Kansas Energy Justice Snapshot

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Environmental and Climate Justice Program
7/6/2017
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**Summary**

Access to clean energy is not just an environmental issue, but also a civil right. Communities of color bear a disproportionate share of the burdens of the fossil fuel based energy economy. This is why the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program stands for just energy policies that will help protect our communities from harmful energy production processes and provide equitable access to clean and renewable energy and the energy economy.

This Snapshot profiles Kansas’s energy portfolio, compares key state energy policies to NAACP recommendations, documents utility disconnection policies, and outlines opportunities in the clean energy economy for Kansas residents of color. As a resource rich state with unique geographic and sociopolitical landscapes, energy is often at the fore of state policy debates. With this in mind, it is critically important that NAACP leaders actively engage in these debates to ensure that our community’s needs motivate just energy policies. This snapshot will provide information that will inform NAACP members on avenues for engagement.

**State Energy Profile**

Kansas has both considerable energy resources and considerable energy potential. Substantial crude oil and natural gas reserves are found in several basins across the state, including part of one of the nation’s largest natural gas fields. With its open prairie, Kansas has strong winds that provide significant wind energy resources.

Kansas ranks third in the nation in the amount of land devoted to farms. The state’s grain sorghum and corn crops are major feedstocks for ethanol production. Most of the biomass potential in Kansas comes from municipal solid waste, landfill gas, and agricultural waste.

Kansas has one operating hydroelectric plant, and the potential exists for development of additional hydroelectric resources on its rivers.

The state averages more than 200 days of full or partial sunshine each year, giving Kansas significant solar energy resources.

Total end-use energy consumption in Kansas is highest in the industrial sector, which includes manufacturing, particularly aviation and aerospace manufacturing, as well as agriculture and the energy-intensive petroleum industry. Transportation, the second-largest energy-consuming sector, uses about two-thirds as much energy as the industrial sector.¹

Kansas, with its wide plains, is among the leading states in both wind energy generation and wind energy potential. Almost all of Kansas’s renewable net electricity generation comes from wind, and, in 2015, the state ranked among the top five states in the nation in generation from wind energy. Kansas is also among the five states with the highest wind energy potential. In addition, Kansas has solar and hydroelectric power resources. Kansas is among the 10 sunniest states in the country, with the same solar power potential as Florida, and some solar photovoltaic capacity is being built.

**Energy Portfolio** ¹

- In 2014, Kansas ranked 10th in crude oil production among the 50 states, excluding the federal offshore areas.
- The Hugoton Gas Area, which contains one of the top-producing natural gas fields in the United States, is located in southwestern Kansas, as well as in parts of the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles.
- The Mid-Continent Center, located in south central Kansas, is a key natural gas supply hub that takes production from several states in the region and pipes it east to major consumption markets.
- Electric utilities in Kansas provided 80% of the state’s net electricity generation in 2014; 57% of net electricity generation came from coal-fired electric power plants.
In 2014, 21% of net electricity generation in Kansas came from wind energy, making wind the state's second largest power provider, after coal. iv

**Kansas Energy Policies**

Currently the Kansas Corporation Commission does not require utilities to conduct integrated resource planning. Individual utilities in Kansas run their own internal resource planning processes. Kansas does not have any statewide energy efficiency standard required for utilities to provide energy efficiency to its customers. iv

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For more detailed information and data on Kansas's energy portfolio visit the U.S. Energy Information Administration's webpage:

