



WEALTH POLICY, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND YOU!

WITH JESSICA LUCAS

CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS COUNCIL

Excerpts from a series of CEP LIVE on Facebook events that highlight policies impacting Kansas WEALTH and outline effective civic engagement strategies

WATER – ENERGY – AIR – LAND – TRANSPORTATION – HEALTH = KANSAS WEALTH

OVERVIEW

Jessica Lucas of the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) joined the Climate + Energy Project on February 21, 2018, to discuss policy priorities for the 2018 legislative session. CEBC advocates to expand clean energy opportunities for business access to wind, solar, geothermal, and waste-heat recovery systems and energy efficiency in Kansas and the Kansas City metropolitan area. The 25 CEBC members share resources, tools, and knowledge to promote clean energy policies and innovative business practices.

TOP WEALTH POLICY ISSUES FOR THE CLEAN ENERGY BUSINESS COUNCIL

- This year the Clean Energy Business Council has two main policy focuses.
One is [Senate Bill 347](#), which would enable Kansans to take advantage of **energy efficiency programs**. SB 347 also would require the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) to utilize the [National Standard Practice Manual](#) to determine the appropriate tests to evaluate the cost effectiveness of energy efficiency programs. The bill would also require the KCC to report its progress to the Kansas Legislature next January.
The other is [Senate Bill 322](#), which would re-evaluate **net metering legislation**. Kansans with solar system on their homes are now potentially subject to a demand charge to their bill. The CEBC would like to adjust the law to encourage more growth in the solar industry.
Both pieces of legislation would help Kansans save money on their energy bills. Not only are there great advantages for what clean energy does for our business climate and economic growth and vitality, but what it can do for your wallet and your bottom line.
- We have seen electricity rates climb every year for several years. At this point we are not going to be able to continue to recruit and retain businesses to Kansas as long as our electricity rates remain at the level current levels. Our **electricity rates are higher than in surrounding states**, so if it costs more for you just to turn the lights on, you are looking at other states as a place to do business. We need to see policies adopted that will help Kansas businesses get a better control over the cost that they pay. With renewable energy you have more control.
- There is another group working on the issue with a website, [Kansas Energy Problem](#). Their information shows that since 2007, if you are a KCP&L customer, your electric bill has increased 70%. And if you are a Westar customer, it has increased 67%. Inflation only accounts for 18% of that. That's why we are working to make sure we are **adopting policies that will take a fair look at our electricity rates** and how we can reduce them.



The Climate + Energy Project seeks to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in America's Heartland through the ambitious deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy, in policy and practice.
Join the Conversation at climateandenergy.org, on Facebook & Twitter @CEPHeartland

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY TIPS

- First and foremost, **show up, pay attention**. Follow on Twitter through the hashtag #ksleg. Read your local newspapers, **subscribe to legislator newsletters**. You can now listen live to committee hearings and you can do that after hours. Find the House and Senate calendars online, and you can see what bills are in committee.

It can be daunting, but even by starting with reading your local newspaper, **knowing who your legislator, representative and senator are**, and going to their events and communicating with them. You have to do it. If we really want to move the needle on things that are important to us, we have to show up. It isn't going to happen in the quiet. If you're not here, you don't get heard.

- **Ask legislators about the electricity rates that consumers are paying and the value that they place on consumer choice**. Are they willing to support legislation that gives you greater options, freedom and control over your electricity bill? While you can't choose your utility, you can—through legislation—have some other options in the marketplace to help reduce your bill.
- Kansans also can share their thoughts on utility rate cases and other policies on the docket at the KCC, which is a three-member appointed board that regulates public utilities. This year the KCC is considering the **proposed merger of Westar Energy and Kansas City Power & Light**. Later this year it will consider a **Westar rate case** to add demand charges to residential solar customers with systems installed after October 2015 and raise the service charge by \$4 per month for every residential customer.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Learn about and advocate for Water, Energy, Air, Land, Transportation, and Health (WEALTH) in Kansas with the Climate + Energy Project and other sponsor organizations at WEALTH Day on March 15, 2018, at the Kansas Statehouse.

- Get up-to-date on current environmental advocacy
- Visit the Solutions Showcase
- Participate in WEALTH Forums throughout the day
- Enjoy the Local Foods Luncheon
- Sample new ideas at the Cookies and Conservation Conversation
- Meet with your legislators

Connect with CEP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and sign up for our [email updates](#).

Join us for WEALTH Day on March 15 at the Kansas Statehouse!

RSVP: <http://bit.ly.2018WEALTHDay>



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