

2022



WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

For the Good of ALL Kansans



2022 *For the Good of ALL Kansans*

WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

March 3 Agenda

9-10:30 AM **Legislative Briefing with Remarks from U.S. Representative Sharice Davids**

11-11:30 AM **Kansas Energy Efficiency Investment Act (KEEIA) Briefing**

12-1 PM **Legislator Panel with Members of the Kansas Future Caucus**

1-2 PM **Kansas Youth Power Coalition Panel**

4-4:30 PM **Closing Session**

Kansas WEALTH Partners

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Legislative Briefing

Legislative Briefing

Sarah Dehart Faltico, (she/her)

Climate + Energy Project

faltico@climateandenergy.org

Sarah Dehart Faltico is a Program Coordinator for Climate + Energy Project focused on building community power. She manages CEP's Integrated Voter Engagement work and the Kansas Environmental Leadership program. She is also forging a multi-organizational coalition to build political power on climate action in Kansas.

Prior to CEP, Sarah worked to build local food systems, both as an organic vegetable grower and as Program Manager of the Double Up Food Bucks Program, where she strengthened access to local foods in underserved communities. During this time, she began to see the intersection between food, environmental stewardship, community health, and racial and environmental justice, which drives her work today.



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WELCOME

Legislative Briefing

Dorothy Barnett, (she/her)

Climate + Energy Project

barnett@climateandenergy.org

As the Executive Director of the Climate + Energy Project, Dorothy Barnett has been successful in convening diverse voices in a conservative region of the country. She has coordinated winning campaigns to protect the Kansas Renewable Portfolio Standard from special interest groups attacks during four legislative sessions, allowing the wind industry to grow to 40% of the state's power generation in just a decade.

Prior to her position as Executive Director, Dorothy served for 4 years as CEP's Director of Energy and Transmission, putting her on the ground in energy policy work at the local, state and regional level. Under Dorothy's leadership, CEP continues to innovate and reach new audiences with projects like WEALTH, Kansas Climate CORE, the Kansas Environmental Leadership project and the Clean Energy Business Council, a multi sector business group focused on the advanced energy economy.



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WELCOME

Legislative Briefing

Moti Rieber, (he/him)

Kansas Interfaith Action

rebmoti@kansasinterfaithaction.org

Rabbi Moti Rieber has served as Executive Director of Kansas Interfaith Action and its predecessor organization, Kansas Interfaith Power & Light, since March of 2011.

He is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pennsylvania. A life-long activist on peace, social justice, and environmental issues, Rabbi Moti brings a variety of pulpit, interfaith, and organizational experience to the work of Kansas Interfaith Action.

Rabbi Moti and his wife, Suzy, have three adult children and live in Overland Park.



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How to Engage Today

- Attend Briefings and Panels
- Use the Toolkit!
- Connect with your Legislators!
- Connect with WEALTH organizations
- Connect with each other



#WEALTHDay2022

Legislative Briefing

with Remarks from

U.S. Representative Sharice Davids

Representative Davids was raised by a single mother, who served in the Army for 20 years. After graduating from Leavenworth High School, she worked her way through Johnson County Community College and the University of Missouri-Kansas City before earning a law degree from Cornell Law School. As a first generation college student who worked the entire time she was in college, Rep. Davids understands the importance of quality public schools and affordable higher education. It is that foundation that allowed her to go on to a successful career, focused on economic and community development, which included time as a White House Fellow under President Barack Obama.

When she was sworn into the 116th Congress, Rep. Davids became one of the first two Native American women to serve in Congress. Rep. Davids has centered her work in office on putting Kansans first, fighting to limit the influence of special interests and make health care more affordable and accessible to everyone. She is a resident of Roeland Park.