[http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=KA](http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=KA)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Type</th>
<th>NAACP Recommended Policy Standards</th>
<th>Kansas Policy Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Metering</strong></td>
<td>Net Metering Standards require utility companies to provide retail credit for new renewable energy produced by a consumer.</td>
<td><strong>Capacity Limit Recommendation:</strong> (minimally), per system 100 kw for non-residents 15 kw for residential 150 kw for schools <strong>Mandatory/Voluntary:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Capacity Limit Recommendation:</strong> 2,000 kW (minimally), per system <strong>Mandatory/Voluntary:</strong> Mandatory</td>
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<td><strong>Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)</strong></td>
<td>A RPS requires electric utility companies and other retail electric providers to supply a specific minimum among of customer load with electricity from eligible renewable energy sources.</td>
<td><strong>Recommended Standard:</strong> 21.7% The RPS originally required electricity providers to obtain 10% of their peak demand capacity from eligible renewable resources from 2011 through 2015, 15% from 2016 through 2019 and 20% each year from 2020 onward. <strong>Mandatory/Voluntary:</strong> Mandatory</td>
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<td><strong>Recommended Standard:</strong> Minimally 25% renewable by 2025 <strong>Mandatory/Voluntary:</strong> Mandatory <strong>Allowable Sources:</strong> Wind, solar, geothermal, ocean/wave energy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS)</strong></td>
<td>A EERS establish a requirement for utility companies to meet annual and cumulative energy savings targets through a portfolio of energy efficiency program.</td>
<td>None.</td>
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<td><strong>Recommended Standard:</strong> Minimally 2% annual reduction of each previous year’s retail electricity sales. <strong>Mandatory/Voluntary:</strong> Mandatory</td>
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<td><strong>Local Hire Provision</strong></td>
<td>• Extra renewable energy credit multipliers for in-state installation and in-state manufactured content • Renewable energy credits for utility providing incentives to build a plant in-state • Renewable energy credit for utility that makes an investment in a plate located in-state • Quota for government assisted construction project employers to hire a percentage of workers locally • Bidding Preferences for companies that hire a percentage of their employees in-state for state-funded public works projects and service contracts</td>
<td>Yes³²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disadvantaged Business Enterprise</strong></td>
<td>• Provide training opportunities • Notify DBEs of state business opportunities • Set-aside funds for DBEs</td>
<td>Kansas Department of Transportation certifies firms for participation in the federally mandated Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. The DBE program is intended to provide contracting opportunities to small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. vi</td>
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Access to energy is not a luxury, it’s a necessity. With exposure to both extreme heat and extreme cold, folks should not be forced to choose between paying for medications or their energy bill. Public officials have implemented some policies that protect consumers from the life-threatening practice of utility disconnection (As outlined to the left). However, energy justice advocates must continue to hold utility companies and regulators accountable to human rights and basic but life-saving protections.

Utility shut-offs have a disproportionate impact on low-income and African American communities. Check out the NAACP report, “Lights Out in the Cold” for more information.

### Utility Disconnection Policies

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<th>Notice</th>
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<td>Written notice must be provided ten days before the scheduled disconnection. Utility must make two attempts at telephone notice at least two days before the scheduled disconnection.</td>
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<th>Date Based Protection</th>
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<td>Yes. November 1–March 31 disconnections are not permitted in accordance with temperature restrictions.</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Temperature Based Protection</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Yes. No disconnections on a day when the temperature will drop below 35°F or when the temperature is forecasted to be in the mid 30s or colder in the following 48-hour period.</td>
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<th>Payment Plan</th>
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<td>Yes. Payment plan required during winter protection period when the weather is above 35°F.</td>
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To prevent disconnection, the customer must pay 1/12 of arrearage amount, 1/12 of the current bill, all disconnection or reconnection fees, and enter into an 11-month payment plan for the remaining amounts.

Payment plans of “reasonable installments” permitted at other times during the year with medical certification.

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<th>Reconnection Fee</th>
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<td>Yes.</td>
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<th>Disconnection Limitations</th>
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<td>None.</td>
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<th>Other Protections</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Postponement of disconnection for at least twenty-one days with medical certification and proof of inability to pay the full amount of the balance. Customer must enter into a payment plan.</td>
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More disconnection policy details are available at the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program State Disconnection Policies webpage: [https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Disconnect/disconnect.htm](https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Disconnect/disconnect.htm)

Action steps: Meet with the Public Utilities Commission or your local utility company to advocate for the adoption of the following:

- Temperature based protections
- Restriction on reconnection and disconnection fees
- Expanded protection for vulnerable populations
Hot Topics, Issues and Developments

State regulators cool to Kansas City utility’s electric vehicle plans: Early in 2015, Kansas City Power & Light announced it would install about 1,100 electric-vehicle charging stations in the greater Kansas City area. At the time, it apparently was the largest such undertaking in the country. The utility indicated that it wanted to give a nudge to the electrification of vehicles—a potential boon for KCP&L and electric utilities in general. But KCP&L is backing away. Following installation of about 230 of 315 charging stations it had planned for the Kansas side of the Kansas City metropolitan area (the project is also underway in Missouri), the utility put the other 85 on hold after the Kansas Corporation Commission last denied the company’s request to charge ratepayers for the $5.6 million initiative.

Scale and scope of Kansas value-of-solar study yet to be determined: The Kansas Corporation Commission handed a victory to the clean-energy community when it to study not only the costs — but also any possible benefits — that distributed solar generation creates for the local electric utility and its customers. Value-of-solar studies have had some impact on ratemaking policy, according to Rabago. A study done in Minnesota, for example, has served as the basis for determining what utilities must pay to customers who are members of community solar projects.

