



# PROGRESS REPORT

SPRING 2013

*The Green Impact Zone Vision:*

*To develop a sustainable community; one that is environmentally, economically and socially stronger tomorrow than it is today — using a comprehensive green strategy, coordinated programs with innovative delivery mechanisms, and intense resident engagement to more rapidly push community change, build community capacity, and make the Green Impact Zone a place where people want to live, work and play.*

To learn more about any of the specific projects highlighted in this report, please visit [www.greenimpactzone.org](http://www.greenimpactzone.org) or call the Green Impact Zone office at 816-936-8803.

May 2013

## Introduction

Measurable progress is continuing in the Green Impact Zone. Visible improvements can be seen across the zone, from construction of new housing and community centers to installation of new sidewalks and curbs. Neighborhood capacity is increasing with innovative grants, training programs and technology to help with citizen engagement. Interest is growing, as developers bring new opportunities and ideas to move the zone forward in energy savings and job creation.

This report summarizes progress in the Green Impact Zone over the last 45 days. An archive of past progress reports is available on the Green Impact Zone website at <http://www.greenimpactzone.org/reports.aspx>

## Infrastructure

- ▶ With funding from the region's TIGER (Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, work is underway to repair and improve infrastructure throughout the zone. Nearly all sidewalk improvements have been completed and street overlays should begin in early June that will make travel for pedestrian, motor vehicle and bicycle safer. Residents will be notified as work progresses through their areas. The upgrades will result in a significant improvement to the majority of the zone in a very short amount of time, making sidewalks safer and travel easier. An updated map of these improvements will be available soon on the Green Impact Zone website. The map will highlight the exact streets that will be resurfaced in the Green Impact Zone through the TIGER program.

- ▶ Green Impact Zone Director Anita Maltbia recently attended the groundbreaking for the Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd. streetscape improvements. The project will include upgrades to street lighting, traffic calming additions, moving utilities underground, planting trees and landscaping. Construction is now underway on the project, which will run along Emanuel Cleaver Blvd. from Rockhill to Paseo. Zone staff participated in planning meetings for the project.
- ▶ Blue Hills Community Services is interviewing potential contractors for space in the 5008 Prospect facility. The LEED-certified remodel of this vacant 14,000-square-foot structure will provide a small business incubator, training facility and community meeting space. The Blue Hills Neighborhood Association will also use the community meeting room at 5008 Prospect for neighborhood meetings. The grand opening for the facility is scheduled to open mid-July. More information is available online at [www.5008kc.org](http://www.5008kc.org).

## Housing

- ▶ Green Impact Zone staff met recently with Damion Trasada, community and economic development manager of Missouri Housing and Development Commission. Trasada is exploring housing development projects currently underway in the zone and seeking information on further needs throughout the central city.
- ▶ The zone staff met with Upper Room Urban Development (URUD) to discuss housing development opportunities. URUD which was instrumental in repurposing Graceland Elementary School to become a community center, is also working toward increasing home ownership in the Blue Hills and Town Fork Creek neighborhoods.
- ▶ Building at 4300 Tracy will be transformed into affordable housing units and community space. The \$14 million Bancroft renovation is led by Dalmark, a local development company and the Make It Right Foundation, the organization founded by actor Brad Pitt to address housing needs in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. The project is scheduled for completion at the end of the year.

## Energy

- ▶ Green Impact Zone staff met with a local construction company to discuss the benefits of using solar installations in neighborhoods to generate renewable energy. The company owner expressed interest in solar panel installation in the Green Impact Zone because of what is already happening in the area. He wants to make sure residential and commercial buildings in the urban core are included in the development stages as solar power expands.
- ▶ KCP&L has contracted with Alpha Electric, a minority-owned company on Troost, to manage customer service operations related to Smart Grid equipment in the home. As part of this new arrangement, KCP&L customer service representatives are no longer housed in the Green Impact Zone office space.

