

Kansas in Global Warming Crosshairs in Future

By Craig Volland

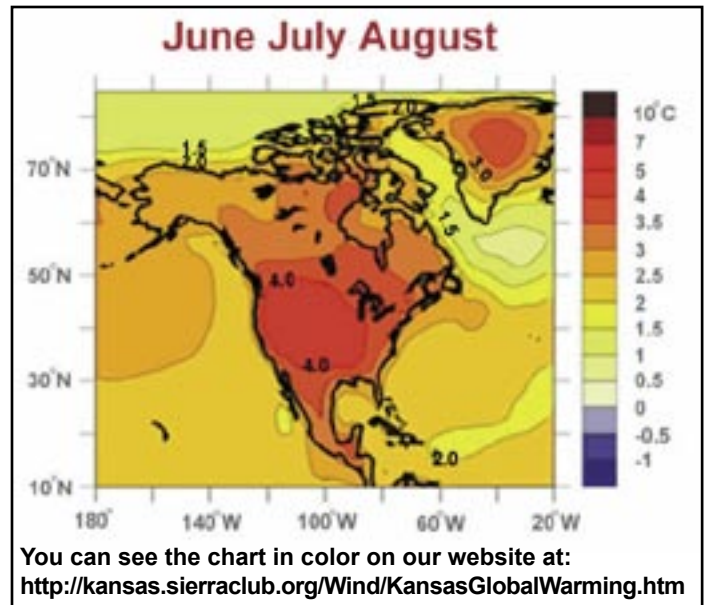
If you think Kansas summers are brutal now, look at what our grandchildren & great-grandchildren will face in the summer of 2090!

Kansas is in the cross hairs of global warming. The International Panel on Climate Change projects an increase in average summer temperatures of 4 degrees C (7.2 degrees F) or more towards the end of this century.

This graphic from the IPCC website (www.IPCC.ch) compares temperatures from June to August in the years 2080 to 2099 to what we experienced from 1980 to 1999. These projections are based on a “business as usual” increase in emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, although the scenario does assume that the world population will level off by mid-century. So it could be even worse. Business as usual, such as the construction of coal-fired power plants, is not acceptable. Future generations cannot reach back in time to save themselves. It’s clear. We must do it for them... starting now.

MORE INFO:

American Academy of Pediatrics “Global Climate Change and Children’s Health”



If unaddressed, global warming will lead to increased natural disasters, increased water-borne, vector-borne and food-borne illnesses. Children will be especially vulnerable to outbreaks associated with global warming, as they have undeveloped immune systems.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/120/5/e1359>

Pew Center on Global Climate Change “The Heat is On: Climate Change & Heatwaves in the Midwest”

See Crosshairs on page 10



inside

Holcomb Not Needed for Transmission Lines pg 4
10th Annual Exhibition of Farmers pg 5
Coal Fired Power an Imprudent Investment pg 6
Remembering Nancy Jack pg 9
Climate Change: Every Day Matters..... pg 10

Where Climate Protection Is Concerned, Every Day Matters

By Carey Maynard-Moody, Chair Wakarusa Group Cool Cities Committee

If reducing its green house gas (GHG) emissions is a passion of the Lawrence City Commission, then why has so little been done to develop the city's promised climate protection program? It's been two years since Mayor Boog Highberger signed the Mayoral Agreement for Climate Protection.

Since then, barriers in Lawrence to enact Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign, a climate protection program, have been: the city's constrained budget, change of city manager, change of the city commission, hiring and firing of City staff, and the limits of the Lawrence Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB).

After signing the Mayoral Agreement the next step of the Cool Cities campaign is the preparation of a city green house gas emissions (GHG) baseline study for either the year 1990 or 2000. In Lawrence, after a staff shake-up, this task was assigned to the Public Works Department. However, because the \$1500 membership in ICLEI (International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives) was deemed too steep for the budget, no software was available to efficiently conduct this baseline study. Finally, in summer '07, Lawrence's Dept of Public Works got the Lawrence City Commission's blessing to spring for ICLEI membership. Utilizing the new ICLEI software, as time allowed, staff began to amass the data needed to calculate the city's GHG emissions. After several months, Public Works assigned the task to an intern.


On January 15, 2008, at the regular City Commission meeting, and following the lead of KCMO, the SAB recommended that Mayor Sue Hack appoint a Mayor's Climate Protection Task Force by the end of January. This step is also recommended by Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign. At the public hearing of this issue, SAB recommended that the task force represent key stakeholders from the community at large to include: City of Lawrence, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, Westar Energy, The World Company (parent company of Lawrence Journal World), the medical field, the environmental community, the construction and building trade, USD #497, Kansas University, Haskell Indian Nations University, Hallmark (or similar community industry), environmental science, building design and/or engineering, citizen advocacy, and SAB representation. SAB recommends that the Mayor's Climate Protection Task Force

work concurrently with City staff in the collection of data for calculation of the GHG baseline, followed by the drafting of a Lawrence Climate Protection Plan to be submitted for approval of the City Commission by January 2009. The chair of the Wakarusa Group Cool Cities

Wakarusa Group Spring Service Outing in the Wetlands Events

A service project at the Haskell Baker Wetlands is planned for Saturday, April 12, 2008. Dr. Roger Boyd, Baker Wetlands coordinator, has several projects that we will work on, depending on the weather and other factors. The health of the wetlands continues to be threatened by the invasive Tartaric Bush Honeysuckle. We will tackle its removal. There are several bad spots in the Boardwalk that need to be rebuilt as well. Wood duck boxes need to be installed, and the ever-encroaching limbs on the north levee need to be pruned back. As you can see, there will be plenty to do that day.

Please save this date and join us for a great experience and service project. Further details and directions will be announced on the Wakarusa Group email notices list and posted in the next Planet Kansas.

To sign up for the email notices list send a message to Carey Maynard-Moody at careymm@sunflower.com 

Crosshairs, continued from page 1


Climate change is already occurring and will progress if we don't act to reduce and eliminate human contributions. What does this mean for Kansas? This report describes the heatwaves that are in store and associated human health risks.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Regional-Impacts-Midwest.pdf>

Stanford University "On the Causal Link between Carbon Dioxide and Air Pollution Mortality"

Carbon dioxide is not only implicated in global warming, but also has the potential to lead to increased human mortality. A Stanford scientist has identified a causal relationship between the two, which further demonstrates the urgency in eliminating these harmful emissions.

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/CO2PapGRL1207.pdf>

You can see the chart in color on our website at: <http://kansas.sierraclub.org/Wind/KansasGlobalWarming.htm> 

Committee (CCC) gave comments at the public hearing re the establishment of the Climate Protection Task Force. Included in the comments was a caution to the Commissioners to avoid the trap the ineffectual Kansas Energy Council fell into.

In March 2006 the CCC lobbied hard to prompt Lawrence's adoption of the Cool Cities campaign. Since then the CCC has been a bur in the saddle of Lawrence's Public Works Department, the Lawrence City Commission and the SAB, pressing them to fulfill the Mayoral Agreement by authorizing and implementing energy efficiency and energy conservation policies and initiatives. The ponderous pace of the city has been extremely frustrating to the committee. Holding the city's feet to the fire of global warming requires effort. If you can volunteer, even a little time, to help the Wakarusa group's CCC, please call Carey at home at 785.842.6517. Really, the more the merrier. 