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Legislative Briefing WEALTH Advocacy



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WEALTH DAY
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Water



Dawn Buehler
Friends of the Kaw

Energy



Dorothy Barnett
Climate + Energy Project

Air



Beto Lugo Martinez
Clean Air Now

Air



Atenas Mena
Clean Air Now

Land



Lydia Nebel
KC Farm School

Land



Zack Pistora
Sierra Club Kansas

Transportation



Tami Alexander
Metropolitan Energy Center

Health



Jondalyn Marshall
Destination Innovation

Legislative Briefing - Water

Dawn Buehler, (she/her)

Friends of the Kaw

riverkeeper@kansasriver.org

Dawn Buehler is the Kansas Riverkeeper and Executive Director with Friends of the Kaw. In her role as the Kansas Riverkeeper, Dawn is a non-governmental public advocate that works to protect and preserve the Kansas River. This is accomplished through holding the community accountable for the health of the river, working to resolve pollution concerns about the river, advocating for the Kansas River and its environs, educating the public, and providing outreach activities to get people involved in the river.

Dawn holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Conservation from Oregon State University and a Bachelor in Business Administration from Baker University. Dawn is the Chair of the Kansas Water Authority and the Governor's Appointee for the Oil & Gas Advisory Committee. Dawn is also active on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Land Trust and the Board of Directors for Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams.



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WATER



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WATER

- 1. Full funding of the statutory \$8M to the State Water Plan**
 - 2. Support additional funding measures for water projects. If we were to truly “fully fund” the State Water Plan, the price tag would be \$55M per year.**
 - 3. Support bringing water into its own cabinet level agency so that it can get the attention that it deserves.**
- Support recommendations to fund the State Water Plan with the full statutory level of \$8M and support any other funding towards long overdue water projects.
 - Suggested Actions**
 - Contact your legislators and ask them to support full statutory funding to the State Water Plan as well as any other opportunities to fund one time long overdue water projects.

Legislative Briefing - Energy

Dorothy Barnett, (she/her)

Climate + Energy Project

barnett@climateandenergy.org

As the Executive Director of the Climate + Energy Project, Dorothy Barnett has been successful in convening diverse voices in a conservative region of the country. She has coordinated winning campaigns to protect the Kansas Renewable Portfolio Standard from special interest groups attacks during four legislative sessions, allowing the wind industry to grow to 40% of the state's power generation in just a decade.

Prior to her position as Executive Director, Dorothy served for 4 years as CEP's Director of Energy and Transmission, putting her on the ground in energy policy work at the local, state and regional level. Under Dorothy's leadership, CEP continues to innovate and reach new audiences with projects like WEALTH, Kansas Climate CORE, the Kansas Environmental Leadership project and the Clean Energy Business Council, a multi sector business group focused on the advanced energy economy.



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ENERGY



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ENERGY

1. HB 2689

- Limiting cost recovery of replacing coal-fired electric generation facilities in rates, requiring public utilities to purchase certain electricity generated from coal-fired facilities and exempting certain coal-fired electric generation facilities from regulation. Introduced Feb. 10 and sponsored by the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs. Referred to House Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications. **No hearing has been set.**

2. HB 2696

- Establishing electric generation requirements for certain renewable energy resources that provide baseload generation supply to public utilities. Requested for introduction by Representative Barker (R-District 70). Introduced Feb. 11 and sponsored by the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs. Referred to House Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications. **No hearing has been set.**

3. SB 478

- Establishing requirements for wind energy conversion system obstruction lighting to mitigate the visual impact of such lighting systems. Requested for introduction Feb. 9 by Senator Thompson. Referred to and sponsored by Senate Utilities Committee. Withdrawn from Committee on Utilities; Referred to Senate Committee on Ways and Means Feb. 23. **No hearing has been set.**

4. SB 374

- Discontinuing the property tax exemption for new developments of renewable energy resources. Introduced Jan. 24 by Senator Mike Thompson. Bill sponsor: Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs. Referred to Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation. **No hearing has been set.**



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ENERGY

1. Support Expanding Clean Energy for Kansas

- **Suggested Actions**

- Send Video message to policymakers supporting Clean Energy
- Call your State Representatives and Senators:
 - “I Support Expanding Clean Energy for the Kansas Economy and Environment. Don’t let misinformation impact our state’s ability to be a clean energy leader.”

