



**EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments**

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

**AGENDA
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE*
TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
In Person at East-West Gateway and Virtual**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.
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Access Code: 980-095-685

- I. Call to Order**
 - Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
 - A. Minutes of the August 29, 2023 Meeting
- II. The Fifth National Climate Assessment**
 - John Posey, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
- III. St. Louis Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollution (GMAP) Project**
 - Tracey Casburn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
- IV. Update Activities of the States**
 - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
 - Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- V. Other Business & Adjournment**
 - Next meeting will be on March 26, 2024

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

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MINUTES
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
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
Francisco Cortalezzi- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Aaron Cadman – St. Louis County Department of Health
Dan Weitkamp – FHWA, Missouri
Rory Davis – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Kevin Herdler – Clean Cities

Others Present:

Tom Caldwell – Illinois Department of Transportation
Alicia Daniels – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Mark Leath – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Nicole Weidenbenner – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Cecelie Cochran – Federal Highway Administration Missouri
Dorris McCaretr – Metropolitan Congregations United
Teresa Lee – Boonslick, MO

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski, Aaron Young, Jennifer Vuitel, Anna Chott, Maureen McCarthy

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 August 29, 2023 AQAC meeting were approved as circulated.

2. Overview of the City of St. Louis' Building Energy Performance Standards and the Building Energy Exchange

- Katarina Michalova, City of St. Louis Office of Building Performance

The City of St. Louis put two ordinances in place to help St. Louis reach its goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050. The majority of greenhouse gas emissions

come from the buildings. The first ordinance put benchmarking in place in 2018. Benchmarking is when all owners of buildings over 50,000 square feet are required to report annual energy usage to the Office of Building Performance. That reporting is due by May 1st, covering for the previous year. The second ordinance put into place Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) beginning in 2020. The Building Energy Improvement Board set a standard for all buildings over 50,000 square feet based on data from 2018. It was determined that 65 percent of the worst-performing buildings have to improve their energy performance.

The City is currently in the first BEPS compliance cycle, which began in 2020 and will end in 2024. The year of 2024 will be a data evaluation year. Building owners have until the end of 2023 to complete energy efficiency improvements, which will then go into effect in 2024. The 2024 data will be benchmarked on May 1, 2025. The year 2025 is a gap year where all benchmarking data is collected, and it is determined which buildings are in compliance with the BEPS and the standards for the next BEPS cycle from 2026 – 2029. The majority of building types have four years to meet the standard, while buildings classified as affordable housing and houses of worship will have six years to meet the standard.

There are multiple pathways to compliance for building owners, including performance, early adoption, narrowing the gap, and custom. The standard performance pathway requires that buildings meet or exceed the target for its type. The early adopter pathway is for buildings that meet or exceed their BEPS target and reduce the building's energy use intensity (EUI) or performance by 20 percent or more from their 2018 baseline to be found compliant for the next two cycles or reduce their EUI by 50 percent or more from their 2018 baseline to be found compliant for the next three cycles. The 'narrow the gap' BEPS compliance pathway requires building owners not close to reaching their target to reduce their EUI by 50 percent of the difference between their 2018 baseline and BEPS target. This pathway is only available for the first two cycles. The final pathway, the Custom Alternative Compliance Plan (CACP), is only for buildings that cannot utilize the first three pathways due to unique limitations. For example, the St. Louis History Museum has to keep the temperature and humidity inside the building at a constant level. To use this pathway, buildings have to apply to the City for eligibility. The next steps for building owners include checking to see that their building is on track to meet the BEPS, taking time to understand the different compliance pathways, and keeping their energy audit, plan, financing, and implementation actions in mind.

Benchmarking compliance for 2021 reached 89 percent; for 2022, it is currently at 76 percent and continues to rise as reports are submitted. The deadline for submitting applications for CACP has been extended, and the deadline for the plans is June 1, 2024. Building owners who do not comply with the BEPS will be penalized with a fee of up to \$500 a day. The owners could also have their occupancy permit revoked.