## Employment

- ▶ The sixth session of the Green Impact Zone's Essential Employability Skills (EES) training begins May 13. EES is a free, week-long training for unemployed and underemployed residents. It provides a refresher on basic skills for job seekers, such as a strong resume, a professional appearance, interviewing skills and a good work ethic. Graduates of past sessions have participated in interview fairs organized by the zone and many have found employment. The class is expected to serve 30 students.
- ▶ Green Impact Zone staff attended the grand opening of Connecting for Good Workshop and Training Center on March 29. Connecting for Good will conduct a three-hour presentation as part of EES, covering computer skills such as searching, downloading, buying, banking, taking classes and earning credit online. Connecting for Good will also explain its operations, which include computer training and an option to buy a refurbished laptop for little or no cost.
- ▶ Green Impact Zone staff attended an exploratory meeting with the Urban Neighborhood Initiative and the Urban League about opportunities to partner on job training efforts. A proposal is under discussion that would build upon the zone's EES program. The Urban League and UNI will focus on paraprofessional jobs while the Green Impact Zone continues to work with residents seeking entry-level jobs.
- ▶ Staff met with Foutch Brothers, an architectural and engineering firm that specializes in converting historic buildings to multi-family residential units. Foutch, which has participated in EES interview fairs and hired some graduates, is interested in exploring ways the zone could provide more services beyond EES. For example, the zone has connected several employers with a Metropolitan Community College program that can underwrite salaries for new employees in certain circumstances.
- ▶ New Horizons, a woman-owned environmental remediation firm in Kansas City, Mo., held an open house in April. The company has already hired a number of EES graduates.
- ▶ In late April, the Green Impact Zone staff attended a Metropolitan Energy Center reception held in Kansas City, Mo. The event focused on green-collar employers and what hard and soft skills they need for future workers. The Green Impact Zone, Kansas City Kansas Community College, MCC and MEC discussed the potential to collaborate on meeting employer needs through training programs and curriculum.
- ▶ Members of the Green Impact Zone staff also attended a recent EnergyWorksKC wrapup luncheon and received a plaque to recognize their contributions to the program. EnergyWorksKC is a partnership between the city of Kansas City, MARC, the Metropolitan Energy Center, KCP&L and Missouri Gas Energy that focuses on energy retrofits of homes and businesses in seven neighborhoods in the city, including the Green Impact Zone. The program helped residents evaluate their homes' energy usage and access financial assistance for energy improvements. It also funded job training for workers seeking to enter the energy-retrofit industry.

## Neighborhood Capacity

- ▶ The Green Impact Zone helped two neighborhoods — Town Fork Creek and Manheim Park write two successful Community Capital Fund (CCF) grants. The groups received word in May of grant awards that could reach \$20,000. Each neighborhood will initially receive \$17,000. If they can successfully raise an additional \$2,000 through Indiegogo, a “crowd funding”, program, they will receive a \$1,000 bonus to reach the \$20,000 total. Crowdfunding allows organizations to raise funds through online social networks.

Manheim will use the CCF funds to support its RUN (Regenerating Urban Neighborhoods) initiative. The program will train block captains on how to transform their neighborhoods block by block.

Town Fork Creek will use CCF funds to continue to build neighborhood leadership capacity, pay for a part time coordinator and hire a street team to go door-to-door to build communication with residents.

- ▶ The fourth annual Convoy of Hope comes to Swope Park on Saturday, June 8. The Convoy of Hope provides free groceries, shoes, family photos, haircuts, clothing and more to thousands of area residents. The Green Impact Zone will host two tents: one for community services, to link residents with resources; and a jobs tent to help citizens with writing resumes and connect them with employers. The zone is organizing a crew of volunteers to help plan and manage the tents. Volunteers will help recruit employers to conduct on-site interviews, recruit human resources professionals to help participants prepare resumes, and coordinate supplies and equipment for the tent.
- ▶ As the Graceland School (renamed the Mary L. Kelly Community Center) renovation nears completion, Town Fork Creek has enlisted the Green Impact Zone to help the neighborhood association build its capacity to manage the repurposed facility. TFC plans to open a new neighborhood association office in the repurposed building, which will also include office space for the Charlie “Bird” Parker music foundation; a dance studio; computer labs; a catering kitchen; an exercise center and other programs and services. The renovation should be complete in late June. Because the facility will serve both Town Fork Creek and Blue Hills residents, Town Fork Creek neighborhood leaders invited Blue Hills to have a seat on the Kelly Center board.

## Other Activities

- ▶ The zone continues to work with businesses on Troost as they consider forming a Community Improvement District (CID). Recently, zone staff coordinated a meeting with the new Southtown CID to ensure the two groups' efforts complement each other rather than overlap.
- ▶ Alecia Kates was hired as a community development specialist for the Green Impact Zone. She will serve as a liaison to several neighborhood organizations, coordinate and facilitate EES training, and assist in coordination of affordable housing planning, grant writing and community capacity building.
- ▶ The Green Impact Zone staff manned a table at a recent barbeque cook off competition between Blue Hills and Town Fork Creek. Staff provided information about EnergyWorksKC for neighborhood residents.
- ▶ The zone continues to facilitate conversations between UNI and Purpose Built Communities in hopes of bringing that model to Kansas City, Mo. The framework of Purpose Built Communities is to revitalize struggling communities and help families break the cycle of poverty.

