

PROGRESS REPORT

June 26–Aug. 9, 2011

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 or call the Green Impact Zone office at 816-936-8803.

Impacting People's Lives

When we measure progress in the Green Impact Zone, we often look at the numbers — how many homes weatherized, how many sidewalks repaired, how many gardens planted and so on. A much more rewarding measure, though often harder to quantify, is the difference the Green Impact Zone is making to individual people.

One young man whose life has been changed for the better by Green Impact Zone initiatives is Laurence Williams II. Last summer, Laurence was selected by the Full Employment Council to participate in the “Green Ways to Green Careers” summer internship program for young people ages 16–24. The program was part of a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to Missouri’s Fifth Congressional District, announced by U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II and Missouri Governor Jay Nixon last June.

As an intern, Laurence had a chance to work with Jason Lofton of QTI, Inc., the company hired by KCP&L to install new electric meters in the SmartGrid demonstration area. When the internship ended, Jason hired Laurence to work on QTI’s meter installation team.

In June, Laurence was hired by KCP&L as a SmartGrid education and outreach support representative. He is currently in training, learning more about the SmartGrid products and services, attending neighborhood meetings and encouraging residents to use new in-home displays and other tools to manage their energy usage.



Zone resident Laurence Williams II went from an internship to a temporary position to full-time employment as a result of Green Impact Zone initiatives.

The SmartGrid Demonstration Project, funded by a \$24 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy and an additional \$24 million investment by KCP&L and its partners, is introducing innovative technologies and infrastructure to help manage electricity use and delivery more efficiently.

“I’m really excited to be part of something new like this,” said Laurence. “It’s fascinating to see how everything comes together. The meters I helped install play a big role in the entire SmartGrid project. It’s good to look back and say I was able to contribute.”

Laurence, a lifelong resident of Kansas City, lives in the Green Impact Zone and attends Penn Valley Community College. He is studying music technology, but says his work at KCP&L has opened up new ideas and interests.

“I’m a lot more interested in computers and technology than I ever thought I would be,” he said. “I’m learning a lot about the SmartGrid, but I’m also learning a lot about myself.”

Community transformation begins with people like Laurence. In each of our strategy areas, we remain focused on our vision of creating a sustainable community and improving the quality of life for all zone residents. Recent highlights of our progress are summarized below.

Neighborhood Outreach

- ▶ Neighborhood associations are currently working on plans for a second round of neighborhood capacity grant funds. The Green Impact Zone provides the grants to five neighborhoods — Blue Hills, Ivanhoe, Manheim, Town Fork Creek and Troostwood — using a formula based on population. Last year, the grants averaged about \$3,500 per neighborhood. Some of the projects funded with the first round included hosting community events, providing training for board members, purchasing software, support for code enforcement efforts, and filing for 501c3 status.
- ▶ The Manheim Park Neighborhood Association held a kickoff for its Neighborhood Connection cleanup campaign on Saturday, July 16. Neighborhood leader Sandra Hayes and three neighborhood children worked with KCPD Officer William Finn and four community workers to collect 75 bags of trash and brush in front of Bancroft School. Ms. Hayes is also working with the city’s codes enforcement department on improvements to citation of property owners who don’t maintain their properties. By promoting clean, well-maintained neighborhoods, the neighborhood association hopes to help deter crime in the area.
- ▶ On July 30, the city of Kansas City collected household hazardous waste at an ABOP event — antifreeze, batteries, oil and paint — held at the Robert J. Mohart Center, 3200 Wayne. While the numbers of ABOP materials were still being tallied, city officials reported collecting 267 cars, 971 tires, 2,500 pounds of paper and nine tons of brush and leaves at the event.

- ▶ The Troostwood Neighborhood Association helped plan a Back-to-School Rally for area residents on Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Rockhurst Community Center. The fair featured free school supplies, a bike safety clinic, bike helmets and community resource displays. About 300 children attended the event, which was organized by the Rockhurst University Neighborhood Committee, which includes representatives from the university, Troostwood, the 49/63 Neighborhood Association, Brush Creek Community Partners, the Troost Plateau Neighborhood Association, the Southtown Council and UMKC.



Revolve KC facilitated a bike-safety course and provided free helmets to children at the Back-to-School Rally.

- ▶ The Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, in cooperation with the Green Impact Zone, Macedonia Baptist Church and others, has submitted a grant application seeking funds for a financial literacy program for 18-24 year olds.
- ▶ The Facilitation and Problem Solving sessions of the Community Leadership Program, organized by MARC's Government Training Institute and the city of Kansas City, concluded the week of July 25. A total of 13 out of 26 and 8 out of 12 completed each class, respectively. Many have earned certificates in all five sections of the CLP series — Personal Strengths, Facilitation Skills, Relationship Building, Problem Solving and Community Building. The next two sessions, Relationship Building and Community Building, began the week of Aug. 8 at Penn Valley Community College. The CLP series will be adding an energy conservation and retrofit module this fall.