More information can be found at stlbenchmarking.com, and questions can be sent to benchmarking@stlouis-mo.gov. The best way to connect with the Office of Building Performance is to book a consultation.

- Malachi Rein, St. Louis Building Energy Exchange

The St. Louis Building Energy Exchange (BE-Ex STL) is a project of the Missouri Gateway Green Building Council. The BE-Ex STL began in 2022 through partnerships with national organizations, local utility companies, Washington University, and others. The goal of the exchange is to support the people who make decisions concerning buildings by providing insight into how buildings work and showing the full range of options that can make their buildings more efficient and better places for people to live and work. Regionally, in St. Louis, all buildings are facing the same challenges regardless of the policies that dictate what they should or shouldn't be doing. With the right lens, investing in building improvements can lead to financial savings and increased health benefits that, in turn, increase the value of the building. The value of a space could change based on how energy performance is measured in buildings. There is public data on the city's website that indicates whether or not a building a person may move to will cost more or save money.

BE-Ex STL is talking to a lot of different organizations such as Fannie Mae, who works with lenders and multi-family owners, to help people understand that building performance standards are a growing tool to make changes in existing buildings. The number of entities, municipalities, and cities across the country that are talking about energy performance standards and implementing them has grown dramatically. Part of what BE-Ex STL wants to do is create those conversations. BE-Ex STL was featured along with the City of St. Louis on the cover of a national electrical contractor magazine. They have also been pushing the conversation about making buildings a part of a climate solution, trying to include more people in the conversation and find what potential solutions for buildings appeal to them.

BE-Ex STL is in conversations about workforce development, equity, and environmental justice. They are working to create tools such as a directory that assists with remote energy audits. If building energy audits become more affordable, it's possible that building owners can start to get an understanding of how they can save money and make their buildings operate better. BE-Ex STL will be creating programming to assist the owners and operators through that process. The issue needs to be pushed in different ways to make sure progress is happening, even if it isn't ideal progress so that people are situated to succeed.

Looking at building energy performance across time, taxpayers pay a lot of money for municipal buildings to operate because emphasis isn't put on building maintenance. This is the same across municipalities and for private industry. Two weeks ago, BE-Ex STL, in collaboration with the Mayor's office, did an Energy Star Treasure Hunt in St. Louis City Hall. They did a

walkthrough of the building with the Building Division, the Board of Public Service, the Facilities Management Team, and the Planning and Urban Design agency. Since these are groups that don't normally work together, it was great to have them in one place, focusing on possible building efficiency solutions. BE-Ex STL, along with Emerson, would like to do something similar at public schools to educate them on the impacts of buildings on people and the environment.

Mr. Rein is part of a project at the Institute for Sustainable Communities along with the Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis. This group will be doing a pilot program that looks at energy efficiency and affordable housing in communities of color to try to understand all of their hurdles. The project wants to implement energy efficiency methods in those communities to make more progress.

3. Summary of the 2023 Ozone Season

- Maureen McCarthy, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The 2023 ozone season overall was very strange. May 24th was the first day to have an exceedance this year. While not completely unusual, it is more typical for the first exceedance to occur in June. There were a total of 132 exceedances over 20 days, with the vast majority occurring in June. There were no exceedances in July or August, which is highly unusual. The last year that was comparable to the 2023 season was 2012. In 2012, when utilizing the 2015 ozone standard, there were 292 exceedances over 58 days. The weather is one of the greatest contributors to ozone levels, and both 2012 and 2023 had very hot and dry summers. Higher temperatures lead to more ozone formation, and when there is little to no rain or wind, the high ozone levels stagnate in the region where they are produced.

While 2023 was a particularly bad year for ozone, the overall trend over the last few decades is a decline in ozone levels. It is possible that 2023 could be considered an exceptional event due to the weather conditions, which means it could affect the attainment determination over the next several years. That is yet to be determined by the states.