Ratepayer advocates question cost of Kansas efficiency program: A Kansas City-based utility has proposed a new set of energy efficiency programs that could bring substantial energy-saving benefits to the majority of electric customers in Kansas. However, consumer advocates say the program will not be worth the $30 million cost, while clean-energy supporters say the utility could go farther with its plan. Kansas City Power & Light, which began offering modest efficiency incentives to its Kansas customers about a decade ago, now wishes to provide a broader set of incentives similar to those available to its Missouri customers. The new benefits for homeowners include subsidies for LED bulbs and for various whole-house efficiency improvements such as insulation, windows and air sealing, and early replacement of air conditioners with a more efficient model.

DEVELOPING THE BLACK-GREEN PIPELINE

African Americans are inadequately represented in the clean energy sector. It is the goal of the NAACP Black-Green Pipeline Initiative that African Americans will have increased representation across all sectors of the clean energy economy. The Black-Green Pipeline Initiative promotes the equitable inclusion of communities of color into the green economy in order to address unemployment in our communities and to increase the voices and influence of our communities in the green economy.

To subscribe to the Black-Green Pipeline Initiative Weekly Digest send a blank email to: naacp-bgp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Opportunities in Energy
The 2017 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER) finds that the traditional and energy efficiency sectors today employ approximately 6.4 million Americans. These sectors increased in 2016 by just under 5 percent, adding over 300,000 net new jobs, roughly 14 percent of all those created in the country. The 2017 USEER analyzes four sectors of the U.S. economy:

- Electric Power Generation and Fuels
- Transmission, Distribution and Storage
- Energy Efficiency
- Motor Vehicles

The first two of those sectors make up the traditional energy sector. The Report provides a quantitative lens with which to evaluate the employment impact of new energy technologies, shifting fuels deployment, and evolving transmission and distribution systems:

- Electric power generation and fuels technologies directly employ more than 1.9 million workers.
- In 2016, 55 percent, or 1.1 million, of these employees worked in traditional coal, oil, and gas, while almost 800,000 workers were employed in low carbon emission generation technologies, including renewable, nuclear, and advanced/low emission natural gas.
- Just under 374,000 individuals work, in whole or in part, for solar firms, with more than 260,000 of those employees spending the majority of their time on solar. There are an additional 102,000 workers employed at wind firms across, the nation. The solar workforce increased by 25 percent in 2016, while wind employment increased by 32 percent.\footnote{xi}

Kansas has a high concentration of energy employment, with 48,552 traditional energy workers statewide. 14,853 of these workers are in the fuels sector, 17,777 in transmission, wholesale distribution, and storage, and 15,922 workers are employed in electric power generation. Kansas has an additional 16,339 jobs in energy efficiency, 0.7 percent of all energy efficiency jobs nationwide.\footnote{xii}
The Green Labor Market and Communities of Color

Given that communities of color have the most to lose with the disproportionate impact of climate change, correspondingly those communities should have the most to gain from the green economy to balance the effect, decrease economically based vulnerability, and increase resilience. This can be achieved by advancing and improving legislation related to green jobs and availability of contracts and also on implementation by facilitating access to programs that ensure that African Americans are getting green contracts and green jobs. Also this will ensure the development of communities of color’s own definition of green jobs including setting standards of equity and safety.

Although racial diversity has increased in other fields over the past several decades, racial diversity in environmental organizations and agencies has stagnated, with only about 14 percent of the workforce consisting of people of color. This includes a number of energy-focused organizations. Environmental organizations are not adequately reaching out to organizations representing communities of color for recruitment. xi

The Green Energy Economy would create jobs in green renewable generation installation, weatherization/energy efficiency, thermal energy auditing, insulation, and more. With more than 9.6 percent of African Americans still unemployed it is time to take action and create a Green Collar revolution which provides opportunities for all to access living wages and pathways to self-determination and economic wellbeing.

Unemployment Statistics

In 2015 the gap between the U.S. unemployment rate and the rate for African Americans was 4.3 percentage points. In Kansas, the unemployment rate in 2015 for African Americans was 2.6 percentage points above the state average.

2015 National Unemployment Rate: 5.3%
2015 Kansas Unemployment Rate: 4.0%
2015 National African American Unemployment Rate: 9.6%
2015 Kansas African American Unemployment Rate: 6.6%

Action step: Host a Bridge the Gap: Connecting Black Communities to the Green Economy Program to establish working groups with existing organizations to increase African American engagement with local green economy.
TAKE ACTION -

Kansas NAACP leaders released the Kansas Just Energy Policies Report, which among other things evaluates the state of Kansas’s key clean energy policies and advocates for the focal policies outlined in this snapshot. Kansas NAACP branches have been environmental justice leaders in their respective communities, engaging with local coalition of likeminded advocates and championing the NAACP energy justice platform. Listed below are avenues for continued engagement:

Host a Bridging the Gap: Connecting Black Communities to the Green Economy Roundtable

• The NAACP ECJ Program is committed to advancing a meaningful dialogue and concerted action on engagement of communities of color in the green economy.
• To start taking action, organize a multi-stakeholder roundtable with socially responsible energy business leaders, historically black colleges and universities, environmental groups, civil rights organizations, labor unions, and others to discuss developing and implementing a strategy to ensure that policies/laws/regulation, research initiatives, community level practices, corporate social responsibility measures, etc. are in place to ensure greater engagement of communities of color in the green economy.