Public Safety/Community Services

- ▶ On July 16, the Kansas City Police Department held its morning roll call at the home of Anwar Jones, a Blue Hills resident and Green Impact Zone community ombudsman. By holding roll calls out in the community instead of at the police station, officers hope to meet with residents, learn about their concerns and build relationships. The officers also shared crime prevention tips with Blue Hills residents in attendance.
- ▶ The Green Impact Zone participated in the National Night Out Against Crime on Aug. 2. Zone Lead Field Ombudsman Cokethea Hill served as chair of Kansas City, Mo.'s effort, held at Swope Park. Community Ombudsman Kourtney Woodbury chaired a Community Services subcommittee, arranging booth space for local agencies to connect with residents and inform them



Kansas City police officers held a community roll call in the Blue Hills neighborhood on July 16.

about available services. The Green Impact Zone also staffed a booth at the event, sharing information about weatherization, the upcoming Urban Homes Tour and other zone initiatives.

- ▶ KCPD is working with the Manheim Neighborhood Association on plans to conduct SWAT training in vacant structures. Neighborhood leaders are working with the department to identify vacant houses that will work for the training and secure permission from property owners. Leaders believe this collaboration will strengthen the relationship between police and neighborhood residents and also help deter criminal activity.

Housing

- ▶ On July 27–28, the Green Impact Zone hosted visitors from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C., as part of a review of MARC’s Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. Shelley Poticha, director of the Office for Sustainable Housing and Communities, and Salin Geevarghese, senior advisor, toured the zone to see how federal funds are being invested and heard presentations about various zone programs, with an emphasis on housing. After the visit, Ms. Poticha indicated that she will report to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan that the Green Impact Zone is a good on-the-ground example of what the agency is trying to accomplish through its planning grants.
- ▶ After several months of exploring possibilities in the Green Impact Zone, the Dalmark Company, a local developer, has secured an option for the Bancroft school building and grounds. A feasibility study is currently underway to determine whether the property can be converted into affordable housing units. Preliminary plans call for more than 30 housing units and first-floor community space within the Bancroft building, along with several townhome-style units on the school grounds. The Make It Right Foundation, a nonprofit organization that has worked on housing developments in New Orleans, La., and Newark, N.J., will work with the Manheim community and BNIM, a local architectural firm, on design plans for the interior of the school.

Representatives from Make It Right recently met with Manheim Neighborhood Association leaders — including Rodney Knott, president, and Sandra Hayes, vice-president — and other Manheim residents to get their input on the project. The neighborhood’s desire for housing and community activity space is the basis for rehabilitation of the building. Residents are excited about the possibility of converting this blighted property into an anchor for development that could potentially extend beyond the school grounds with infill housing and new construction. Mark Stalworth, president of Kansas City, Mo., Neighborhood Housing Services, has been instrumental in working with Dalmark and Make It Right to move the project forward.

- ▶ Margaret May, executive director of the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, Anita Maltbia, Green Impact Zone director, and Cokethea Hill, Green Impact Zone lead field ombudsman, recently visited Builders of Hope sites in Raleigh, N.C. Builders of Hope has

expressed interest in developing a Memorandum of Understanding to partner with the Green Impact Zone on a model block project in the Ivanhoe neighborhood. In Raleigh, as in other sites across the country, Builders of Hope has rehabilitated and moved houses to help transform blighted areas into thriving communities. The organization has a track record of employing local workers in its projects — including hard-to-employ residents, such as those with prison records or a history of drug abuse — and also offers on-the-job training to young parents, ages 17-24.

- ▶ The Green Impact Zone and representatives from APD, its housing consultant, made a presentation to city leaders who are working on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) 3 grant program. The Green Impact Zone is one of two KCMO neighborhoods slated for NSP3 funding. The Green Impact Zone's presentation focused on the need to leverage additional resources by encouraging Preferred Property Developers (PPDs) to bring some funding to the table to build and rehab in concentrated areas versus scattered sites, as well as the need to include zone neighborhood plans and suggestions in the review process when approving projects. APD also presented some concepts for potential projects in the zone.

Weatherization

- ▶ As of the end of July, the Green Impact Zone Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (LIWAP) has completed weatherization work and post audits at 104 homes and work is underway in another 143 homes. The LIWAP engagement team continues its outreach efforts with door-to-door contact in each neighborhood. Outreach efforts are also underway at area churches and community events. Staff is also working with landlords of rental properties in the zone, including several multi-family housing units. One unique aspect of the zone's LIWAP is the reduced rate landlords are required to contribute (from 5 to 25 percent) to the weatherization of rental units.

- ▶ On July 20, the Green Impact Zone and Zimmer, its master contractor for weatherization, hosted a team meeting for everyone involved in the weatherization project. About 45 attendees shared information about every step of the process, from outreach and client intake through the energy audit, weatherization work, post audit inspection and final paperwork. The meeting resulted in a better understanding of where each task fits into the overall process and how the different groups can work together to improve the program.

Impacting People's Lives

Recently an elderly resident applied for the Green Impact Zone weatherization program and met all of the qualifications, but our weatherization team ran into a problem – the basement of the home she has lived in for many years was so cluttered that they could not access the furnace and water heater to make the necessary improvements.

