

Adapt Douglas County: A Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Public Comment

This document contains written public comment on the public draft of this Plan. Comments were submitted via an online survey or in person at a public open house. An online survey hosted on the Douglas County GIS platform was open from November 1 to December 15, 2023. The survey was promoted through a press release, the County newsletter, and County social media platforms. It was also shared by numerous partners. The survey was broken into 6 areas: Comments about the recommended goals and strategies for Energy, Mobility, Living Systems, and Thriving Community; General Feedback; and Plan Implementation. **The survey prompts are listed above each section below.**

Prompts for *Energy: Powering where we live, work, and play*: "Which strategies in this section do you relate to?" "Which strategies in this section benefit you, your family, and neighbors?" "Are there other things we should consider in this section?"

PUBLIC COMMENT	STAFF RESPONSE / ACTION
I agree with reducing energy consumption; your plan does not address reducing consumption. It only suggests the transference of energy to solar. That is a huge problem. Government subsidies to put in solar power do not reduce energy consumption. It also is not feasible for long-term use. With current technology, wind and solar are not sustainable energy sources; other sources are needed to build, create, and transport them. There is no plan here for safety replacement or maintenance.	Goal 1 starts with reducing energy consumption, placing it as a priority in reducing our emissions. Agreed, demanding less energy overall means less resource use at every level.
We can also make solar farms above large crop farms to produce shade for some of these crops. That would be perfect.	Strategy G7S1.2 refers to researching this kind of technology and opportunity.
I am curious what the incentives being offered would be for the solar installation.	Specifics of a program will take more investigation and development. See the Implementation section for how we will keep the public informed.
Here are a few actions I didn't see mentioned: 1) Educate community about how much energy "phantom" or "vampire" energy use in our homes and commercial businesses is adding to electricity demand and simple ways to decrease this (e.g., on-off switches where TVs, appliances, etc. plug into receptacles). https://paylesspower.com/blog/vampire-energy/	Revision: An Individual Action section has been added to the Plan to encourage more learning and prompt household level action.
2) Insulated drapes in both homes and businesses significantly decrease energy use both in summer and winter. I made drapes, and it's made a huge difference in comfort level and electricity use.	
3) Decrease outdoor lighting and use motion detectors where a significant level of lighting is needed. Landscape lighting with LEDs doesn't cost much, but it still requires electricity, unless it's entirely solar powered.	
6) Educate rural property owners about advantages of solar "farms" for growing crops and raising livestock while also protecting and regenerating soils versus the plethora of disadvantages for them, short and long-term, if alternative energy sources are not developed ASAP.	
Can we do more to increase public awareness and education in these areas? Helping us to recognize our impact, helping us to understand the impact of various options and solutions.	
3. Encourage multifamily, mixed-income and mixed-use developments.	The policy level of a land development code is where these more specific code changes would be made. All communities in Douglas County have similar guiding policy documents. See the Implementation section for more on policy review.
I don't understand how you can expect energy use reduction by 2030 with the planned development that is happening. There's not much mention of car pooling or building a rail system or other public transportation to service commuters to KC.	Strategy G1S4 addresses shared mobility options, and G3S2 seeks to build capacity and provide demand for regional transportation options.
I think that rooftop solar is such a great option. We have rooftop solar at my house, and sometimes we power part of our neighborhood.	
4) Increase our energy grid efficiency and its coordination with other energy grids, in climate related and other emergencies, by requesting our US legislators to support the BIG WIRES Act (Building Integrated Grids with Interregional Energy Supply Act) at the national level. S. 2827 & H.R. 5551	
Anything that improves air quality is incredibly beneficial to everybody. My dad has breathing troubles, and it is very important to me to have clean and good-quality air.	

I am an advocate for solar powered energy or nuclear powered energy as well. The incentives for solar installation develop an energy hub that could potentially power the whole block of houses, which has the potential to encourage community development. These plans require communication that requires a lot of trust and very detailed communication which will require, again, a very detailed "information hub" for these communities to rely on when there's confusion or skepticism.

Actions G1S1-1 - Most direct personal impact

G1S2 & 3; G2S1 - All indirectly benefit me as a community member

G2S2 - Especially impactful to work with a broader coalition on actions benefiting whole regions.

I relate a lot to the infrastructure section because I think that what they're trying to accomplish there is a step towards the right path. I do think that it's a shame that there is still vulnerabilities in the meters and our monitoring of surges and potential outages is subpar.

It seems to be a very textbook like presentation without practical plans for implementation. A lot of the suggestions though reasonable should have been implemented previously. The community is not safe to move around in. The 15 minute plan is nice but there are road blocks. Busy streets, unlined road markings, construction and other obstructions (high cost of investment for small business or lack of parking) make for a confusing 15 minute package.

5) Explore how other communities have incentivized more residential and commercial solar on rooftops.

I could install solar panels at my house if I thought I would be cost effective and energy saving

I like that they are trying to allow solar and wind purchase agreements. I think that it would be good if people started buying into that because I hear it makes a lot of money and is good for the environment.

Would definitely like to see solar options become more accessible to the average home owner.

I believe that adding solar power to neighborhoods is an amazing idea, especially if people are not inclined to put wind energy up because of the aesthetics. I think goal 1 with the solar panels again will be very useful, not only are we using the energy that we already have but we also can limit its vertical space and power so much.

Lastly, the power always goes out in the poor neighborhoods. Maybe you can penalize the energy companies for their failures to provide "equitable" access to power for the people who suffer the most. Also fire whoever wrote this BS.

G1S1, G1S3: prioritizes energy conservation and cost savings for homes, municipalities and institutions.

I enjoyed the section about increasing the use of solar panels in the community, because that is a tangible way to implement clean energy in the community.

Although the implementation of solar panels on residential homes is very expensive, it actually ends up saving you money in the long run.

I think that they should specify more clearly the benefits of converting your home to rely strictly on the use of solar panels—especially from the financial perspective.

Improving the percentage of houses with rooftop solar benefits everyone. It can lower your power bill into the negatives, and it can help power your neighborhood with renewable energy.

Consider the huge property tax burden that is already on our citizens. At this point, our city leaders have no qualms to toss around "tax's increases". The story in Wednesday Wall Street Journal was about Topeka, Ks being the most livable city—and mentioned that people were moving from Lawrence, KS and KC because of its expense.

I do not especially relate to any specific strategy as I have not had any personal experience with any of the strategies, but some of the strategies seem to make more sense to me than others. I think engaging in programs that promote energy conservation and cost management is an important strategy to assume because energy is very important and being able to effectively use the money you have in order to maximize the benefits of this energy is vital. Increased power outage resilience.

Thank you for your comments, ideas, and/or sharing personal experiences. All of these will inform us going into implementation.

The well being of our economy and those particularly in the middle class is what is at stake. Our current benefit using fossil fuels is both critical to maintaining a healthy economy and it helps us be more self sufficient. The green efforts, though provided some diversity for energy, is crushing to our economy and especially the middle class. Climate change has happened and will happen and we adapt by ingenuity not by crushing our economy.

Honestly, most of this chapter was incomprehensible to me. Not because I don't understand the meaning of the words but rather because the majority of what is said doesn't seem to amount to much of anything that is tangible or meaningful. This chapter is primarily buzz words or "green jargon". The only meaningful statement that I could find is; "even renewable energy necessitates resource use" What equity considerations could there possibly be? Reduced utility costs for the poor? I doubt it.

I think that anything we can do to make clean energy more accessible is great. I would benefit from creating energy and affordability programs, and since I live in an area that is constantly being developed, having these codes for these new buildings to prioritize conservation is greatly beneficial to the neighborhood.

I relate to none of these strategies. None of them benefit me, my family, or my neighbors. Another thing you should consider in all of these sections is the scientific fact that carbon dioxide is extremely helpful to the environment. It provides food for plants....which require carbon dioxide to produce oxygen. Carbon dioxide is not a harmful gas, and it is not logical to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. I don't care what the authorities say. The authorities are all being paid to say this!

