

## Minutes for September 8, 2020 CCL-KC General Membership Meeting

1. The September 8, 2020 CCL-KC General Membership Meeting was held by Go To Meeting and convened at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Stephen Melton, Paula Leppert, Kurt Kloster, Frank Zilm, Theresa Noble, and Karen and Lia Uhlenhuth. Thanks to all who attended the meeting and contributed.
2. October 3 CCL-MO FLOW workshop, 10AM-12 noon. You should have gotten an e-mail invitation today to attend this 2-hour Zoom workshop. Please respond yes. Will be a tremendous opportunity to discuss the five levers of political will (FLOW) with our team members all across Missouri.
3. TREE Act rollout. Rep Cleaver is preparing to introduce a bill called the Tackling Residential Energy burdens Efficiently (TREE) Act. The bill would establish a grant program under the Dept. of Energy that would provide applying state, local, and tribal governments, along with nonprofits and utility companies, with funds to reduce heat islands and lower energy costs for folks by strategically planting trees in residential areas, with a specific focus on low-income communities as well as those communities particularly hard hit by seasonal high temperatures. Introduced in the Senate by Senator Cory Booker, the bill would have \$50,000,000 authorized annually for the next 5 years to ensure that no less than 300,000 trees are planted each year under this program. The National Audubon Society, the American Forests, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Bipartisan Policy Center Action have already endorsed the bill. Rep. Cleaver's office asked us to endorse as well.

After discussion, we unanimously agreed to supply the following statement:

### TREE Act Statement of Support

Citizens' Climate Lobby's Kansas City Chapter wholeheartedly supports the Tackling Residential Energy burdens Efficiently (TREE) Act and applauds Representative Cleaver for his farsighted sponsorship of this legislation. The TREE Act, which funds urban reforestation, will help make Kansas City more livable and resilient during the coming decades of global warming and is a necessary accompaniment to our efforts to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations.

4. Vote Climate! For Our Children yard signs. About 700 have been passed out so far to local groups and individuals, mainly on the Kansas side, with about 700 remaining to be passed out in the next few weeks. All these are FREE to any individual or organization. Please approach groups you are affiliated with to get them to agree to pass out signs. Frank Zilm (816-561-7186) has kindly offered to cache signs at his house near the Plaza for distribution in the midtown.
5. Another way to help in this crucial election is to sign up for Environmental Voter Project at [environmentalvoter.org](https://environmentalvoter.org). This program is recommended by CCL and aims to

contact members of environmental groups who for some reason have not been voting lately.

6. CCL's Calling Campaign is now up and running and is one of the most effective tools we now have in these times of COVID restrictions. Sign up for your monthly call to your member of congress at [cclusa.org/mcc](https://cclusa.org/mcc). Admins, in coordination with liaisons, should update scripts at [admin.cclcalls.org](https://admin.cclcalls.org). Please make calls!

7. Seeking Endorsements for HR763 is still the highest CCL priority. Please keep working on it. Karen recommended approaching businesses who's owners we know. Great idea! Last week, we formally requested Climate Action KC's endorsement and expect their action on our request over the next few weeks.

8. Post Election Strategy. Frank reported on his efforts with Bob Grove and the Climate Council and we agreed to pursue all options going forward.

9. Next Steps on KC Building Codes. Frank reported that the city was greasing the skids for approval of the new IECC codes, which are expected around September 15 and can be voted on and approved after a 90-day waiting period. Frank is optimistic because of the City Council's previous unanimous vote on the issue and the apparent lack of opposition since.

10. Donna reported by email that we have \$343.71 in the checking account.

11. Household Impact Study II (Aug 2020) findings. Steve presented slides and led a discussion on the recent study, which can be accessed at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/household-impact-study/>. The study finds that a large majority of U.S. households will benefit financially from H.R. 763. Missouri households do not fare as well as the national averages, reflecting Missouri's slowness in addressing global warming relative to most other states. Still, the vast majority of Missouri households—rural, urban, and suburban—will either benefit financially or incur only minor loss (<\$100) from the bill.

12. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

13. Our next meeting will be October 13 at 6:30 PM, also by Go To Meeting.

14. Thanks for all you continue to do! I wish we could do more fun things, like we used to pre-COVID. Still, our window of opportunity is now and we need to make the most of it.

Stephen Melton  
CCL-KC Chapter Leader