2. Support Evergy’s Energy Efficiency filing at the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC)

- **Suggested Actions**

- Learn more about and follow this evolving process at bit.ly/BringEEHome
- Submit public comment, when applicable.
- Attend CEP briefing on KEEIA. Register for March 15th’s briefing:
- Share how Energy Efficiency would impact your home or business.

3. SB 493 Plastic Bag Ban

- Contact your legislators and ask them to Vote NO on SB 493.

Legislative Briefing - Air

Beto Lugo Martinez, (he/him)

CleanAirNow

betomtz.lugo@cleanairnowkc.org

Beto Lugo Martinez is an environmental justice organizer and the co-executive director of CleanAirNow in Kansas City which was started by a neighborhood group. He serves to raise community voices in the fight against environmental racism and to overcome systemic exclusion of fence-line communities from *the decision making process*.

His lived experiences growing up at the fence-line combined with the foundational environmental justice work done by CleanAirNow KC, are disrupting the status quo by taking action to bring systemic change in industry and government policies and practices to protect health and promote justice and bring attention to the environmental racism and inequity that perpetuates the unequal distribution of environmental pollution and health hazards that is fueling the climate crisis in overburdened communities.

Beto's contributions to the movement include organizing, community led policy that prioritizes environmental justice and community led research amongst many other community engaged initiatives to improve environmental protections and address environmental health inequities. Beto has co-authored multiple academic publications on community based health research, air pollution, data accessibility, community engagement. He also participates in multiple national climate and environmental justice coalitions and advisories. In August 2021 Beto was invited to serve on the EPA's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, to represent a grassroots frontline perspective.



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WEALTH DAY

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AIR

Legislative Briefing - Air

Atenas Mena, (she/her)

CleanAirNow

atenas@cleanairnowkc.org

Atenas Mena is the Environmental Health Director and shares co-leadership role at CleanAirNow.

- Atenas Isabel Mena born and raised in Kansas City is a proud first generation Mexican American. Ms. Mena received her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Avila University in 2014 and went on to receive her Master's in Nursing Leadership from Missouri Western State University in 2019. In addition to working as a nurse, Ms. Mena received extensive environmental health training in the field, working with the Children's Mercy environmental health team, as both an educator as well as a team coordinator. Ms. Mena worked continuously throughout the last few years with Clean Air Now through boots on the ground projects, served as a Board of Directors, and has just recently transitioned into the current leadership role as environmental health director. Atenas centers her work around reducing health inequities, educating communities on environmental health impacts, and empowering community members to have a voice and fight for equity and environmental justice.



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AIR



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AIR

1. Advocate for Local Air Pollution Policy through Community Led Initiatives

2. Regulatory Inaction and Lack of Enforcement on Polluting Facilities from Local and State Government:

- Water, air, soil

3. Negative Health Impacts from Air Pollution

- **Suggested Actions**
- Read and utilize the Environmental Racism in the Heartland Report
- Help spread awareness about the report and the environmental racism that communities of color and low income communities are facing

Legislative Briefing - Land

Lydia Nebel, (she/her)

KC Farm School at Gibbs Road

lydia@kcfarmschool.org

Lydia began as a farm apprentice in 2013 at Gibbs Road Farm of CultivateKC (now KC Farm School at Gibbs Road). After two years, she moved on to manage New York City's Harlem Grown, then moved upstate to Four Winds Farm, a certified organic, no-till diversified vegetable operation, then ran Second Wind CSA for two years. Most recently, she was Second-in-Charge at Day's Walk Farm in Melbourne, Australia. She has organized with the National Young Farmers Coalition, Hudson Valley and Kansas City Chapters.

She is intent on the need for more farmers and more farms, looking most to small-scale, traditional, and indigenous methods of food and economy production, especially in this incredible prairie ecosystem.