Imagine a cost benefit analysis on this. China will produce far more greenhouse gas than our attempts to reduce it. China is smart. They are building coal fired electrical plants which are economical, and reliable, and cost effective. Kansans are stupid, putting up windmills and planning solar farms. What if the magical batteries that misguided people are counting on never materialize? What about the toxic waste from used windmill blades and from making solar cells?

climate change is a natural process throughout history - humans are not the cause

I can relate to the strategy of the power outages. At work at Clinton Marina, when we have a power outage we have to shut everything down and it is a crisis. Creating new energy sources will benefit me while making power outages more resilient will also benefit.

I think we should build a large-scale solar farm between Lawrence and Baldwin as well as a large-scale wind farm near Baldwin to be shared amongst our county and bring more renewable energy. The entire county would benefit.

Certainly avoiding the ban of solar and wind farms on private property is a huge step in the right direction as far as renewable energy in Douglass County. There no good reason to prevent that. People should have the right to build these on their property, especially since it benefits everyone.

Making sure that fewer regulations are placed on whether a property can have solar or wind should be a big priority.

Most glaringly overlooked in this section are no goals to develop utility-scale solar and wind energy. You indicate how urgent it is to rapidly move to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to fossil fuels, yet the most rapid and least costly way to do that is excluded, likely because of the unfounded fears of some. Rooftop solar is not enough to meet the climate challenge we face (especially with a goal of just 10% available rooftops) and better to have energy companies bear the cost.

It is positive that the plan highlights the need for residential building efficiency updates, residential and commercial rooftop solar, and commercial building efficiency updates; all are important steps in reducing emissions and diversifying energy sources. However, utility scale wind and solar energy are blatantly left out as reduction measures. By excluding utility scale renewables, the plan does not prioritize a major step that will efficiently and effectively ensure reduction of emissions.

Prioritize energy efficiency as well as rooftop solar and small-scale (maybe even district-level) wind, geothermal, fuel cell, etc. The large scale solar and wind projects that have been (or will be) proposed are problematic. Very few people will make money while neighbors for miles around will deal with consequences.

I love the idea of creating renewable resources at the local level to benefit individual and neighborhoods in energy use. I am not so excited about having corporations come in to cover fields to access wind and solar power which would then be distributed elsewhere. I think energy creation would benefit from being a local use with the ability to add to a larger grid to enhance the regional energy needs but NOT using up Douglas County farmland, skyline to send energy away with no benefit to us.

This Plan supports energy action at all levels, from reduction and efficiency, to renewable forms at all scales. A multi-faceted approach will be necessary to meet our energy challenges and promote an affordable, reliable, clean energy supply. Energy flowing from utility operations, of any source, contributes to an energy mix that powers the whole county. Douglas County has active regulations which allow solar and wind projects to apply for permit. We recognize these are large land uses that require critical, project-specific examination. These decisions are made at the Commission level, using the criteria of the regulations.

Building out renewable energy production. There should be emphasis on utility-scale renewable energy projects in addition to community solar and wind suitable for individual properties.	
For renewable energy production at utility-scale, we need to take a close look at ideal locations which can be marketed to those able to make an investment in our community. We need to have a timeline and goals in mind for reaching a measurable amount of local production.	
I like that the plan focuses on residential and commercial initiatives rather than industrial size energy projects like industrial wind and solar. The residential and commercial implementation would be a long-term impact and, in my opinion, put Douglas County on the map as a leader with a renewable energy county wide focus.	
Utility scale solar and wind projects must be included in the plan.	
Solar and wind are unreliable. People need reliable electric. We must preserve fossil fueled plants and we should expand nuclear. Even so, Nuclear plants only have two speeds: off, and full power. We'll still need plants that can start relatively quickly, and throttle to meet ever changing demand. Batteries are NOT the answer.	Goal 2 focuses seeks to improve and sustain a reliable, affordable, clean energy supply through necessary infrastructure and state advocacy.
We need reliable consistent fossil fuel fired power generation. I do not support tax dollars being spent to upgrade commercial buildings. Grid reliability only makes sense if our power source is reliable 24/7/365, which renewables are not. Decoupling from baseline generation places the community at risk for higher bills when renewables can't keep up with demand.	
G2S2 DG Co should address KCC directly to explain its position, not partner with other entities.	We can work toward this in implementation. To intervene on a docket to the KCC we would need to involve more legal representation, but partnering with others who want to see similar things could be a starting point.
You don't know the name of my electricity provider: Free State Electric Cooperative? Page 20.	Revision: typo corrected.
G1S2 Douglas County should not be "incentivizing" commercial renewable energy construction and generation due to the impact on soil, water, and all animals.	G1S2 is referring to renewable energy direct to the consumer and tied to a facility, which may be a commercial building.
Depends what what this term means.	Unknown reference.
Prompts for <i>Mobility: Moving around the community safely and efficiently</i> : "Which strategies in this section do you relate to?" "Which strategies in this section benefit you, your family, and neighbors?" "Are there other things we should consider in this section?"	
PUBLIC COMMENT	STAFF RESPONSE / ACTION
Sidewalks that are in good condition, wide and everywhere.	Comments noted for implementation of Strategy G3S1, to continue investment in safe, comfortable multimodal infrastructure.
We need to prioritize walkability and bike-friendly infrastructure to promote pedestrian traffic.	
We also need to make our city more bikeable by adding bike Lanes to streets or just building larger sidewalks that can allow for both walkers and bikers.	
We need to drastically increase our funding of and engineering commitments to create safe bike and pedestrian infrastructure in Lawrence. Currently, we are not on track to meet the mode-shift targets given the poor state of multimodal infrastructure in Lawrence. This means building an "all ages and abilities" network that feels safe for everyone to ride/walk/roll through Lawrence. Cost prohibitive electric cars are will never get us to the carbon emission reductions needed.	
1. Build a true all ages and abilities bicycle and pedestrian network	
Connecting more walking paths should be a priority. There are still too many neighborhoods without sidewalks. Our home is less than a block from the Burroughs path, but we have no sidewalks, so getting there can be dangerous.	
maybe having more access to closer stores and walkable/bikeable sites will help our use of emission spread. Its hard for me because i live out near nothing, so i have to drive 20 minuets into town to get anything causing alot of gas emissions.	Strategy G14S1.1 to establish small business around township center was developed based on feedback similar to this.

<p>I think that they could consider the idea of organizing electric vehicles (i.e. bikes and scooters) for public use as there are in bigger cities.</p>	<p>Comments noted for implementation of G1S4, maximizing traveler choices through sharing options.</p>
<p>2) Minimize poor air quality caused by influx of vehicles into middle of town on football and basketball game days. More park-and-ride options on edge of town tailored to fans coming from east and west for games. This also would decrease fossil fuel use.</p>	
<p>Also, there could be incentives to use EVs for carpooling services.</p>	
<p>It's incredible to think this community is being fooled into thinking electric vehicles will favorably impact us one bit. It will in terms of bankrupting our community and putting us in risk of power shortages.</p>	<p>Strategy G1S3.1: Conduct EV readiness planning, will allow us to evaluate the need for and guide installation of public charging stations throughout the county. This will help gather the best information on future growth and demand capacity, and plan for funding and infrastructure opportunities where it will have the most impact.</p>
<p>Put chargers in our already ugly-looking parking garages. These would allow more people to use the recharge stations than when people first see they can only charge at home. This is not a big problem for our small community but people on road trips and such need more accessibility to chargers.</p>	
<p>We need free access to EV charging stations to encourage widespread adoption of EVs.</p>	
<p>If you want to plant more trees, which I agree with, you must increase the CO2, not decrease it. The plants need more CO2. You repeatedly state to "build sustainable" measures in this plan, yet the premise you suggest contradicts this concept. Currently, the technology for battery-powered vehicles and charging stations is not feasible or sustainable on a large scale. Currently, those charging stations use coal/gas-powered electricity to charge the batteries. It's not helpful or sustainable.</p>	
<p>I'm glad to see included G1S3 to enable the transition to electric vehicles. I hope the EV charging infrastructure can be rapidly deployed, as the lack is keeping people from buying EVs. We have an EV and can charge at home, but not everyone can do this. The level of benefit of EVs for reducing greenhouse gases depends on how clean the energy source is. Again I encourage you to encourage utility-scale solar and wind, give incentives for residential rooftop solar, and shut down the coal plant.</p>	
<p>The meaning of "readiness planning" for charging stations is unclear. We must determine when we will be fully prepared to implement charging infrastructure to make EVs more accessible.</p>	<p>See response above on EV planning. Clarity added to the 15-minute neighborhood strategy to emphasize long-range planning.</p>
<p>What exactly is the strategy for encouraging more people to drive electric vehicles? Or what is the plan for implementing the 15-minute neighborhood?</p>	
<p>I think that it is important that they address the need for expanding transport options, because getting around town without using a personal vehicle is becoming increasingly difficult as Lawrence expands West.</p>	<p>Revision: Added new strategy G3S4.4 to continue investment in improving the rider experience on transit. Also added a highlight of recent efforts by Transit to increase ridership.</p>
<p>They dont benefit me at all and dont focus at all on buses which are way better than cars and if they focused on adding more buses that would give the impoverished community support and access.</p>	
<p>I like the idea of shared transportation - driving K-10 before and after work hours provides an example of my reasoning.</p>	
<p>Stop creating obstacles for motorists! Slower is not safe, and certainly not cleaner. Time really is money, and we are overtaxed already. The bus is free and ridership is still almost non-existent. Remove traffic calming devices that serve mostly to irritate and to damage our vehicles. Restore the 85th percentile for setting speed limits.</p>	
<p>Reliance on EV car adoption is not going to get us to 2030 targets. The committee needs to drop the "car brain" thinking here. This plan needs to prioritize affordable, sustainable transportation.</p>	
<p>Having sidewalks that, when used by an entire community, are not paid for by one single person benefits the community heavily as it increases the incentive to use the sidewalks because there are more people paying for it. Also, when there is more money from different sources being delegated into one topic, the more likely the infrastructure will experience an increase in quality. If you have more eyes on a particular subject, the better quality it will be, along with more usage</p>	
<p>Also, I like the idea of some type of transportation involving the unincorporated areas as well.</p>	
<p>Why are electric scooters banned. Its so dumb and they need to unban them like that guy on south park has to ride on his little hoverboard instead of his scooter.</p>	

