commute received a T-shirt. The Partnership members reached out to those who registered to find out what choices they would make on a day forecasted to have bad air quality. If the registered individual responded, they would be entered into drawings for prizes. In the past it was found that people who made a change to their commute often stayed with it. As of now there are more than 200 people registered for the air quality forecast. The organizations with the most registrants are Washington University, BJC Health Care, and Stiefel.

It is not known if the registrants are still utilizing the air quality forecast or are keeping up with the changes they made, but the Partnership far exceeded its goal and reached a good number of people. At the end of September the results will be assessed and it will be determined if the campaign will happen again next year.

More information about the campaign can be found at [www.switchupyourcommute.org](http://www.switchupyourcommute.org) Questions can be sent to Susannah Fuchs at [Susannah.Fuchs@Lung.org](mailto:Susannah.Fuchs@Lung.org)

## **3. Renew Missouri Home Program**

- Tori Cheatham, Renew Missouri

Renew Missouri is a non-profit group that was founded in 2006 and focused with a mission of advocating and championing for renewable energy and energy efficiency throughout the state. The work includes spending time in the Missouri Capitol talking to lawmakers and testifying before committees on legislative matters involving utilities and

issues involving clean energy. A big part of Renew Missouri is to make energy efficiency more appealing to homeowners in order to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Renew Missouri and Pearl Certification are in partnership with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (MoDNR) Division of Energy. Renew Missouri and Pearl are working to improve the existing Green Building Registry in order to influence realtors, appraisers and financiers to incorporate energy efficiency considerations into the home buying process. Renew Missouri Homes is a comprehensive program to increase homeowner energy efficiency adoption. The program is designed to create a market infrastructure for improving homes in Missouri and ensure that they are properly valued.

This program is trying to promote the unseen features that are valuable to a home such as energy efficiency upgrades or newer appliances. To do this Pearl has created a network of contractors, appraisers, and real estate agents that are trained and have the proper marketing tools to make those important features more visible to the real estate market and homebuyers. The Renew Missouri Home Program is bringing Pearl's certification into Missouri. The official launch date is October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Contractors who are interested in joining Pearl will acquire many benefits such as being able to office the state certificate. Pearl will provide marketing sales kits to assist real estate agents who do not have much experience explaining the energy efficient features of the homes they are selling.

Right now there are 275 homes with the Pearl certification in Missouri. The goal is to certify ten percent of the housing stock in the next five years through the Renew Missouri Home Program. The contractor and appraiser networks are still being built and the program is still being rolled out. Renew Missouri is in talks with utilities to see how they can support the program by aligning the rebates with what the program offers.

More information can be found at [www.pearlcertification.com](http://www.pearlcertification.com)

#### **4. EPA Region 7 Climate Change Overview**

- Andrew Wynne, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) FY 2022 – 2026 strategic plan was published earlier this year. It communicates the agency's priorities and serves as a roadmap for accomplishing them and building on work already begun under President Biden's Executive Orders and in alignment with the administration's whole of government approach EPA is charting the course in this strategic plan, tackling climate change, and advancing environmental justice and civil rights. In accordance with these priorities, the EPA has established new strategic goals on addressing climate change and environmental justice to signal the importance of these issues. The agency will embed this focus in its work toward the five programmatic strategic goals for

enforcement and compliance, air quality, water quality, land revitalization, and chemical safety.

There are three features to the goal of tackling climate change: reducing emissions that cause climate change; accelerating resilience and adaptation of climate impacts; and advancing international climate efforts. In October 2021 the EPA issued a policy statement signed by Administrator Reagan, the Climate Adaptation Action Plan. The plan accelerates and focuses attention on five priority actions the agency will take over the next four years to increase human and ecosystem resilience at the climate changes. The five priorities are integrating climate adaptation into EPA programs and policies, rulemakings, enforcement activities, consulting/ partnering with other organizations, and identifying and addressing climate science needs. The Climate Adaptation Action Plan also directed EPA regions and program offices to develop their own plans. Those plans also address the five priorities just mentioned as well as activities specific to the regions related to climate adaptation. This is a dynamic document and the plan will be refined as new data becomes available, and new priority areas are defined. It is anticipated that the plans will be made public early this fall.

Can't talk about climate change without talking about environmental justice. The Justice 40 Initiative is led by the White House Environmental Justice Inter-Agency Council and convened by the Council on Environmental Quality. Through this initiative the federal government is making a concerted effort to dedicate 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments to underserved communities overburdened by pollution.