Lydia has been involved with KC Farm School since their beginning as founding board co-chair. In 2021, she returned to KCFS at Gibbs Road as Farm Director, eager with curiosity and a humble heart to learn from the land and community, and to produce as much food as possible in loving, regenerating ways.



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WEALTH DAY

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LAND

Legislative Briefing - Land

Zack Pistora, (he/him)
Sierra Club Kansas Chapter
zack@kansas.sierraclub.org

Zack Pistora is a longtime environmental activist and current lobbyist for the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club.

Zack also serves on the Boards of the Kansas Natural Resource Council and Kansas Rural Center.

He resides on a farm in Linwood.



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WEALTH DAY
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LAND

1. Support Agricultural Land Preservation & Access

- Support Agricultural land preservation and land access for young and emerging farmers especially individuals and groups who have not traditionally had access to land ownership including women, LGBTQ people, and BIPOC.
 - **Suggested Actions**
 - Reach out to our farm director, Lydia Nebel, President of the KC Young Farmers Coalition.
 - Join or follow the National Young Farmers Coalition to learn more about the issue.
 - Connect retiring farmers and farmland to the National Young Farmers Coalition, Great Plains Regeneration, Kansas Rural Center, and the Kansas Farmers Union.
 - Advocate for the protection of agricultural lands.

2. Understand the connections between Agriculture and emissions in the Midwest

- **Suggested Actions**
- Read “Transforming Agriculture in the Midwest”, a collaborative report co-authored by RE-AMP and the EcoJustice Collaborative.



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WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

LAND

3. Support Protect 30 percent of lands and waters in the United States by 2030 to meet the challenge of climate change and provide space for wildlife and communities to thrive

- State and local governments have an extraordinary range of conservation powers that could include new and expanded state-funded open-space programs, designation of wildlife corridors that safeguard the lands within them, and the creation and expansion of state and local parks. State and local governments could protect 50 percent more land than they currently do.
 - **Suggested Actions**
 - Support policies that increase federal, state, local, and private lands and ask your legislators to do the same.
 - Support the conservation and stewardship vision and priorities of Tribal Nations; call on your legislators to do the same.
 - Engage and volunteer with local conservation organizations.
 - Visit and support local and state parks!

4. Support Local Food Procurement and Promotion

- **Suggested Actions**
- Encourage your children's school administrators to participate in Farm to School Programs.
- Support local food systems by: shopping at farmers markets, purchasing directly from farmers, patronizing restaurants who source from local growers, asking your farmers' market to accept SNAP

Legislative Briefing - Transport

Tami Alexander, (she/her)

Metropolitan Energy Center

tami@metroenergy.org

Tami joined MEC in August 2017 to support the ethanol and biodiesel projects in Kansas. In January 2018, she became the Program Coordinator for the Central Kansas Clean Cities Coalition, managing event coordination, outreach, customer relationship management, program administration, research writing, and content development.

In addition to her work at MEC, Tami has several years of facility and nonprofit management experience where she introduced sustainability measures to organization practices. She has Bachelor's degrees in Mathematics-Statistics and Geology and a Master's in Environmental Science all from Wichita State University.

A life-long Kansan, Tami lives in Wichita with her husband and their three children. She is passionate about promoting the environmental health and local economies of both urban and rural communities across Kansas.



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WEALTH DAY

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TRANSPORTATION



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WEALTH DAY

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TRANSPORTATION

Electric Vehicle (EV) Road Tax: HB 2488

While MEC is not opposed to EVs paying a road tax (if it is a fair amount), we oppose HB 2488 for the following reasons:

1. KDOT is currently conducting a Road Usage Charge (RUC) Study to identify how a RUC system that reflects unique Midwestern needs could help fund transportation investments. Results have yet to be published. Any decision on road taxes should be delayed until study results can be reviewed.
2. Regardless of EVs, the tax revenue from vehicles needs to be revamped. It has remained at 18.3 cents per gallon for nearly 30 years and vehicles have become increasingly more efficient requiring them to fill up less. Currently, 0.3% of Kansas vehicles are electric – an EV road repair tax will not make up the lost revenue from more efficient gasoline/diesel vehicles.
3. Kansans driving EVs are already paying a road tax premium with their annual registration fees (\$100 for all-electric vehicles and \$50 for hybrid/plug-in hybrid vehicles).



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WEALTH DAY

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TRANSPORTATION

Tax Credit for Alternative Fueling Stations: HB 2317

While MEC supports a tax credit for EV charging stations, we believe it would be more beneficial to include

EV charging under the definition of alternative fuels in Kansas' current Alternative-fuel Tax Credit.

1. Electricity and other clean alternative fuels, such as hydrogen and natural gas, were included in the State's definition of alternative fuels prior to July 1, 2007. We would like to see them returned to the list of allowable fuels under the existing credit along with propane, ethanol blends, and biodiesel blends.
2. In addition, we would like to see the credit for fueling infrastructure be made available to businesses other than C-corporations and allow it to be used by small business owners such as LLCs, partnerships, and S-corporations.

Legislative Briefing - Health

Jondalyn Marshall, (she/her)

Destination Innovation

jondalyn@destinationinnovation.org

Jondalyn has organized Root the Power since 2018, guiding the program through a successful expansion in size and impact.

Her experience as an entrepreneur business owner, coaching individuals and groups in pursuit of their wellness goals, has equipped her to be a skilled mentor and facilitator with the young people involved in Root the Power and a connector with other community partners.

Jondalyn has a Master's degree in Business Administration and experience working in both business and nonprofit administration, which makes her invaluable to our internal operations and sustainability as an organization.



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WEALTH DAY

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HEALTH

Legislative Briefing - Health

Sarah Dehart Faltico, (she/her)

Climate + Energy Project

faltico@climateandenergy.org

Sarah Dehart Faltico is a Program Coordinator for Climate + Energy Project focused on building community power. She manages CEP's Integrated Voter Engagement work and the Kansas Environmental Leadership program. She is also forging a multi-organizational coalition to build political power on climate action in Kansas.

Prior to CEP, Sarah worked to build local food systems, both as an organic vegetable grower and as Program Manager of the Double Up Food Bucks Program, where she strengthened access to local foods in underserved communities. During this time, she began to see the intersection between food, environmental stewardship, community health, and racial and environmental justice, which drives her work today.



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WEALTH DAY

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WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

HEALTH

1. Support Mental Health

- We need access to mental health resources for young people and in schools. We're also advocating for student loan relief/grants for mental health specialists.
 - **Suggested Actions**
 - Attend youth led panel on Wealth Day (1:00pm) & YAS Coalition advocacy week
 - Call legislators and Senators
 - "I Support Medicaid expansion, it is good for our economy and the health of all Kansans"
 - Ask your school board to fund mental health resources in public schools

2. Support Medicaid Expansion

Suggested Actions

- Call you legislators and ask them to support Medicaid Expansion to help provide over 150,000 Kansans with affordable healthcare
 - "I Support Medicaid expansion, it is good for our economy and the health of all Kansans."
 - "Medicaid Expansion would help about 175,000 (mostly) working Kansans access affordable healthcare. It would bring millions of dollars in tax money back to the state and help keep rural hospitals open. This moral imperative is long overdue."



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WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

HEALTH

3. Advocate for Environmental Justice

- Support and amplify the voice of frontline communities to increase their capacity for effective participation in local, state, and federal policy in order to improve health and the quality of life in their communities.
 - **Suggested Actions**
 - Read and utilize the [Environmental Racism in the Heartland](#) Report co-authored by CleanAirNow and the Union of Concerned Scientists when advocating for the community and pushing for legislative action.
 - Help spread awareness about the report and the environmental racism that communities of color and low-income communities are facing.

4. Eliminate the State Food Sales Tax

- Kansans pay more taxes on groceries than nearly every other state. 17% of the residents in Wyandotte County are food insecure, the county ranks the lowest in the state of Kansas in terms of health outcomes; and over 70% of the children in the county qualify for free and reduced lunch while Wyandotte County has the highest tax on food in the state.
 - **Suggested Actions**
 - Learn more about the various active Food Sales Tax bills this session and how they differ.
 - Contact members your legislators and members of the Tax Committees to show your support for eliminating the State Food Sales Tax.