<p>Again, most of this is nonsense but the statements that actually mean something strike me as being costly. I'm all for the climate but seriously, just plant a bunch of trees all over the community. Stop cutting trees in the parks like you did in Naismith Valley Park.</p>	
<p>Creating management for more extreme weather issues like the roads and sidewalks is extremely valuable to me because I do not have a car that does well in snow and if we can make our county safer to transport then it will benefit me greatly.</p>	
<p>I can relate to finding new walkable options and then providing electric transportation for those areas like the E-Bike. I also like starting to convert vehicles into electric.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments, observations, and/or sharing personal experiences. These will inform us going into implementation.</p>
<p>The distances involved to bring multimodal to rural areas are impractical. Few people use our current network of bike lanes; adding more bike lanes is cost ineffective. Prioritize private motorized vehicle traffic over all other forms; workers getting to their jobs pays the bills, and prioritizing their movement should supercede all other transportation efforts.</p>	
<p>I appreciated the section discussing addressing the issue of shade in heat vulnerable neighborhoods.</p>	
<p>I relate to adding trees in order to handle urban heat. Again this benefits the community as a whole but directly having more green areas in our community to protect from heat and benefit our environment/ clean air. The homeless community should be considered because they benefit from the public transportation and the structure that our town has in its environment.</p>	
<p>G4S1 encouraging native and climate-adaptive trees and repurposing paved surfaces to green space.</p>	
<p>G4S2&3 consulting with communities and impacted by public infrastructure to protect ecosystems and alleviate impacts of climate change.</p>	
<p>I don't see a discussion of implementing public transportation using trains or trams. Free bus service in Lawrence is a good idea but with so many bus stops closed (and no service Sundays) it seems a minor gesture for residents without cars.</p>	
<p>3) Create online video tutorials for how to use our public transportation system. It can be daunting to figure out how to get to some parts of town.</p>	
<p>Informing people about Electric bikes is fantastic in every way. We have an electric bike, and it is such a great way to get around quickly while outdoors and exercising without overexerting yourself on the way to somewhere important. It would be super cool to see electric bike charging stations because it would encourage people to ride more.</p>	
<p>All actions under Goal 2 will likely benefit my quality of life.</p>	
<p>I relate to none of these strategies. None of them benefit me, my family, or my neighbors.</p>	
<p>Yes. The specific plan on how to reduce VMT is very vague. The steps in that section of the plan is incredibly vague. What do you mean by "Consider" aspects of the fifteen-minute neighborhood? Does that mean that any plans are in the works to make that happen? Or is that just a happy thought? And what does the proposed "Information hub" for the EV transition mean. Is this a website or a place? What would that look like or even do? How will people know about this? Will people even use it?</p>	<p>Revision: Worked G3S1.1 to emphasize long-range planning as the mechanism for neighborhood (re)design.</p>
<p>I think we should focus a lot on people with physical disabilities or limitations as we consider plans in this area. I also think we need to consider the harsh weather conditions here (especially the heat in summer) as we consider people walking, biking, and waiting for public transportation. Seats. Shade.</p>	<p>Accessibility is repeated in both strategies of G3S1, investment in multimodal travel, for emphasis. G1S4.2 prioritizes human service vanpool. And Accessibility is 1 of 3 equity questions we recommend applying to any action taken in the Plan.</p>
<p>Section - Mobility: moving around the community safely and efficiently (goals 3 - 4)-- Additional actions to consider:1) Educate the community regarding every gallon of fuel burned by their vehicle(s) creating nearly 20 pounds of CO2. Buy energy-efficient vehicles!!!</p>	<p>Revision: An Individual Action section has been added to the Plan to encourage more learning and prompt household level action.</p>
<p>Prompts for <i>Living Systems: Balancing land uses, ecosystems, and natural functions</i>: "Which strategies in this section do you relate to?" "Which strategies in this section benefit you, your family, and neighbors?" "Are there other things we should consider in this section?"</p>	
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p>STAFF RESPONSE / ACTION</p>

<p>The following point might better be made elsewhere, but it applies everywhere: In order for any of these goals (in this section and all others) to be realized, young people in the community must learn to value and feel connected with the natural world, be generally knowledgeable of ecosystems and the impact humans are having on them, understand what actions they must take to safeguard and support an optimal quality of life for all, and be supported by older generations in their efforts to minimize global warming. I've directed field trips for over 10,000 Lawrence Public School students to learn about the value of wetlands and other aspects of natural ecosystems. A huge percentage of these students have had minimal contact with natural environments. I encourage adding one or more goals related to educating and empowering youth to feel deeply connected to natural ecosystems and to take action on behalf of the natural world, of which we all are an integral part.</p>	<p>Comment noted for future implementation partnerships involving schools and youth.</p>
<p>I think it would be valuable to consider expanding educational resources within these plans to promote public interest in water conservation, wetlands, etc. (such as the Prairie Park Nature Center).</p>	<p>Revision: An Individual Action section has been added to the Plan to encourage more learning and prompt household level action.</p>
<p>There should be more emphasis on encouraging people to grow native grasses in their yards."</p>	
<p>I have not read your plan. I do however have an opinion on recycling biodegradable food. Currently, unless one does composting, waste of this sort ends up in weekly trash. Give us the option to sort out biodegradable waste and have the city (or a partner organization) collect it on a weekly basis. I saw this done effectively in Italy. P</p>	<p>Under Strategy G13S1: Comprehensively updating the Douglas County Solid Waste Management Plan, we will have the opportunity to really examine and making recommendations on our waste reduction and diversion options. See Implementation also, we will be kicking this process off soon.</p>
<p>The questions in this whole survey are not designed to gather input from everyone. They are designed so that everyone agrees with the premise of each goal. We are not. You should consider many things, but I cannot fit them in 500 characters. Balancing Land use sounds a lot like the federal 30x 30 plan. It is not a good policy and will hurt our county in the long run. I don't want wind farms near my family or land- too many hazards.</p>	<p>This Plan was developed through extensive public input, which is detailed in the Developing This Plan section. We are at the phase of receiving input on what has been developed from that process. Additionally, please see below on the Open Space Plan, which aim to provide options to private landowners in voluntary land conservation, not change ownership of land.</p>
<p>We really need to focus on creating better drainage in Lawrence, to decrease flooding and increase our off flow so we can reuse that water.</p>	<p>Stormwater management is emphasized in Thriving Community, G11S4.1.</p>
<p>We need to increase biodiversity because it allows for nature to slow the effects of climate change and so if we can plant tall grass around the city or just in general it would help hold and filter groundwater. This is detrimental to our environment and helps everyone around the county. We also need more farms to go no-till.</p>	<p>Strategy G4S1.4 in Mobility calls for native plantings in public infrastructure for its benefits to stormwater and nature-based solutions to the built environment.</p>
<p>I also think we need to promote native grasses and provide more focus to re-grow the native wildlife, and focus less on green lawns and trees. the native grasses are beneficial for pollinators and water (filtering and storm response).</p>	
<p>I beg this community to think long and hard about what sustainability means. Sustainability is beyond 5,10, or 15 years. Think 75-100 years from now. We need to turn more land into producing food and building fewer apartments. When we move land to produce food, it can't be like we have been doing in farming for the past 75 years, but much more like 1800s in terms of sustainability.</p>	<p>Goals 7 and 8 aim to support farmers in the kinds of practices mentioned here.</p>
<p>We also need more farms to go no-till.</p>	
<p>Please consider implementing more native grasslands, and helping private landowners implement native grasslands. They are far more biodiverse than any forest. They act as incredible carbon sinks, they filter and clean water, as well as helping restore natural water tables. Since they are so good at helping water infiltrate into the ground and strengthening the soil, they stifle runoff at an incredible rate, and since the water is better at absorbing into the ground, floods are prevented.</p>	
<p>I am not in favor of any government take over of land uses.</p>	
<p>Please take care of our forests and prairies - what we have left anyway. The research noted in the plan is quite clear of the importance of our remaining forests. Eight Mile Valley is a great example of remaining old growth forest.</p>	