Since the resident was unable to clear the basement on her own and had no available family members to help, the Green Impact Zone turned to her neighborhood association for assistance. Jessie Jefferson and other volunteers from the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council and Learning Lord Lutheran Church from Bartlett, Ill., cleared out the basement and cleared the way for another home weatherization.

Employment and Training

- ▶ The Green Impact Zone Jobs Pipeline is currently working with 10 zone residents to facilitate job placement. These residents have each attended several training sessions on employment readiness and participated in mock interviews. Zone staff helps participants update their résumés, works to match each person's skills and experience to industries and employers that are hiring, and assists them in finding additional training and/or job opportunities. One participant, Harold Edwards, who lives in the Manheim neighborhood, found a job at IHOP after attending only two training sessions. Two others have entered into computer training courses offered by the Metropolitan Community Colleges. Residents who want to participate in the next round of Jobs Pipeline training, beginning Sept. 6, may contact the Green Impact Zone to apply.

Infrastructure

- ▶ On July 16, the Green Impact Zone hosted a Transportation Fair to help residents explore travel options for accessing jobs in other parts of the metropolitan area. Representatives from MARC's RideShare program, the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and The JO (Johnson County Transit) shared information with 59 residents, many of whom also participated in a bus tour. The JO recently added a connection to KCATA's Troost MAX bus service that gives zone residents easier access to jobs in Johnson County. The JO's 575 route (standard service in morning and evening rush hour) and 875 route (flex service during the midday hours) run from 47th and Troost along the Shawnee Mission Parkway/Metcalf corridor — one of the six corridors in the metro slated for transit improvements through the TIGER grant — to the KU Edwards campus at 126th and Quivira. Through the bus tour, residents were able to learn where to catch the bus or make a transfer and experience the ride along part of this route.



Transportation Fair participants rode The JO along the Shawnee Mission Parkway/Metcalf Corridor.

Urban Agriculture/Food Access

- ▶ Zone residents have enjoyed fresh vegetables grown at several community gardens this summer, including the Blue Hills Community Garden at 49th and Olive and the Ivanhoe Demonstration Garden at 37th and Woodland. The Green Impact Zone's NEXUS students visited local gardens to pick their own produce, and then turned their fresh produce into salad, salsa, guacamole and smoothies.
- ▶ On July 6 and 7, the Green Impact Zone's Sowers of Sustainability, in partnership with Bridging the Gap, hosted a raised-bed construction lesson for area gardeners at Beacon

Light Seventh Day Adventist Church, 4841 Paseo. The workshop included the installation of beds in a community garden and planting of vegetables and seeds.

Youth Involvement

- ▶ The Green Impact Zone's second annual NEXUS summer youth program is nearing completion in early August. Twenty teens participated in the eight-week program, which included exposure to career opportunities, entrepreneurship and environmental protection. In addition to classroom time, the group went on field trips to the Brown Museum in Topeka, KCP&L's Sibley power plant and Science City at Union Station. The teens received career planning advice from several young professionals at KCP&L, and attended the Metropolitan Community College's police academy. They also worked with four CORO students from Park University on fun and creative energy conservation activities, which included drawing up plans for energy-efficient homes using geothermal, solar, hydro-electric and wind power, and building and racing balloon cars. NEXUS students will also participate in IBM's EXITE camp (Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering) and will tour the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb., on August 13.

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 (June 1-30, 2011)	Cumulative
Personnel (Salaries, fringe benefits, indirect)			
KCMO	1,500,823.92	62,051.77	1,154,876.79
TIGER	150,000.00	5,585.34	25,360.25
EnergyWorks	75,073.00	8,508.90	34,113.17
LIWAP*	182,046.00	13,398.75	131,807.09
Consultants/contractual services			
KCMO	679,620.00	12,077.12	519,404.01
LIWAP*	2,477,103.00	305,051.93	777,196.14
CSP	120,000.00	34,150.00	59,734.00
Office lease, furnishings and/or equipment (computers, phone, etc.)			
KCMO	188,674.00	5,079.58	152,565.75
LIWAP*	17,985.00	(3,062.17)	10,609.48
Other expenses (e.g., meeting expenses, training, printing, postage, supplies)			
KCMO	130,882.08	240.58	108,314.02
LIWAP*	22,866.00	1523.04	27,451.12

- **City of Kansas City, Mo.** — Coordination grants administered by MARC. The chart above includes budgeted amounts for both the first-year \$1.5 million grant and the second-year \$1 million grant, for a total of \$2.5 million.
- **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 \$75,000 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, administered by MARC.
- **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.

* This report reflects a revised budget for the LIWAP program, based on MDNR's decision to reallocate funds and reduce the original \$4.5 million award to \$2.7 million.



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
- Arletha Bland Manlove, Workforce Ombudsman
- Cokethea Hill, Lead Community Ombudsman
- Anwar Jones, Field Ombudsman
- Kourtney Woodbury, Field Ombudsman
- Shontrice Patillo, Administrative Office Coordinator
- Jermain Whitmore, Administrative Assistant

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