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WEALTH DAY

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HEALTH

5. Stand with leading public health organizations addressing climate change as a primary threat to public health and urge bold, comprehensive action to reduce emissions and build resilience. (WEALTH partners)

- **Suggested Actions**
- Sign the Climate + Health Declaration at <https://resilientkansas.org/>
- Share with friends and family and ask them to do the same.

CLIMATE + HEALTH DECLARATION

WE BELIEVE IN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The Kansas Climate + Health Declaration aims to increase awareness of the impacts of climate change on public health, to increase civic engagement on climate action in Kansas, and to advance policies that build community resilience and safeguard the future of our state.



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KEEIA

Briefing

KEEIA Briefing

Kansas Energy Efficiency Investment Act



Beth Pauley

Climate + Energy Project



Ty Gorman

Sierra Club Kansas



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KEEIA Briefing

Beth Pauley, (she/her)

Climate + Energy Project

pauley@climateandenergy.org

Beth Pauley is a Program Director for the Climate + Energy Project leading Energy Justice organizing.

In 2016, she graduated with her Master's in Public Administration and co-authored "Wanted: Women in City Management" with a professor and two fellow classmates. This article was selected through a peer-reviewed process to be presented at the 2018 American Society for Public Administration Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Climate + Energy Project engages and co-creates strategies with impacted communities to represent their perspectives in the intervention process, and will continue to work with commissioners to make this process more accessible and transparent.



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WEALTH DAY

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KEEIA Briefing

Ty Gorman, (he/him)

Sierra Club Kansas Chapter

ty.gorman@sierraclub.org

Ty Gorman has been the Kansas Beyond Coal Campaign Representative with the Sierra Club since 2020.

He lives in Kansas City, Kansas and previously worked on clean energy policies at the U.S. House of Representatives, Department of Energy, and Environmental Protection Agency.



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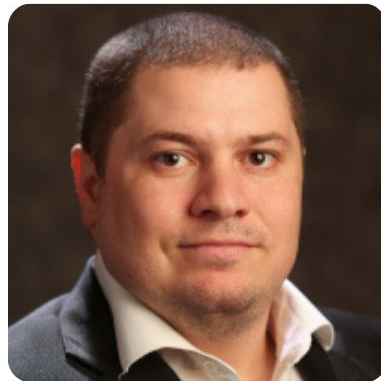
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Legislator Panel

Legislator Panel



Rep. Lindsay Vaughn
22nd District



Rep. Nick Hoheisel
97th District



Zack Pistora
Sierra Club Kansas



Rep. Rui Xu
25th District



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Legislator Panel

Zack Pistora, (he/him)
Sierra Club Kansas Chapter
zack@kansas.sierraclub.org

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Zack also serves on the Boards of the Kansas Natural Resource Council and Kansas Rural Center.

He resides on a farm in Linwood.



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Moderator

Legislator Panel

Representative Rui Xu

25th District

rui.xu@house.ks.gov

Representative Rui Xu represents the 25th district (Northeast Johnson County) in the Kansas Legislature. He is the first

- Chinese-American person to ever serve in the Kansas Legislature and the only naturalized citizen and only Asian-American currently serving.

In his time in the legislature, Representative Xu has served on Financial Institutions and Pensions, Education, Higher Education Budget, and the Agriculture committee. He has been proud to take a lead on environmental issues in the House, introducing bills on addressing climate change, incentivizing carbon farming, and protecting pollinators at solar sites.



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WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

Panelist

Legislator Panel

Representative Nick Hoheisel

97th District

nick.hoheisel@house.ks.gov

Representative Nick Hoheisel currently serves the 97th District (Southwest Wichita) in the Kansas

Legislature. Representative Hoheisel and his wife, Misti, chose to raise their two children in Southwest Wichita because it has always been their home.