They dont talk about helping fix the riparian buffer on the river and they dont specify how they will help the watersheds and reduce runoff and waste. Considering the entire Kansas river is polluted they need to take even more steps than they claim to want to accomplish.
Goals 5,6,7,8 are all important. I don't see how it's possible to reconcile this with Dg. Co's pro-growth policies. "Smart Growth" is an oxymoron.
Protect watersheds and prime agricultural lands from development. Increase fees on the largest water users to promote conservation.
Fewer permits for developers
I support an Open Space Plan for DG CO to preserve diverse and rich resources, such as those I have witnessed in Eight Mile Valley in the southwest part of the county
Do not allow development to continue to encroach on the Haskell/Baker wetlands. No expansion of the SLT, ever.
None, we can barely maintain what we have. The city parks are shabby as is downtown plantings. Oak Hill Cemetery and its conditions is an embarrassment.
The goals in this section are exceptionally important to me and will have the biggest impact on quality of life for both humans and other species. They can only be successful if the goals in previous sections are also implemented to curtail humans' negative impacts and increase positive ones. I'm excited to see how much thought and detailed planning has gone into this section.
Water quality and supply are top priority issues for me - especially value creative long-term thinking regarding water.
Let us live with less "green" initiatives. They crush our housing economy, all but prevent lower cost housing.
None of these particularly relate to me and I do not particularly have any personal experience with any of them either, but the one that resonated with my the most is the idea of trying to keep built environments away from more natural environments which, in turn, will lessen the burden on maintaining within the restrictions/limits of certain plans with regard to environmental/ecosystem safety.
Land Use and No-Till: I saw no-till noted in the accompanying information. I tried no-till, but didn't like it. It seemed this required an increase in herbicide and really didn't see a difference in production or soil health.
I relate to protecting the water because i know how horrible the quality is becoming in the rive and i do not want that to be the same with Clinton Lake. All of them benefit me because without water we wont survive, and without water we wont be able to grow the crops. Without healthy and rich soil we wont be able to grow the crops either. Kansas is filled with farms and without healthy farming our economy will crumble.
I relate to reducing waste. Food waste bothers me especially when it is perfectly fine to eat but just taken for granted. Even if it is not fine to eat there is such thing as compost, which people can be a reliable source of good soil.
I appreciated the section discussing planning for green spaces in the development of expanding urban areas.
I also really valued the section on water protections and conservation, because we are currently in a major drought and that is a critical issue.
I'm a super advocate for returning the native green back to our city and planting more trees because there's so many benefits. I enjoy kayaking our river frequently and restoring the quality of our rivers in order to keep up the practicality and keep the aesthetics of our river as well.
"Water quality is so important to our community and is never emphasized enough. I am glad to see initiatives being implemented to improve it.

The Douglas County Open Space Plan recommends further and more focused strategies on land conservation through zoning mechanisms, landowner resources, floodplain protections and more. These plans will work in concert with one another to progress shared goals in these areas.

Thank you for your comments, observations, and/or sharing personal experiences. These will inform us going into implementation.

<p>I also really like the plan to increase trees by 20% because it not only helps the air, but green spaces help mental health.</p>	
<p>We live near the forest and I think we need to plant alot more trees to help offset our carbon load.</p>	
<p>Lowering emissions, a sustainable food community and insuring a supply of water competes with the growth trend. Micro managing these goals as individuals would demonstrate a reality for future growth goals. The current pro growth trend is popular among the political, business, and economic interests.</p>	
<p>As a senior citizen none of this affects me much. I think it is absurd to hire expensive consultants and embark on "feel good" strategies. Lawrence wants to squander \$millions, and all that's going to do is drive taxes up to the point where I have to move.</p>	
<p>I relate to none of these strategies. None of them benefit me, my family, or my neighbors.</p>	
<p>Goals 6, 7, and 8 will benefit soil preservation and protect water.</p>	
<p>I like the part about the trees but the aim is to merely ""maintain tree coverage"". How is it a goal to do nothing? Why not actually plant some trees? Use the money you use to pay the salaries of whoever writes these empty and hollow words to purchase trees and pay for labor. Then plant a windbreak around low-income areas and require landlords to seal windows. This will help the poor reduce utility expenses and somehow ""reduce emissions"" as you claim. Or maybe ban cars from Mass street at times.</p>	<p>The reference to maintaining tree coverage as part of the greenhouse gas calculations accounts for the fact that the scenario was projecting out to 2030. We are assuming that new growth would not significantly sequester more carbon in that time. G4S1.2 covers establishing and working toward a community goal to increase tree canopy in urban areas, where they provide the most co-benefits and do not compete with the native grassland ecosystem.</p>
<p>Totally supportive here. Eliminate single family zoning, encourage multifamily building and mixed-use development, and prevent sprawl through annexation will save rural areas of Lawrence/Douglas County.</p>	
<p>One of the key stumbling blocks I see is the current approach of the city planning department to development. We recently had reason to be involved with a rezoning issue in our area and were told by a member of the planning department that their priority is to get the developers to the point of breaking ground and NOT to follow the wishes of the community as outlined in various plans regarding the preservation of neighborhoods, ecosystems and a healthy, thoughtful approach to affordable housing</p>	<p>Review and update of city-specific policies like a land development code or building code will provide opportunities to strengthen some of these areas. Additionally, the county zoning regulations seek to guide growth and avoid sprawl. Still more improvements can be made everywhere. The Implementation section prompts further policy review as an initial step.</p>
<p>Additionally, these types of developments cut down on residential buildings and transportation emissions https://sustainability.utexas.edu/sites/sustainability.utexas.edu/files/0201_Speck_Symposium2014.pdf</p>	
<p>Focus on affordable housing.</p>	<p>Affordable housing initiatives will be important partners in achieving G1S1 and others.</p>
<p>Goal 5 has language that I should protect land of families who moved to DG CO to farm in1860-70s and continue to do so. But allowing commercial solar and wind energy projects will dilute soil richness, damage land contours, and contaminate water.</p>	
<p>The possibility of huge wind turbines with the dangers they present and destruction they do with land use and maintenance really worries me. The engineers of the world are working hard right now on better more efficient and cost effective harvesting of wind for energy. Using old technology that is being abandoned in Europe because of the problems with environmental hazards doesn't make sense,.</p>	<p>This Plan supports energy action at all levels, from reduction and efficiency, to renewable forms at all scales. A multi-faceted approach will be necessary to meet our energy challenges and promote an affordable, reliable, clean energy supply. Douglas County has active regulations which allow solar and wind projects to apply for permit. We recognize these are large land uses that require critical, project-specific examination. These decisions are made at the Commission level, using the criteria of the regulations.</p>
<p>I appreciate the respect for the land and its role in sequestering greenhouse gases. I am concerned about G7S2 #2 - "Maintain solar and wind regulations that protect public health and safety, etc." This needs to be balanced with the need for developing lots of solar and wind energy. If we don't do this, people and the land will suffer from the effects of climate change. Shouldn't there be something about transitioning away from fossil fuel use (esp. coal) which has negative health effects?</p>	
<p>I think that it is of utter importance to communicate and partner with specialists in the environment. There needs to be more focused attempts to partner with organizations that prioritize water conservation and protection, such as the KAWS.</p>	<p>The Implementation chapter emphasizes the importance of partners and the intention to seek field expertise and collaboration when approaching implementation of a given strategy.</p>

Prompts for *Thriving Community: Nurturing health and resilience across the county*: "Which strategies in this section do you relate to?" "Which strategies in this section benefit you, your family, and neighbors?" "Are there other things we should consider in this section?"