## Presentations/Participation

- ▶ Director Anita Maltbia was interviewed on April 4 about the Green Impact Zone on KPRT's What's up Kansas City radio show, hosted by Bishop James Tindall, Sr., founder of the Urban Summit.
- ▶ Green Impact Zone staff took part in a conference call with staff from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to discuss potential opportunities for funding urban gardening projects.
- ▶ A second meeting was held with a local entrepreneur who wants to open a manufacturing facility in the Green Impact Zone. The discussion centered on ways to open doors to capital.
- ▶ Green Impact Zone Director Anita Maltbia was a panelist at the Kansas City Film Fest to discuss the "We are Superman" documentary. Some of the discussion focused on the transformation of 31st and Troost.
- ▶ Green Impact Zone Director Anita Maltbia participated in steering committee meetings for the Kansas City, Mo., Midtown Plaza planning project.

## Financial Report

While the Green Impact Zone has been instrumental in bringing a number of federal grants to the region, this chart only includes the grant funds specifically allocated to the Green Impact Zone and administered by MARC. Some Green Impact Zone grants are administered entirely by other agencies, such as the \$48 million KCP&L SmartGrid project, and some grants serve other areas in the region in addition to the Green Impact Zone. See the color key below for more information.

Summary of Green Impact Zone Expenditures			
Category	Budgeted Amount	Current Period (3/1/13-3/31/13)	Cumulative (Since Sept. 2009)
<b>Personnel (Salaries, fringe benefits, indirect)</b>			
KCMO	2,458,478.68	23,734.35	2,136,782.49
TIGER	150,000.00	3,875.44	100,842.93
EnergyWorks	150,765.00	5,593.32	117,979.39
LIWAP	182,046.00	—	139,556.99
<b>Consultants/contractual services</b>			
KCMO	1,032,325.13	9.99	920,927.46
LIWAP	2,477,103.00	—	1,496,707.12
CSP	145,000.00	—	145,000.00
<b>Office lease, furnishings and/or equipment (computers, phone, etc.)</b>			
KCMO	309,641.11	2,658.31	262,820.87
LIWAP	17,985.00	—	9,785.22
<b>Other expenses (e.g., meeting expenses, training, printing, postage, supplies)</b>			
KCMO	199,555.08	652.53	147,202.38
LIWAP	22,866.00	—	28,630.15

- **City of Kansas City, Mo.** — Coordination grants administered by MARC. The chart above includes budgeted amounts for the first-year grant (\$1.5 million), second-year grant (\$1 million) and third-year grant (\$750,000). This report also reflects an additional \$200,000 awarded in late 2012, for a total of \$3.45 million. An additional \$550,000 was awarded in January 2013.
- **U.S. Department of Transportation (TIGER)** — \$50 million total grant; \$26.2 million for the Green Impact Zone. The bulk of the funds allocated to the zone are administered by KCATA. MARC administers \$600,000 of the total grant, with \$150,000 specifically allocated to Green Impact Zone personnel costs.
- **EnergyWorks KC** — \$20 million Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The city of Kansas City, Mo., is the primary recipient. MARC will receive approximately \$3 million to support workforce development and public outreach in seven Kansas City neighborhoods, including the Green Impact Zone, and to support replication in the entire metro area. Most of these funds will benefit the overall program, but \$150,765 has been specifically allocated for personnel expenses in the zone.
- **Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (LIWAP)** — \$2.7 million grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, originally administered by MARC. Transitioned to Kansas City, Mo., in September 2011.
- **Creating Sustainable Places** — \$4.25 million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, administered by MARC. \$120,000 is designated for housing and redevelopment planning in the Green Impact Zone.



**Neighborhood Organizations**

- Blue Hills Neighborhood Association
- Blue Hills Community Services
- Brush Creek Community Partners
- Historic Manheim Park Association
- Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council
- Neighborhood Housing Services
- Swope Community Builders
- Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association
- Troostwood Neighborhood Association

**Green Impact Zone Staff**

- Anita L. Maltbia, Director
- Twana Hall-Scott, Assistant Director
- Shontrice Patillo, Administrative Office Coordinator

**Initial Partners**

- City of Kansas City, Mo.
- Full Employment Council
- Kansas City Area Transportation Authority
- Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission
- Kansas City Power & Light
- Kansas City, Mo., Police Department
- Metropolitan Community Colleges
- Metropolitan Energy Center
- Mid-America Regional Council
- Missouri Gas Energy
- PolicyLink
- Time Warner Cable
- University of Missouri–Kansas City
- U.S. Census Bureau
- Habitat for Humanity
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation