

Charter



Mission

The CleanAirNow Association is a climate and environmental justice organization dedicated to improving environmental quality in Kansas City and the surrounding region, particularly in communities suffering the greatest health burden, and to preventing and mitigating disease caused by environmental pollution and climate change.

Guiding Principles

CleanAirNow is a nonprofit, community-based and community-driven equitable coalition and partnership of community groups, academia, researchers, environmental advocates and experts, health-service organizations, institutions, local government representatives, and individual members.

1. CleanAirNow is in alignment with and guided by the [Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing](#) and [The Principles of Environmental Justice](#).
2. The focus of CleanAirNow is to work with and uplift communities most threatened by environmental pollution; particularly those with vulnerable populations affected by multiple, disproportionate environmental health burdens. CleanAirNow aims to support and amplify the voice of these communities to increase their organizational capacity for effective participation in local, state, and federal policy in order to improve health and the quality of life in their communities.
3. As the organization matures, the Board of Directors of CleanAirNow will be structured and weighted such that members of front-line community organizations will drive the key decisions.
4. CleanAirNow facilitates opportunities for cross-disciplinary and community-based participatory research (CBPR), bridging organizational and geographic boundaries to improve the health and lives of citizens across our service area. We will maximize opportunities for Community-Based Participatory Research, Citizen Science, and crowd-sourced data collection and analysis.

Geographic Scope

The primary geographic scope and service area of CleanAirNow is the 22 county [Kansas City-Overland Park-Kansas City, MO-KS Combined Statistical Area](#), the 5 county [Topeka Metropolitan Statistical Area](#), and Brown County. The inclusion of Brown and Jackson County ensures we include the reservations of all Native American tribes within the boundaries of Kansas.

When and as appropriate, we will work outside of our primary service area.

A complete list of counties and Native American reservations served by CleanAirNow follows:

<u>Kansas Counties</u>	<u>Missouri Counties</u>	<u>Native American reservations</u>
Atchison	Cass	Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas
Brown	Clay	Sac and Fox Nation
Doniphan	Clinton	Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Douglas	DeKalb	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.
Franklin	Jackson	
Jackson	Johnson	
Jefferson	Lafayette	
Johnson	Platte	
Leavenworth	RayAndrew	
Linn	Bates	
Miami	Buchanan	
Osage	Caldwell	
Shawnee		
Wabaunsee		
Wyandotte		

Goals

CleanAirNow has five goals - Empowerment, environmental pollution monitoring, policy development and advocacy, education, and research, as defined below.

1. Empowerment: CleanAirNow will work to enable and empower youth and adults in the region's most vulnerable communities to organize, lead, and advocate for their communities.
2. Environmental Pollution Monitoring: CleanAirNow will monitor air, water, land, and other environmental pollution as needed to protect public health, with a focus on overburdened communities near major polluting sources and transportation corridors.
3. Education: We will educate community members, youth, college students, and professionals as follows:
 - 3.1. CleanAirNow will develop and deliver community-focused education on the health and climate change impacts of air, water, land and other environmental pollution, and how communities can work together to mitigate them and protect themselves and their families from adverse health impacts
 - 3.2. We will educate youth in order to improve their skills and provide environmental leadership in their communities and the region.
 - 3.3. We will educate local and state government and private sector engineers, planners, and public administrators who make recommendations and decisions which affect environmental quality but often do not have sufficient knowledge of environmental pollution health impacts or of mitigation policies, tools, and techniques needed to protect public health.
 - 3.4. We will provide internship opportunities for college students and others to learn, contribute, achieve, and further their careers.
4. Policy Development and Advocacy: CleanAirNow will develop and advocate for regional and local policies, legislation and regulations to reduce environmental pollution and reduce or mitigate its health impacts.
5. Research: CleanAirNow will develop opportunities for cross-disciplinary and community-based participatory research (CBPR) opportunities that bridge organizational and geographic boundaries to improve the health and lives of community members. Among the disciplines which can be involved are public health, policy research, epidemiology, atmospheric modeling, climatology, public health research, STEM education, remote sensing, urban planning, transportation engineering, and public administration. We will maximize opportunities for Community Based Participatory Research, Community Science, and crowdsourced data.

Membership Categories

CleanAirNow has four categories of membership:

1. Community-based organizational membership – front-line grassroots organizations representing and accountable to members located in communities most directly impacted by air pollution.
2. Ally/Resource membership – institutions that provide technical expertise/resources to support the work of the community-based members of CleanAirNow. These members work in partnership with community-based organizations by providing technical assistance that supports and builds their capacity and advances the mission and goals of the Network. Ally members include universities, scientists, doctors, researchers, labor unions, student groups, and environmental groups.
3. Individual membership – individuals working on environmental pollution and/or related issues who want to assist CleanAirNow and its members, and do not have actual or potential conflicts of interest.
4. Sponsors - organizations that wish to provide financial support. Sponsors do not have voting rights and cannot dictate, prescribe, or proscribe our policies or projects.

Board of Directors

CleanAirNow will be governed by a board, which when fully constituted will consist of seven (7) individuals. The board is responsible for determining the mission and purposes of the organization, selecting and evaluating the performance and compensation of the executive director, strategic and organizational planning, ensuring strong fiduciary oversight and financial management, fundraising and resource development, enhancing CleanAirNow's public image, and assessing its own performance as the governing body of the organization. As needed, the board may form committees to assist in performing the board's duties.

Of the seven (7) board members at least four (4) should be members of front-line communities. Three (3) board positions may be filled by resource/ally members or Individual members. The executive director(s) is/are a non-voting member(s). All other members have one vote each. Board officers and their responsibilities are as follows:

1. The Board Chair will lead the board and chair board meetings; ensure accountability and that actions taken are in line with the CAN charter, mission, vision, goals, and bylaws; serve as primary point of contact for key executives and staff members; provide insight as needed; ensure other members are on appropriate committees and projects; assist in welcoming and onboarding new members; lead fundraising efforts by example with active participation; sign legal documents as determined necessary by the board; represent the organization when speaking to the press, media, or other groups; and mediate personality conflicts and disputes between board members.
2. The Board Vice-Chair will support and assist the Board Chair, and chair board meetings when they are unavailable.

3. The Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the management and reporting of the organization's finances. Duties include developing and monitoring the budget, financial management, reporting, and oversight, and facilitating and encouraging the board's strategic thinking about the short and long-term financial vitality of the organization.
4. The Secretary is responsible for membership on-boarding, scheduling annual meetings, writing and maintaining meeting minutes, communicating with members, and ensuring organizational and membership records are up-to-date and meet legal requirements.

501(c)(3) nonprofit purposes

The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

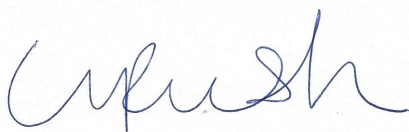
No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the organization's mission.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. CleanAirNow may be dissolved by approval of a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Board members in attendance.

Approved by the CleanAirNow Board of Directors



Eric Kirkendall, Date: September 7, 2023



Megan Rush, Date: September 7th, 2023