PUBLIC COMMENT	STAFF RESPONSE / ACTION
Yes. An important step in preparation for ecological disasters, such as major flooding, blizzards, heatwaves etc. is eliminating food deserts. A large part of Lawrence is in food deserts, and it mostly affects the low income communities. When these ecological disasters happen and people don't have easy access to basic necessities, they have to venture out and get them anyway, which is dangerous and can be expensive. It also increases VMT.	Comment noted to include access to food as consideration in implementation of Goal 11: Increase community preparedness.
It is also critical that the food deserts in North and East Lawrence be addressed—especially as a part of emergency preparedness.	There are several other community plans which focus on community issues and aspirations that intersect with this Plan, including the Food System Plan, which contains a detailed chapter on food access and food deserts. This Plan is intended to work in concert with existing efforts such as this, so we can be more impactful together.
There was no mention of the lack of access to supermarkets and grocery stores that such a big proportion of Lawrence faces. I think that this should be a massive priority.	
I would be interested to hear more about food desert actions and more details on the information hub.	
I think that there needs to be specifications of what needs to be done to improve community services. For example, solving food deserts not only aids in public health, it also limits the need for excess transportation to get to a grocery.	
The plans to slow down climate change are very smart and important but the most important part for me is when it actually gets done. Make it known that these actions are being done.	See Implementation section on initial steps and keeping the public informed of progress.
Building a sustainable climate change strategy should include plans for intense disasters. Major property loss, higher cost food, food shortages all can be expected.	Comment noted for future implementation and development of Goal 11.
I guess I'm saying I would like to see where this community is specifically with all the info you present. Why does it cost money to drop off green waste? Why is an appointment needed for drop off of hazardous waste? How efficient is the current recycling program? How safe are current streets for pedestrians and bicyclists?	The County does not oversee all the programs you mention, but we will take note about including these kinds of details about the programs and services resulting from this Plan.
More walking paths, etc. People need to get out in the unincorporated areas to experience the beauty. Everyone always says the same thing - "It is so quiet."	Strategy G3S2.1 was developed in response to similar feedback.
Explain what that term means.	Unknown reference.
Again they keep saying support and improve and wont actually say what theyre going to do it feels like when I read this section it was just a bunch of Misc things that couldnt be added into the other sections and why does goal 12 have no sub points like this whole section feels unpolished	Revision: Review and edits were made with particular attention to strengthening action words where applicable. Some strategies may be applied in different forms across four cities and the unincorporated areas. The intention was to provide just enough flexibility that all communities could find a starting point that fit them best, while moving together toward shared goals.
There also needs to be explanations on how you are going to build awareness; what does the strategy implement? On the same lines as this, what does "encourage" mean? What actions are being taken to "encourage"?	
The harming of the unhoused communities during extreme temperatures. Building awareness because a lot of people in the community might just be uneducated on the devastation of the manor and are just ignorant to the prior that this should take place.	The Plan aims to prioritize community members most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as we implement this Plan. See Equity Recommendations in the Climate Risks chapter for more.
Younger generations care about the preservation of downtown Lawrence. Considering the conversion of a few blocks of Massachusetts St. into a pedestrian-only zone should be reconsidered.	This Plan will look to many partner plans to guide certain efforts more specifically, such as the City of Lawrence Downtown Master Plan.
I think that this section should address the conversion of downtown Lawrence into an even more bike and pedestrian friendly zone.	
If you want to reduce climate change social burnout, stop making every single issue about climate change.	
Health. We are blessed to have LMH	

I'd like to make a suggestion to add to Goal 13. Many cities have adopted recycling programs for hard to recycle plastics using the Hefty ReNew recycling program (perhaps there are others; this is one I am familiar with). The new ordinance banning plastic bags will help, but there will still be significant plastics that our current program cannot recover. Staff should investigate the feasibility of implementing this in Lawrence. More information at https://www.hefty.com/products/hefty-renew
[Referring to emphasis on multi-model options.] See previous two responses. These are the answer to Douglas County's sustainability woes.
The climate has been changing since the birth of this planet. While mankind does have an impact, to improve, it would mean we stop mining for the rare elements that you need to make solar panels and stop making windmills of fiberglass that are toxic and will never rot back into the soil but make the soil toxic when it breaks. Promote actual composting and actual renewable farming practices that are more expensive but sustainable - ex. Polyface Micro: Success with Livestock on a Homestead Scale
I relate to none of these strategies. None of them benefit me, my family, or my neighbors.
I would like very much to find a way to some day convert my beautiful eight mile creek valley into a public space, protected for enjoyment by the people of Douglas county, i want to prevent development of this precious natural resource.
Entertain new business developments that stimulate the local economy thru jobs and sales tax revenue. Stop the hyper protectionist efforts.
Provide free education regarding sustainable, plant-based nutrition.
Personally struggling more and more with chronic respiratory issues , The importance of shaded areas in public places
"Climate anxiety" has been manufactured by those who stand to profit from the hysteria, like AlGore, and national news media. "Healthy food" seems to be code for "organically grown". That stuff is for rich people. I cannot afford, and do not care for, organically grown anything. This misguided notion that we need to spend \$trillions to save the planet is absurd, and corrupt, and the proposed responses are worse than the symptoms.
I appreciated the section about limiting single-use plastics.
Promoting access to emergency preparedness education and resources is very important—especially in Kansas where we are vulnerable to tornadoes and severe storms.
Climate anxiety? What? Like when your power, gas, or water is shut off because colluding landlords engage in price fixing causing living expenses to artificially skyrocket, and now that you don't have access to power you might freeze or die of heat stroke, especially the elderly? Or do you mean that politicized climate change fear mongering causes anxiety disorders in children? Seriously, the way things are being framed here is propagandizing and moronic.
I have bad allergies so i can relate to this issue, and i think if we increased the amount of accessible health care it would help our community thrive more. Also we need a better hospital to help people with more health related problems.
We have a lot of problems with stormwater in old west Lawrence, so I am glad to see the problem being addressed.
Establishing extreme weather relief centers is going to be life-changing for many people in our community and is incredibly important.
Goal 12 resonates with me. We should be prioritizing farmers over real-estate developers.
Work to move people away from animal agriculture and put the focus on sustainable, plant-based agriculture. Start by banning the sale of animal flesh and animal secretions from public farmers' markets.
I support these goals to be prepared to assist those who are impacted physically and mentally by climate change, but I have not specific comments to make on this issue.
Do not let the most privileged loudest voices who come out to oppose change in Lawrence destroy our future. There will be many disenfranchised and silent populations (for structural reasons) who would benefit from the suggestions presented here.
Climate change is an issue for my job because at Clinton Marina we need the water to be healthy, and when the weather is too extreme and hot, i am unable to do my job.

Thank you for your ideas, comments, observations, and/or sharing personal experiences. All of these will inform us going into implementation.

Section - Thriving Community: nurturing health and resilience across the county (goals 9 - 14)-- Another impressively comprehensive, insightful, and detailed action plan for crucial important variables.

I want to make sure the community I live in and the people that are to come, whether it is people wanting to move here, or simply next generations experience the same beautiful community that I get to experience. It is our duty to ensure this future for the generations.

To collect general feedback, community members were asked: "Do you have suggestions for how we can improve the presentation of information?"

PUBLIC COMMENT	STAFF RESPONSE / ACTION
<p>To someone not already familiar with climate change issues, this would be a lot of information to absorb and understand. I don't have suggestions about how to break it down further. I know the county sponsored open meetings for individual groups, as listed in this plan, I do not think the county held public meetings to discuss concepts in the plan and answered the public's questions. The county should have done this at several locations - and posted the presentations online.</p>	<p>Revision: Explanation of public comment period added to draft. Public open houses were held in November and December of 2023. Staff were available to walk community members through the Plan and answer questions. These took place: Lawrence - 11/13, Baldwin City - 11/27, Eudora - 12/4, Lecompton - 12/12.</p>
<p>I think you should have more concision in the document because it wasn't exactly the most clear what the plans were, it was also quite boring to read and I did not really have an enjoyable experience.</p>	<p>We have considered an abbreviated hand-out version based on certain goals or projects to be more engaging and accessible.</p>
<p>I think that some of the organization is confusing. Instead of the goal numbers being continued, I think it would make more sense for the numbers to restart with each section. For example, in the mobility section instead of having the goal be goal 3, it is just goal 1 so it restarts and is easier to reference.</p>	<p>Due to the cross-cutting of issues, the goals connect to one another throughout the Plan - so they become a large group of 14 instead of small isolated groupings.</p>
<p>Make it prettier, it is just very boring to look at and I lost motivation to read quickly.</p>	<p>The final Plan will be designed more graphically.</p>
<p>This entire plan is an egregious waste of money, and will only cost us even more money that we dont have, going foward. If the city of Lawrence wants to make changes within city limits that's great, but we DO NOT want it in the county. If we wanted to pay for all of this nonsense, we would live in Lawrence. The "climate crisis" is not something that everyone actually believes to be a real thing. Leave our money out of this.</p>	<p>Creating a plan to mitigate and adapt to climate change is called for in Goal 6.1 of the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan 2040.</p>
<p>Please, stop everything you're doing. Or current energy sources are wonderful, sustainable, and we like them. I don't need my bills going up because a county group arbitrarily made decision they thought were "good".</p>	
<p>Do away with everything your are doing entirely.</p>	
<p>I would like to see the plan go away entirely.</p>	
<p>Be less vague and provide more specific actions that Douglas County will take to improve these problems that they brought up.</p>	
<p>Add more information on plans of action instead of just ideas formed</p>	
<p>When your 5th grade essay needs 300 words but you only have 50, don't fill in the remaining 250 with meaningless jargon. It doesn't make you seem smart, it makes you a jerk. Learn how to use words like sustainable or equitable in a sentence that actually means something. This entails adding the information which you leave out. You can't constantly promise to explore, promote, or develop without actually doing anything. A planner who plans to make a plan about planning isn't doing an actual job.</p>	<p>Revision: Reviewed and updated with particular attention to strengthening action words where feasible. Some initiatives may be applied in different forms across four cities and the unincorporated areas. Our intention was to provide just enough flexibility that all communities could find a starting point that fit them best, while we move together toward shared goals.</p>
<p>I think there could be more clarity in the words used. I also believe that there could be more specificity in what exactly certain actions are going to be taken to pursue a plan.</p>	
<p>I think some parts of the plan are pretty vague in terms of language. Words like "consider" and "promote" don't convey very clearly what that action actually looks like.</p>	
<p>Thank you for taking on this huge task. However, do not reach beyond what it right for Douglas County now. So many changes are occurring across the world right now related to renewable energy that I would hate for a plan to be based upon what is available right now. Leaving room to adapt as energy efficiency continues to improve and the current equipment used to product green energy lessons their impact on the environment.</p>	<p>The Implementation chapter describes intentions to review and assess goals and strategies at intervals, which will include consideration of new technologies.</p>

Fig 5 and 6 do not define units. Are tonnes per year? Are they CO2 emissions or CO2e?	Revision: Figure updated to address.
Need to summarize how the 2021 emissions were estimated and need to define what CO2e is.	Revision: Clarity added to the 2021 calculation and definition added.
County commissioners HAVE TO GET on board with you.	Thank you for your ideas, comments, and/or sharing personal experiences. All of these will inform us going into implementation.
Hold landlords accountable for poorly sealed buildings of which their greed causes them to neglect. Plant real trees, and stop allowing the people who don't believe in this community to ruin the library and public transportation. Fix the pot holes and reduce unnecessary spending on endless government bureaucracies that promote luxury beliefs about energy conservation. Speak plainly and honestly about real problems facing the public rather than virtual signaling about nothing.	
The plan makes sense to me. Large industrial wind and solar is not creative - just old stuff - those projects bring danger, would kill the eagles and bats and other species, and places enormous stress on the mental health of citizens. This is creative and thought provoking - what I expect from Douglas County. Keep working on this!!	
It is really well presented. Hats off to you all.	
I just do better with paper presentation to read and mark,	
I would love to say people are making an active effort to use public transport and, if able, to purchase electric cars as their next vehicle. In addition, the KAWS organization is very active in the process for clean water.	
Be honest in ALL numbers and make it clear to read and understand. You insult the people of Lawrence with the language couched in understandable rhetoric,	
Yes, really evaluate the long-term costs to the land and the people. Look past the government subsidies and into what mother nature actually does and needs. The earth is excellent at healing itself if we stop creating more pollution, stop spraying weeds, and allow weeds to grow flowers for the bees. And for every "pest," there is a natural agent to balance life. Stop with toxic pollutants like solar and fiberglass pieces that we can prevent. Encourage composing and gardening in each yard.	
I think I offered questions which would help the community understand where we are at and where the direction is going.	
I liked the small group meeting that I attended recently. I felt as though I had plenty of time to ask questions and provide input.	
My teacher had to give it to our class. We did not even know it existed.	
Tell the truth	
Look at ALL the evidence	

To collect feedback on future implementation of the Plan, community members were asked: "How would you like to see the community involved in implementation of this plan?"
 "Are there community partners or organizations that come to mind?"

PUBLIC COMMENT	STAFF RESPONSE / ACTION
Special interest groups do not have the greater good of the community in mind; limit the participation of special interest groups, and be more inclusive & diverse when soliciting input.	
Two organizations I'm involved in locally that are very dedicated to many of these issues are Citizens' Climate Lobby and Lawrence Bird Alliance (formerly Jayhawk Audubon Society). Contact can be made via these webs: https://www.jayhawkaudubon.org/ https://citizensclimatelobby.org/ Contact the local chapter via: https://citizensclimatelobby.org/about-ccl/chapters/	
Maybe more protests and info meetings? Sunrise project has done a wonderful job with it so far.	
Reverse course and make efforts to build up our community and its economy not crush it with progressive so-called green efforts	

<p>I am not sure about any specific people or organizations that are generally beneficial to the wellbeing of the community, but I believe that the community certainly should be involved in the implementation of this plan, because the community is the people that would be affected by these plans the most, and therefore they have the most incentive to see it through.</p>	
<p>yes, maybe try to target younger audiences through social media</p>	
<p>A huge thank you to all who have participated in creating this comprehensive, crucially important plan; seeking ways to address a wide range of experiences within our community; and finding ways to get community members engaged, knowledgeable and committed to action.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your comments and ideas about implementation, also resources, and partner recommendations. All of these will inform us as we move into implementation.</p>
<p>Step by Step Kansas would be a great partnership for promoting climate education resources.</p>	
<p>For implementing better wildlife and water preservation and management: Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS), No Till On the Plains, Native Lands Restoration Collaborative, Kansas Native Plant Society, and others.</p>	
<p>The Climate and Energy Project should be involved.</p>	
<p>Among many others, we should partner with the Climate & Energy Project.</p>	
<p>Schools - science and social studies classes, Public library, Parks and rec, Public transportation, Agencies assisting people with disabilities</p>	
<p>You should involve the Douglas County Rural Preservation Association. email: info@dcrpa.org address: DCRPA, PO Box #603, Baldwin City, KS 66006.</p>	
<p>How can this plan have teeth? I have seen so many plans developed (few as well researched and presented as yours) which end up at worst on the shelf and at best used to ask pertinent questions of those working towards development who then ignore the wishes of the community as outlined in the plans. This is crucial information and strategy for our survival, how do we make elected officials and hired planners, managers work with this plan in mind?</p>	<p>See the Implementation section on the roles of Douglas County Sustainability and other local governments. By working with several staff across multiple departments in all communities, we aim to embed this work into the functions and services of our organizations.</p>
<p>Key partners are the electrical providers such as Evergy. Need to include their short and long term plans into the plan and try to incentivize them for cleaner electricity.</p>	<p>Revision: Added clarity to the Greenhouse Gas Inventory chapter that Evergy's published reduction plans are calculated into the emissions reduction scenario.</p>
<p>I would like to see the plan abandoned altogether. AGW models are notoriously - laughably -inaccurate. AGW is a theory. Just because polls of self-proclaimed scientists accept it does not make it true.</p>	
<p>I would absolutely not like to see the community helping to implement this plan. It's designed to do nothing but increase global government and gives government leaders. The ability to enforce nonconstitutional mandates on the citizens. That's all this is.</p>	<p>Creating a plan to mitigate and adapt to climate change is called for in Goal 6.1 of the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan 2040.</p>
<p>I hope this plan is scrapped and reworked. The concepts are worthy, but the premises are faulty. We need to expand gardening, raising animals and food preservation. That is great, but not with new technologies. We need to go back to basic earth science and chemistry prior to WWI. Again reference one example: Polyface Micro: Success with Livestock on a Homestead Scale</p>	<p>These concepts are included in Goal 12 within the Thriving Community chapter: "Increase resilience through community food production, self-sufficiency, and food recovery".</p>
<p>Get the schools involved and teach more about the immediate crisis in our community. The children are the next generation that will run this world and they have to live in a world that is dying. Save it before it is too late</p>	<p>Comment noted for future implementation partnerships involving schools and youth.</p>

The input below was collected at five public open houses where content of the draft Plan was displayed for comments, questions, and discussions with staff. Comments were written on notes and affixed to posters, or were delivered directly to staff by attendees. Written comments that were illegible could not be included here. The open houses were held as follows: Sunrise Project, Lawrence (Youth Audience) - 11/9/23, Union Pacific Train Depot, Lawrence - 11/13/23; Baldwin City Library - 11/27/23; Eudora School District Offices - 12/4/23, Lecompton Community Buiding - 12/12/23. **The left column indicates the topic of the poster where the comment was made.**

POSTER TOPICS	PUBLIC COMMENT	STAFF RESPONSE / ACTION
Comments and questions related to development of the Plan and local impacts to Douglas County:	all of the cities are not mentioned in the draft (?)	Revision: New introduction page describes countywide approach, including all communities involved.
	What is the total cost of this effort to date to Douglas County?	This is a cross-agency effort, integrating the policies and services of multiple government departments. It does not have a specific budget line.
	Examples of impacts: declining biodiversity	Revision: Language added to Climate Risks chapter.
	Examples of factors: Income	
	Examples of factors: Race/Ethnicity	
	Have you considered the impact of immigration	Population growth projections are calculated into our Climate Action scenario estimations.
Give example - what % of species are endangered? Etc. "Biodiversity" not a familiar term to everybody.	Revision: Biodiversity added to list of definitions.	
Comments and questions on the posters related to the greenhouse gas inventory and reduction targets:	How will cities be encouraged to build move green spaces & affordable housing w/ green/sustainable practices.	The Implementation section prompts first steps, including further policy review. Review and update of city-specific policies like a land development code or building code will provide opportunities to strengthen those measures.
	Let's discourse corporate renewables and focus on micro-grids, DER, community.	Revision: Reworded G1S2 to be more inclusive of these kinds of solutions.
	Focus on infrastructure for Douglas County - not Big Wind & Solar that doesn't benefit us locally.	This Plan supports energy action at all levels, from reduction and efficiency, to renewable forms at all scales. A mutli-faceted approach will be necessary to meet our energy challenges and promote an affordable, reliable, clean energy supply.
	GHG Inventory and Targets--specifically the climate action targets calculations	Revision: Reworked the Greenhouse Gas Inventory chapter to more clearly explain the relationship of global goals and the estimated emission reductions possible for Douglas County through potential actions. Initiatives are specifically local, though we look to global science to understand our local emissions in the context of a shared climate.
	Better explain the IPCC global goal. Connect that to how DC made our goals. A	
	Local initiatives - not "global mitigation"	

Who pays for this? People are struggling to get by, can they afford these expenses?	The Implementation chapter points to potential funding sources, from grants to embedding efforts to existing processes.
Better recycle program!	With Strategy G13S1: Comprehensively updating the Douglas County Solid Waste Management Plan, we will have the opportunity to really examine and making recommendations on our waste reduction and diversion options. See Implementation also, we will be kicking this process off soon.
Create a better recycle program in Douglas Co - we need to start w/ the basics - Recycling!!	
Are you looking at specific companies?	Aside from local government operations, we are not targeting specific entities at this time. Implementation will involve further investigation and development of voluntary options, incentives, and/or policy changes.
Are companies being held accountable for their carbon emissions?	
How are manufacturers/industries in DGCO being held to these metrics and standards?	
Why not increase tree coverage? Incentive to encourage removal of volunteer cedar trees in vacant fields?	The reference to maintaining tree coverage in the greenhouse gas discussion is assuming that we can maintain the carbon sequestration level that we have. It's for emission projection purposes. G4S1.2 is where we cover establishing and working toward a community goal to increase tree canopy in urban areas, where they provide the most co-benefits and do not compete with the native grassland ecosystem.
Shouldn't we increase tree canopy? Increase # of trees!	
Notion of city/county can do things to generate power publically owned as communtiy. Can we generate enough to support county buildings. Solar on unused property.	In Strategy G1S3 we focus on oportuntities for reduction and generation in regard to local government facilities.
How many emissions are the City of Lawrence responsible for?	The data for our inventory was collected countywide and was not broken out by cities.
[referring to: 5% of residential units retrofitted to be 20% more efficient] At least 50% to 80%	Revision: Reworked the Greenhouse Gas Inventory chapter to better explain our 3rd party partnership with ICLEI and their advice on identifying incremental measures to calculate an initial emissions reduction model.
Focus on residential where people's hearts are	Comment noted for future implementation.
Not just carbon emissions, but PFAs, microplastics, and forever chemicals.	We will have opportunity to study these issues further as we develop implementation steps in waste management, water resources, and more.
Where is utility scale solar?	Revision: Explanation of the utility solar and wind regulations and consideration processes were added to the Energy section. Upholding these regulations also appears in G7S1.2.
Need for leaders to be better informed on how bad the climate situation is. Also, a sort of need to level with the community instead of the constant drumbeat to be upbeat and positive. Honestly, I think will go a long way. Less statistics, more leveling language.	The Plan is intended to elevate climate concerns into decision making at this level. Feedback on statistics and language is noted for revisions and future communications.

<p>Comments and questions related to the section called Energy: Powering where we live, work, and play:</p>	G2S2.3 change word to Advocate, more actionable	Revision: Strategy revised to "Pursue policies..."
	G1S2 Adopt 2018 2021 IECC? DOE is NOT required for building permit	Revision: Error corrected.
	Nobody wants more property taxes? (in response to PACE)	Revision: Removed specific program strategy for a broader approach encompassing several policies opportunities.
	G1S1 - 2 Provide listing of contractors and trades who can help do energy audits and energy reduction plan	Thank you for these comments. They are noted for future implementation considerations and opportunities.
	[on incentivizing solar:] lowering bills is not enough of a draw. Already have pretty low rates/ bills. Bringing it down a little is not an incentive for me.	
	G2S1 underground transmission aesthetic & response fix, resilience to ice	
	DGCO property tax is already so high?! How can we be inclusive if regulat citizens can't afford to live let alone OWN in our county?	
	G2S2 Look at energy incinerator facilities and solar. Opposed to windmill generated electricity.	
	G2 don't ruin the beauty of Douglas County with above ground transmission lines	
G1S2 IRC, IBC, IECC	Revision: IECC added to G1S2.3	
<p>Comments and questions related to the section called Mobility: Moving around the community safely and efficiently:</p>	[on EV transitioning:] need to study what's working first. and what is not.	Strategy G1S3.1: Conduct EV readiness planning, will allow us to evaluate the need for and guide installation of public charging stations throughout the county. This will help us gather the best information on future growth and demand capacity, and plan for funding and infrastructure opportunities where it will have the most impact.
	G3S3 - When installing new EV chargers, install two-way chargers that can also feedback into the grid during peak hours. EVs become energy storage	
	G3S3 - How much energy does it take to charge an electric car? Where do the components of car batteries come from and who is mining these materials? What happens to electric car batteries at teh end of its life?	
	Charging: Incentive investment in charging. Rollout carefully. Douglas Co could be a leader in EV charging	
	I like that I can see around me when biking. When biking, prefer to have ears open for safety. Comfortable, safe walking paths.	Thank you for sharing these reflections with us.
	It's a 15 minutes walk to Dillons, but the bus takes half an hour. Sitting for longer than it would take to walk.	
	The 15 minutes concept would benefit me and many other people including my sibling who doesn't like to drive.	