Representative Hoheisel believes in public service and in the spirit of community. He is a former member of the City Council District IV Advisory Board, as well as the Southwest Village Neighborhood Association Board, and is a graduate of the Wichita/Sedgwick County Citizens Police Academy.



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WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

Panelist

Legislator Panel

Representative Lindsay Vaughn
22nd District

lindsay.vaughn@house.ks.gov

Representative Lindsay Vaughn currently serves the 22nd District (Johnson County - Overland Park) in the Kansas

- legislature. Representative Vaughn is a nonprofit professional, young leader, and proud Kansan. She was born and raised in Overland Park where she is active in her local community.

Rep Vaughn has devoted much of her time to community organizing, including as chair of the Johnson County Young Democrats. Under her leadership, the group trained and mobilized young people for advocacy and helped elect forward-thinking local candidates. In 2019, Rep Vaughn also proudly participated in the She Should Run nonpartisan leadership cohort where she connected with Democratic and Republican women to talk about the importance of female civic leadership.



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WEALTH DAY
WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

Panelist



2022 *For the Good of ALL Kansans*

WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

KS Youth Power Coalition Panel

KS Youth Power Coalition Panel



Lydia Nebel
KC Farm School



Donnavan Dillion
Loud Light



Birdie Alt
Loud Light



Joel Campbell
Sunrise Movement LFK



Alondra Lerma
Root the Power



Tyler Williams
Progeny



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WEALTH DAY
WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

KS Youth Power Coalition Panel

Erin Kruse, (they/them)

Climate + Energy Project

kruse@climateandenergy.org

Erin Kruse is a Program Coordinator with CEP and serves as the point-person for the newly forming Kansas Environmental Youth Network. They are a recent Sustainability and PoliSci grad from Pittsburg State University in Southeast Kansas. While at PSU, Erin worked as the Student Assistant for Sustainability.

Prior to their education at PSU, Erin earned certification in Sustainable Agriculture from Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, where they worked as an intern for the institution's Center for Sustainability.

Erin is very passionate about community organizing, environmental and social justice, and sustainable food systems.



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Host



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Kansas Environmental Youth Network



Mission

KEY Network is driven by three main pillars: Equity (Climate Justice), Unity (Collaborative & Inclusive), Change.

Goals

1. Connect youth organizations across Kansas
2. Create a space to collaborate
3. Build power for youth action and advocacy in climate justice



climateandenergy.org



[@key.network](https://www.instagram.com/key.network)



keynetwork@climateandenergy.org



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Kansas Youth Power Coalition



@KSYouthPower



@KSYouthPower



@KSYouthPower

The Kansas Youth Power Coalition is a nonpartisan effort whose shared purpose is getting young people at the table where decisions are made.

Its partners include (in alphabetical order): CEP's Kansas Environmental Youth (KEY) Network, Loud Light, NAACP Youth Council, New Frontiers Project, Progeny, Root the Power, Sunrise Movement Lawrence, and URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity.



ksyouthpowercoalition@gmail.com

KS Youth Power Coalition Panel

Lydia Nebel, (she/her)

KC Farm School at Gibbs Road

lydia@kcfarmschool.org

Lydia began as a farm apprentice in 2013 at Gibbs Road Farm of CultivateKC (now KC Farm School at Gibbs Road). After two years, she moved on to manage New York City's Harlem Grown, then moved upstate to Four Winds Farm, a certified organic, no-till diversified vegetable operation, then ran Second Wind CSA for two years. Most recently, she was Second-in-Charge at Day's Walk Farm in Melbourne, Australia. She has organized with the National Young Farmers Coalition, Hudson Valley and Kansas City Chapters.

She is intent on the need for more farmers and more farms, looking most to small-scale, traditional, and indigenous methods of food and economy production, especially in this incredible prairie ecosystem.

Lydia has been involved with KC Farm School since their beginning as founding board co-chair. In 2021, she returned to KCFS at Gibbs Road as Farm Director, eager with curiosity and a humble heart to learn from the land and community, and to produce as much food as possible in loving, regenerating ways.



