

## **REAP Legislative Committee (LC) 2011 Work Plan**

**REAP Mission:** *To guide state and national actions that affect economic development in the region, and to adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy.*

**Legislative Committee Purpose:** *Identify legislative issues of regional concern and recommend legislative action at the state or federal level to REAP. In particular the LC monitors the progress on the annual legislative priorities and since 2000 has provided guidance to the legislative liaison as issues arise. The LC also develops and recommends legislative priorities to REAP for the following year.*

- 1) **Provide a unified voice** to promote regional economic development.
  - a) Collaborate with private, non-profit, and public sector stakeholders on regional economic issues.
    - i) Expand the composition of the Legislative Committee to include representation from various industries and groups.
    - ii) Evaluate methods to engage the business community through increased participation and communication.
  - b) Strengthen relationships with existing partners.
    - i) Evaluate REAP representation on WAMPO.
  - c) Encourage dialogue on regional economic development.
    - i) Evaluate process for determining legislative priorities to increase participation.
  - d) Instill regional identity through coordinated branding.
  
- 2) **Guide state and national policies** that impact regional economic development.
  - a) Engage local leadership to represent the region at the state and national level.
    - i) Identify and make REAP members aware of legislative issues of significance to South Central Kansas and promote engagement.
    - ii) Develop and implement ongoing communication procedures between REAP and area legislators.
    - iii) Coordinate local leadership, including public and private sectors, when appropriate and on an as needed basis to engage in the state legislative process on REAP supported issues.
    - iv) Coordinate with member jurisdictions to encourage promotion of issues with Congressional delegation.
    - v) Develop a local government's guide to lobbying.
  - b) Develop relationships with state and federal governmental officials.
    - i) Invite state and national legislators to attend REAP meetings and events.
    - ii) Invite officials from the local offices of the Governor and Congressional delegation to participate with the Committee.
  - c) Establish a process to identify policies affecting specific industries.
  - d) Coordinate a unified agenda for regional economic development.
    - i) Create a process for legislative agenda items to be submitted and selected for REAP's priorities.
  
- 3) **Engage stakeholders** on issues shaping our regional economy.
  - a) Provide regional forums that connect REAP membership with private, non-profit, and public sector stakeholders.
    - i) Conduct an annual regional legislative policy summit that includes relevant speakers and topics.
    - ii) Coordinate and sponsor issue specific forum by fall 2011.
  - b) Conduct outreach on the purpose and accomplishments of REAP.
    - i) Develop and schedule on-going community visitations to provide updates to councils and commissions on the purpose, goals, and status of REAP.
  - c) Involve REAP membership in educational opportunities.

- 4) **Support inter-jurisdictional planning** on issues affecting economic development.
  - a) Promote the benefits of a sustainable regional economy.
    - i) Coordinate local activities when appropriate to engage citizens in the process of sustainability planning.
  - b) Determine REAP's role in regional planning.
    - i) Initiate activities to engage REAP in regional transportation planning.
  - c) Engage professional staff in multiple jurisdictions for sustainable planning.
  
- 5) **Lead the region** in addressing future economic needs.
  - a) Create a vision for regional economic development through REAP.
    - i) Develop an ongoing branding/marketing strategy.
    - ii) Develop a communication plan with media contacts to disseminate information.
  - b) Determine the organizational capacity to support the future structure and needs of REAP.
    - i) Monitor progress on legislative priorities for 2011 and give guidance to legislative liaison as issues arise.
    - ii) Recommend legislative priorities to REAP for the 2012 legislative session.
  - c) Be proactive in identifying and discussing emerging issues.
    - i) Identify speakers to provide information on emerging issues.
    - ii) Monitor and report issues of regional concern from attending conferences, organization meetings, and visiting with member communities.