More information can be found on the East-West Gateway website. Questions and comments can be sent to Carol Lawrence at carol.lawrence@ewgateway or Maureen McCarthy at Maureen.mccarthy@ewgateway.org

4. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Update

- Aaron Young, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program comes from the EPA and is funded through the Inflation Reduction Act. The program emphasizes a reduction in carbon emissions with a goal to have regions and states meet the federal target of net zero by 2050. The focus is on reductions of air pollutants. The other thing being considered is job creation as well as lowering the energy

burden for low-income communities to help achieve The Administration's Justice 40 goals. There is a planning phase and an implementation phase for this program, which normally would happen at different times, but for this grant, they are happening concurrently.

The planning phase includes the development of a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) due in March 2024, the preparation of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) due in mid-2025, and a status report. The PCAP is to identify the greenhouse gas sector emissions, provide carbon emissions reduction estimates, and establish regional coordination. The CCAP is going to highlight the new inventory and reduction estimates include all sectors of emissions, and provide an analysis of Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC) and the workforce. At the end of the grant period, the status report monitors the implementation and adjusts the analyses and emissions projections.

Developing the PCAP involves updating the 2015 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, stakeholder interviews, identifying priority projects, and identifying collaborative opportunities. The CCAP is going to be created to be an update to OneSTL, have a multi-faceted engagement plan, and define collaborative LIDAC engagement.

Need to identify what kinds of projects the region will be interested in applying for under the implementation grant. And there has to be some analysis of those proposals, primarily estimating the carbon reductions for those. But if anybody in the region or any organization in the region is going to apply for this grant, the project needs to be in the PCAP and the CCAP, so we're doing a lot of outreach to figure out who is interested in implementation.

5. American Fuels Report

- Kevin Herdler, St. Louis Clean Cities Program

There will be a ribbon cutting on November 2nd for the new BioTech Hydrogen Hub in Wentzville, near the Ranken Technical Campus.

Kansas City Clean Cities and St. Louis Clean Cities are working together to help the Ozark Clean Air Alliance to become a part of Clean Cities. Work is still underway to make Clean Cities a state-wide initiative in Missouri.

So far SiLVERS, the senior citizen rideshare program (using EVs), has delivered 100,000 meals and given 2,055 rides. The program will end on March 31st, 2024. Clean Cities is searching for sponsors to buy EVs to keep the program going.

6. Update on Activities of the States

- Rory Davis, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

It is anticipated that the ozone Attainment Demonstration SIPs for Chicago and the Metro East will go out for public notice soon.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is working on the state-wide NOx RACT rule which is part of planning requirements for ozone moderate nonattainment area.

In October, the EPA issued a finding of failing to submit an ozone moderate Attainment Demonstration SIP. This applies to 11 states, including Illinois. A clock is now set for each state to submit the required items to EPA.

The Regional Haze SIP was presented to the Federal Land Managers along with the state's response to comments from EPA.

The SO₂ SIP for Alton Township has gone out for public hearing. The SIP and redesignation to attainment request were submitted to EPA Region 5.

- Francisco Cortalezzi, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

At the MACC meeting on September 28th, 2023, there were no items up for public hearing and no action items. The MACC meeting on October 26th had no items for public hearing, but there were two items relating to state-wide incineration rules up for approval: a proposed amendments 10 CSR 10-6.161 Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incinerators and 10 CSR 10-6.200 Hospital, Medical, Infectious Waste Incinerators. The MACC meeting on December 7th will have one item up for public hearing to amend 10 CSR 10-6.020 Definitions and Common Reference Tables.

The Ozone Moderate Nonattainment Area SIP was approved on September 6th and submitted to EPA Region 7. On September 13, EPA determined that the submittal was complete. Missouri was not part of EPA's October 18th Failure to Submit finding.

It is anticipated that the EPA will make an announcement concerning the revision of the PM_{2.5} standard by the end of this year.

The Branch St. monitor in north City of St. Louis has had preliminary exceedances of the PM₁₀ (coarse) standard.

The application period for the state's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant is open for local governments to receive funding to conduct outreach in November about the program and to request project suggestions.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on January 30, 2024. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.