

LWVTSC Climate Change Position

DRAFT 1/2024

The League of Women Voters Topeka Shawnee County supports action by individuals, governing bodies and businesses, large and small, to mitigate and adapt to climate change in order to protect our community from the adverse physical, social, economic and public health aspects of greenhouse gas emissions. The United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP28, identified the top three causes of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. as transportation sector, electricity and natural gas production and production of methane. Although climate change is a global issue, action must be taken at a local level.

The League of Women Voters Topeka Shawnee County supports actions which support values of diversity, equity and inclusion, recognizing that underserved communities of color experience a harsher impact socially and economically resulting from climate change. LWVTSC supports promotion of fair, equitable pricing for alternative energy sources with robust, vigorous energy conservation methods including assistance to purchase energy efficient appliances/HVAC systems. LWVTSC encourages incentivizing solar development in low income housing, moderate income housing and rental properties.

The LWV U.S. position on Municipal Climate Action Plans

Cities are on the front lines in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We must take action, not just plan. The Climate Action Plan Team within the LWVUS Climate Interest Group (CIG) has reviewed dozens of Climate Action Plans (CAPs) from cities and counties throughout the country to find the most effective actions and processes to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs).

Promote a clean, sustainable low-carbon energy economy that includes all forms of renewable energy and transportation infrastructure. The league supports the development of a joint city/county energy plan.

Promote electrification in buildings.

Promote low-carbon energy sources, energy conservation and energy efficiency in buildings and transportation through building codes and use of joint economic development funds.

Promote land use policies that reduce automobile dependence through building codes, renewable energy planning, promotion of alternative transportation through electrification of TMTA buses, publicly available EV charging stations and safe bicycle and pedestrian lanes/paths.

Promote policies designed to adapt to the impacts of climate change in urban, rural, agricultural and natural settings through joint city/county renewable energy planning.

Promote solutions that ease climate-related hardships to low- and moderate-income households such as through energy efficiency programs, electrification of city buses and utility scale alternative energy, including public education.

Promote engagement of the business community in climate matters such as single use plastic reduction, consistent participation in recycling efforts and renewable energy use through tax incentives and

building codes. The league supports the use of incentives to conserve natural resources and promote alternative energy through all city/county contracts for solid waste disposal and reduction, public infrastructure development and building/housing code maintenance enforcement and housing program development.

Incentive use of public transportation.

Inventory the city/county owned vehicles and replace them with electric vehicles through planned replacement.

Through city/county planning, EV charging stations are installed in public and private parking areas.

Set city/county goals to reduce the use of fossil fuel consumption in city/county contracts, including new and renovation construction projects.

Retrofit city/county buildings with energy efficiency and alternative energy sources, e.g. wind or solar. Incentivize private development to use energy efficient and alternative energy sources in both new and renovation projects. Incentivize residential, neighborhood and commercial solar.