

**Topic:**

Green Collar Jobs System for KC:  
K-Advanced Degree (Education,  
Workforce Development &  
Placement)

**Convener:**

Janet Baker

**Room:**

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**Discussion Summary:**

- We don't have a trained workforce in our region for what is coming to us. We have all the pieces. We have initiatives in sustainability but they are not plugged together. Need to produce highly skilled workers.
- Concerned about dependence on energy and getting oil from our enemies.
- Propelling the energy movement forward through green collar jobs.
- Energy technology companies are growing rapidly and needs skilled employees who understand wind turbine technology, solar panel, etc.
- Business industry need to know that green industry is booming.
- JCCC opening a Center for Sustainability that includes a focus on green collar jobs.
- MORE2 interest in green collar.
- MTC thinking about similar centers like JCCC. No one has a fully comprehensive program yet.
- Education and workforce development has to begin.
- HOW TO CREATE GREEN COLLAR JOBS/WORKFORCE?
  - Plug blue collar workers into green jobs
  - Missouri has not gotten its share of green collar manufacturers. Proposition C will signal manufacturers that Missouri is open and ready for this industry. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
  - Start educating young kids (field trips). Show an education track from K-12 – curriculum.
  - KCMSD is starting an architecture and engineering school.
  - Technologies being applied to school buildings, too. Federal funding for green school buildings.
  - Green is not new. There are a lot of jobs that are already green. Examples: HVAC, Auto Maintenance, etc.
  - Kansas seems not as supportive a Missouri. Neither state has many incentives for renewable energy. If PROP C passes in Missouri, incentives will be available.
  - What is green collar jobs baseline in KC? How do we define green collar jobs?
  - Blue-Green Alliance – linking blue collar workers to green opportunities. Lay-offs
  - Help marginalized, unemployed, homeless, etc.
  - Opportunities in retrofitting buildings. Need for energy auditors.
  - Need requirements for retrofitting. Adopting energy codes – Merriam, KS, others.
  - Boston and Washington have required private entities to adopt energy codes.
  - Ready work: Retrofitting – How do we get moving?
  - Similar to New Deal
  - Press legislators for effective energy policy
  - “Pay as you save” programs in Wisconsin
  - Berkeley – loan money up front for energy retrofitting – city recoups through savings
  - Third Party packaging tax incentives – KC energy costs low
  - For profit companies are doing this –look at private models and non-profit models
  - Savings should go to homeowners
  - City wide programs for all people.
  - Low-income energy-efficient housing programs – making this pay for itself.
  - Education for public, homeowners, businesses – green building how-to. Why people should do this.
- Research best practices curriculum development
- Start on the demand side

**Meeting time:**

Session 2: 11:30 a.m.

**Recorder:**

Karen Clawson