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Moderator

KS Youth Power Coalition Panel

Donnavan Dillon, (he/him)

Loud Light

studentpower@loudlight.org

Donnavan is currently one of the student power campaign coordinators with Loud Light. He has a passion for community organizing, social justice, voting rights, and youth representation.

He is a current freshman at the University of Kansas studying political science and sociology. Throughout his time in advocacy and politics Donnavan has worked both within his community and around electoral organizing. Through his work he hopes to make tangible change for the communities he's a part of and improve communities for the better.



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WEALTH DAY

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Panelist

KS Youth Power Coalition Panel

Birdie Alt, (they/them)

Loud Light

studentpower@loudlight.org

Birdie Alt is an organizer with the Student Power Campaign at LoudLight. They are a senior studying Political Communication at the University of Kansas.

Birdie currently serves as the President of Students United for Reproductive Justice and works with the ACLU of KU, advocating for youth and student representation in the political space in Kansas.

Birdie hopes to continue advocating for LGBTQ+ and voting rights, and establishing community through organizing.



2022 *For the Good of ALL Kansans*

WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

Panelist

KS Youth Power Coalition Panel

Joel Campbell, (he/him)

Sunrise Movement Lawrence

sunrisemvmtlawrenceks@gmail.com

Joel Campbell is a second-year engineering student at the University of Kansas and has been a member of the Sunrise Movement for more than a year.

He also enjoys playing music and sewing in his free time.



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WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

Panelist

KS Youth Power Coalition Panel

Alondra Lerma, (she/her/ella)

Root the Power

rootthepowerks@gmail.com

- Alondra Lerma has been working with Root the Power (RTP), a youth led non-partisan group.

She has attended meetings, organized candidate forums, and continues to register people to vote!



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WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

Panelist

KS Youth Power Coalition Panel

Tyler Williams, (he/him)

Progeny

tyler@destinationinnovation.org

Tyler has been involved in Progeny as a Youth Leader since the program began in 2017, and joined the program staff in 2018. Tyler is a formerly adjudicated youth in the state of Kansas who understands first-hand how and why the juvenile justice system needs to be changed to not only help youth grow but also to assist healing the community as a whole. He also knows how important it is to be proactive in investing in communities to build a safer and more prosperous Kansas.

Tyler works on the national level as a former youth leader and now alumni of Youth First and has interned on a State level as a community organizer with Kansas Appleseed and received a governor's appointment to the Kansas Advisory Group for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency and plans to utilize his platform to elevate the voices of impacted youth.



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Panelist



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WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

Closing Session

Closing Session

Moti Rieber, (he/him)

Kansas Interfaith Action

rebmoti@kansasinterfaithaction.org

Rabbi Moti Rieber has served as Executive Director of Kansas Interfaith Action and its predecessor organization, Kansas Interfaith Power & Light, since March of 2011.

He is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pennsylvania. A life-long activist on peace, social justice, and environmental issues, Rabbi Moti brings a variety of pulpit, interfaith, and organizational experience to the work of Kansas Interfaith Action.

Rabbi Moti and his wife, Suzy, have three adult children and live in Overland Park.



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WEALTH DAY

WATER-ENERGY-AIR-LAND-TRANSPORTATION-HEALTH

Closing Session

Beth Pauley, (she/her)

Climate + Energy Project

pauley@climateandenergy.org

Beth Pauley is a Program Director for the Climate + Energy Project leading Energy Justice organizing.

In 2016, she graduated with her Master's in Public Administration and co-authored "Wanted: Women in City Management" with a professor and two fellow classmates. This article was selected through a peer-reviewed process to be presented at the 2018 American Society for Public Administration Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Climate + Energy Project engages and co-creates strategies with impacted communities to represent their perspectives in the intervention process, and will continue to work with commissioners to make this process more accessible and transparent.



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WEALTH DAY

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Kansas WEALTH Partners

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