	<p>G5S1 & G3S2 Measure mode share by bike counts, set goals. Achieve by making the small investment safe, secure, convenient bicycle parking. End the DEFACTO-BIKE BAN which de-prioritizes cyclist efficient use of public facilities. MMTC's denial of responsibility for bike parking is the very means of disaccommodating QUALITY bike parking OBVIOUS example "Carnegie" Bldg - zero bike parking obvious county court-house. Go down the list public bike bike parking has been delayed, denied & degraded continuously over 20 yrs. The epidemic of homeless has been accompanied, nationa-wide by increase in bike theft. MMTC accept no responsibility unfortunately, when the city MUST provide bike parking it is incompetency provided wrong bike racks, wrong site placement, failed installation. example... City has no expertise in bike parking--authority to make design choices that staff need training in quality pike parking design. There is no quality bicycle parking in Lawrence. Zero--None. Staff do not know what quality looks like--matter of fact. New term for you isometric waste. installation failure reinstall more bicycle parking... new 'parking code' in the offing = delay, install the obvious NOW example SF Depot needs a bike parking box yesterday! No more excuses. I would like to apologize for the stridency of this "input." unfortunately--it is entirely appropriate. Thank you.</p>	<p>Revision: Bike parking is named as an example in G3S1 where it would be considered under infrastructure investment.</p>
	<p>G3S1 How to balance "15 min" neighborhood with rural living</p>	<p>Strategy G14S1.1: Encourage small business establishments in and around township centers is intended to be an unincorporated version of this.</p>
	<p>G3S2 Commuter rail service connecting KC-Lawrence-Topeka</p>	<p>G3S2.2 is intended to move us in that direction by building capacity through demonstrated demand.</p>
	<p>G4S1 Encourage eco friendly landscaping- don't rake leaves, etc.</p>	<p>Revision: An Individual Action section has been added to the Plan to encourage more learning and prompt household level action.</p>
<p>Comments and questions related to the section called Living Systems: Balancing land uses, ecosystems, and natural functions:</p>	<p>"sensitive lands" needs to be inclusive of ecosystems/wild life corridors and old growth trees and forest preservation</p> <p>Well testing study is needed</p> <p>Consider unintended consequences such as cutting through forest and imminent domain due to transmission lines.</p> <p>Plant hemp is carbon negative</p> <p>G8 How can we reduce consumption, reduce buying things? It's counter to what cities want...</p> <p>G5S1 - Lawrence always wants to be a tourist destination, restaurants etc. But is this really good for the climate? How can we address all parts of....towards climate + reducing consumption?</p>	<p>Revision: Added reference to the Douglas County code definition of sensitive lands. This section also includes a new highlight of the Open Space Plan. The lands described are included under its Conservation Criteria.</p> <p>Thank you for these comments. They are noted for future implementation considerations and opportunities.</p>

	G6 - graywater collection, septic-like system	
	G5S2 - 4 YES on burn bans! Huge waste of fire dept resources too	Revision: Removed specific strategy due to implementation by Emergency Management in the meantime.
	G5S3 Tax policies and incentives so landowners can afford not to develop land!	The new Douglas County Open Space Plan (G5S3) cites tax benefits as a tool for land conservation. Through this adjacent effort we will continue to investigate this strategy.
	G5S2 - 5 The new Boston development is counter-intuitive to all this--with extreme weather we should be --> 5. Seek research partnerships to understand biodiversity	The new Douglas County Open Space Plan (G5S3) recommends new tools and efforts to more proactively conserve vital spaces. It also identifies the Wakarusa River Corridor as a focus area. These plans will work in concert to conserve land for open space and climate adaptation.
	Like the K-10 crossing?	
	G7S1 - Land use that Planning Commission looks at in terms of "valued natural resources" are mostly limited to fedrally required water issues. Land use should also be look at as wildlife habitates	The new Douglas County Open Space Plan (G5S3) elevates wildlife habitat as a priority. These efforts will work in concert to more proactively conserve spaces that encompass multiple values for our human and non-human community.
	monocropping, single-field/single crop = a lot of fertilizer which causes problems.	Goal 8 speaks to climate-smart agriculture and resources for voluntary transition.
	Listen to farmers and honor/learn from their existing practices. Have them share their knowledge. Meet and host conversations in the rural areas.	Goals 7 and 8 will benefit from knowledge sharing and networks. These ideas are noted for future engagement and implementation.
	Also state energy plan!	Comment noted for future state advocacy opportunities in implementation.
	Protect sensitive lands & ecosystems from large scale wind & solar projects.	This Plan supports energy action at all levels, from reduction and efficiency, to renewable forms at all scales. A multi-faceted approach will be necessary to meet our energy challenges and promote an affordable, reliable, clean energy supply. Douglas County has active regulations which allow solar and wind projects to apply for permit. We recognize these are large land uses that require critical, project-specific examination. These decisions are made at the Commission level, using these policy documents.
	G7 - setbacks to protect our Douglas County people	
	G7S1 - 4 - Solar + wind needs to NOT turn part of the county into industrial wasteland	
	G8S1 Do not use high quality sol land for solar farms, find other places :)	
Comments and questions related to the section called Thriving Community: Nurturing health and resilience across the county:	water quality impacts from wind & solar projects. Soil & water preservation in the rural areas. Erotable soil in Nextera project plan.	Please see the last response in Living Systems above for regulatory reference on potential projects.
	G4S3 - Prioritize attainable + sustainable housing	Affordable housing initiatives will be important partners in achieving G1S1 and others.
	Promote attainable housing -- we need housing stock that people can afford	
	Solar really important to vulnerable people	See Implementation chapter for more on short-term priority to secure funding for solar that would benefit more vulnerable residents.
	G13S1 - arrow to accessible recycling	

	G14S1 - Stop manufacturing plastic	With Strategy G13S1: Comprehensively updating the Douglas County Solid Waste Management Plan, we will have the opportunity to really examine and making recommendations on our waste reduction and diversion options. See Implementation also, we will be kicking this process off soon.
concerns about plastic		
G13S2 - Re-install dishwashers (use dishes)		
G13S2 - Prioritize reduction of waste in current school lunch & breakfast programs	G11S3 - Unionize laborers	Thank you for sharing these ideas. They are noted for future implementation.
G12S3 - homeless people invested in community gardening	G14S2 - Help employ those who have difficulty with getting jobs; train and provide skill-building and work habits	
schools - food pre-packed & not great food kids need to see something is happening they can be part of	More roof top gardens. More parks.	
G10 How bout some grants for artists to make community-based participatory art on climate, etc. could be mental health realted too		
What are the biggest obstacles to these goals? Who will be the players most responsible	We are implementing change in our community.	
Climate change makes me anxious. It's sharp & staggering how dramatic the temperature is changing.	[When I think of a thriving community:] Awareness of hidden biases. Welcoming to the people who are outside the norm. Be able to be your whole self. Community being part of the lives of others. Positive community, accepting & open to new ideas.	See Implementation on the roles of Douglas County, other local government, and community partners. Some strategies are best applied uniquely at the municipal level. Others will take a countywide approach, which Douglas County Sustainability will convene.
		Thank you for sharing these reflections with us.