The EPA is seeking to embed partnerships, public health, and environmental justice and equity into everything the agency does. Just this past year the EPA awarded three environmental justice grants with a climate adaptation focus, one of those directed to underserved communities on the north side of St. Louis. There are three new grant opportunities through the environmental justice program: Environmental Justice Small Grants; Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements; and State/Tribal/Local Government Cooperative Agreements. There are also the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers that will provide technical assistance, training, and capacity-building support to underserved communities with environmental justice and energy concerns. The EPA is striving to meet people where they are to understand their needs.

There are several examples of how climate is being embedded into EPA programs. Through the financial system agreements there are grants available for brownfields and other funding for food resilience, drought tolerance, etc. The pollution prevention grant program strives to work with the state and local partners and businesses to make sure they can make their operations more efficient to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and apply different efficiency practices for conserving energy use. Another example of

climate being embedded into EPA programs is the new Clean School Bus Rebate Program which seeks to improve bus fleets and reduce emissions.

The recent transformational investments in climate work that have taken place through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has led to EPA Region 7 receiving 60 billion dollars. The bulk of the funding goes to water infrastructure programs and in our region aging waterlines and treatment plants are a present risk to human health and the environment. EPA Region 7 is looking to its partners to help assure that this money goes to critical projects and underserved communities in need. It needs to be ensured that the work through these investments is building better, more efficient, and more resilient infrastructure for our future generations.

The IRA legislation will help to support efforts through EPA to reduce air pollution around schools and underserved areas by replacing dirty trucks and heavy duty vehicles with zero emission options. This is accelerating the EPA's work on environmental justice and empowering community driven solutions and overburdened neighborhoods. The EPA's ability to aggressively combat harmful climate pollution, while supporting the transition to cleaner technologies and creating good jobs is growing.

The EPA climate change website is back online and has been updated to include recently updated climate indicators. There are also links to specific climate resources such as climate resilience, Tribal air, and climate resources. The EPA also has a new website dedicated to adaptation information and resources. The website also provides a comprehensive list of climate partnership programs related to energy reduction, water use, recycling, transportation, and more. The Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X) is a resources for local governments and community leaders that allows the user to create an integrated package of information tailored specifically to their needs.

EJScreen is an environmental justice mapping and screening tool that provides the EPA with a nationally consistent dataset and an approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators. Climate indicators have been embedded into the EJScreen tool that allow the user to overlay climate change data layers with demographic and socioeconomic data layers. Another web based tool from EPA is EnviroAtlas which provides geospatial data and other resources related to ecosystem services and human health along with climate data layers. Since the tool is housed on the ArcGIS platform users can pull their own data layers into the tool as well.

EPA Region 7 is committed to working with and engaging its partner organizations to address the people, places, and infrastructure that are most vulnerable to climate impacts. Region 7 wants to work to identify strategies that deliver co-benefits the

mitigation of greenhouse gasses, public health, economic growth, job creation, national security, and environmental justice. Questions can be sent to Andrew Wynne at [wynne.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:wynne.andrew@epa.gov)

## **5. Update on Activities of the States**

- Francisco Cortalezzi, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

In relation to the Volkswagen Trust Program, MoDNR is accepting applications for vehicle charging stations at 13 specific cities/highway intersections until October 12, 2022.

The next Missouri Air Conservation Commission (MACC) meeting will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> in Kansas City. A virtual attendance option is available. There are currently no items scheduled for public hearing. Up for adoption is the Good Neighbor SIP, which was presented for public hearing at the July 2022 meeting. The August 25<sup>th</sup> MACC meeting took place in St. Louis. The proposed Regional Haze Plan was recommended for adoption. All five commissioners voted yes and it was approved. The plan was submitted to the EPA on August 26<sup>th</sup>, but the EPA will still issue a failure to submit as it was submitted after the deadline. There were no items for public hearing.

MoDNR is still working to finalize the details on the control strategy for the sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) nonattainment area in New Madrid County. MoDNR would like to start a public comment/engagement period in September and hold a public hearing in October.

Due to the ozone exceedances recorded during the 2022 ozone season it is expected that there will be a bump up in status from marginal to moderate non-attainment for the St. Louis area. MoDNR has begun working on the new moderate requirements.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> Nicole Weidenbenner started as the Unit Chief of the State Implementation Plan Unit in the Air Pollution Control Program.

## **6. Other Business**

There is a Sustainability Lab this afternoon at T-Rex in downtown St. Louis. The lab will have in person and virtual attendance options. There will be a roundtable discussion about sustainable transportation and what we need to do as a region to be more sustainable.

## **7. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.