Implement a demonstration project such as a community solar garden or rooftop solar project

• Interested in taking a direct role in implementing clean energy practices in your community? Install rooftop solar or community solar.
• There are several rebates and incentives available to Kansas residents interested in pursuing renewable energy projects. Visit energy.gov for a list of renewable energy incentive program available on the state and federal levels.
• You can also check out funding opportunities offered through the Department of Energy SunShot Initiative, which aims to support solar energy adoption by making solar energy accessible to all Americans.

Launch a Just Energy Policies Campaign

• Identify one or more of the focal policies outlined in this snapshot and documented more extensively in the Just Energy Policies to champion.
• Build a coalition with likeminded energy justice advocates and other local and state allies to build power and momentum.
• Host a town-hall to educate the community about the policy and get input from members on their needs, priorities, and perspectives.
• Launch an intentional campaign to advocating that Kansas adopts the recommended policy standard.
• Set up lobby trainings and coordinate a lobby-day with elected officials.

Make public the NAACP energy justice platform and engage the public through media

• Develop and place an op-ed by NAACP Unit President or ECJ Chair in a local newspaper
• Participate in a radio interview, TV interview, podcast
• Be quoted in a local newspaper
• Post an article or blog to an online platform
CLOSING

Kansas residents have the opportunity to strengthen partnerships with other governmental agencies and other organizations, to have effective and sustainable social change in regards to Environmental Justice, specifically Energy Justice within the state of Kansas.

Kansas’s residents of color are disproportionately exposed to toxins in their environment, as well as neglected and discriminated. Building capacity in disproportionately burdened communities, and promoting collaborative problem-solving for issues involving environmental justice is critical for the future of communities of color in the state. Kansas has the potential to be a clean energy leader in the U.S., but first the state must address the fact they rank first in the Midwest for greenhouse gas emissions per capita.

Embracing a transition to clean, renewable energy sources will not only provide significant environmental and health benefits for the people of Kansas, but will also diversify and strengthen the state’s economy. While the state has significant renewable energy potential, state policies have not incentivized the growth of renewable energy. NAACP just energy leaders should advocate on behalf of a strong Renewable Portfolio Standard, Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, Local Hire Provisions, and Minority Business Enterprise Programs. Our communities have the potential to be key leaders facilitating a just transition to clean, renewable, locally owned and controlled energy.

Kansas Green Organizations

Center For Environmental & Human Health- A statewide clearing house for environmental, community health related topics and research hat ESU. CEHH is dedicated to serving Kansas environmental groups, community members and non-profit health and human service organizations. www.webs.wichita.edu/cehh/

Earth Spirit Kansas- is a support network of citizen activists working to bring about sustainability in Kansas, and to raise public awareness of critical conditions in our natural environment.

Green Biz Wichita believes that Wichita area businesses can do well for themselves while doing good for the environment. The group’s membership extends this belief through active education, partnership, advocacy and recognition programs designed to encourage local businesses to reduce the environmental impact of their operations while enhancing overall business performance and sustainability practices. info@greenbizwichita.org greenbizwichita.org

KACEE is a statewide non-profit association of many public and private agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals. KACEE promotes and provides effective, non-biased, science-based conservation and environmental education to all Kansans. http://www.kacee.org/

KCAE-Kansans Concerned About Environment- KCAE is a membership-based organization and invites anyone to join and participate in promoting environmental responsibility through communication, projects, programs, idea-sharing, and planning. www.kcae.org

Kansas Green Teams-The Green Team program was created as a way for you to make a difference by incorporating environmentally responsible practices into your daily routine at work and at school. By joining our effort, you can help Kansas lead by example in energy conservation, pollution prevention, and resource preservation. kansasgreenteams.org

Kansas Interfaith Power & Light Climate and Energy Project- A chapter of the national Interfaith Power and Light - promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation, providing people of faith an opportunity to recognize and fulfill their responsibility for the stewardship of creation. horn@climateandenergy.org

Sierra Club-The Sierra Club is the largest grassroots national environmental organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and enjoying the environment on Earth. http://www.kansas.sierraclub.org/
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Created by the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program
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Marcus Franklin, Editor

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1 http://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.cfm?sid=KS
2 http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=WV#tabs-2
3 http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=KS
6 http://www.dol.ks.gov/UI/EnSec12_DBR.aspx