

NOT A GAME TO US



How FIFA and City Leaders are treating
Kansas City like it is disposable

Sunrise
Movement



Vol. 4



WHO IS
"WE"?

WE
ARE
26
KANSAS CITY



This summer, the World Cup is coming to Kansas City. Over 650,000 visitors will arrive for "the ultimate celebration of the beautiful game."

While Kansas City welcomes tourists from around the world, what will happen to those of us who already live here? How our city is being prepared and manicured for this celebration begs the question: Why are our leaders more motivated to look good than serve the people of Kansas City?

Hosting the World Cup intensifies already-existing harms that make our daily lives and our neighbors' lives difficult.

public money sent to private
corporate interests

gentrification & displacement

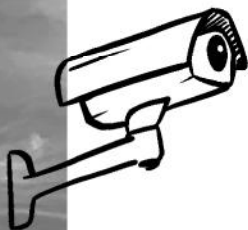
crumbling public transportation

housing insecurity/homelessness

immigration/deportation

environmental destruction

policing, incarceration,
militarization, surveillance



These harms are hidden behind promises of 'economic improvement' & 'international prestige.'

In the following pages, we discuss how this happens, why it's important, & what we can do about it. Not because we dislike soccer or occasions for community celebration, but because we can imagine a city that invests in its people over capital.

There will be winners and losers at the World Cup, but the rich and powerful have already decided who the first loser is before any formal kickoff: us.

HOSTING HELL

Kansas City (KC) leaders have welcomed the opportunity to host the World Cup with open arms, calling us a 'world class city' with the privilege of hosting not only the most popular sporting event, but also the "most climate-damaging World Cup in the tournament's 95-year history." **In exchange for this honor, city leaders have offered up our budget, our safety, our infrastructure, our transit, our environment, and our health.** Our home and resources are available for FIFA's taking-while FIFA bears none of the costs.

The scientific report naming this the most polluting World Cup projects **(9 million tons) of carbon emissions** for one month of soccer, almost **double the average** of the last 4 World Cups.

HOW MUCH IS 9 MILLION TONS
OF CARBON EMISSIONS?

1,960,000 CARS DRIVEN FOR A YEAR.

OR 187,500 U.S. HOUSEHOLDS FOR A YEAR.

OR 38 MILLION MILES OF BUS TRANSIT,
ENOUGH TO WRAP THE EARTH 1,557 TIMES.

... OR ONE WORLD CUP.

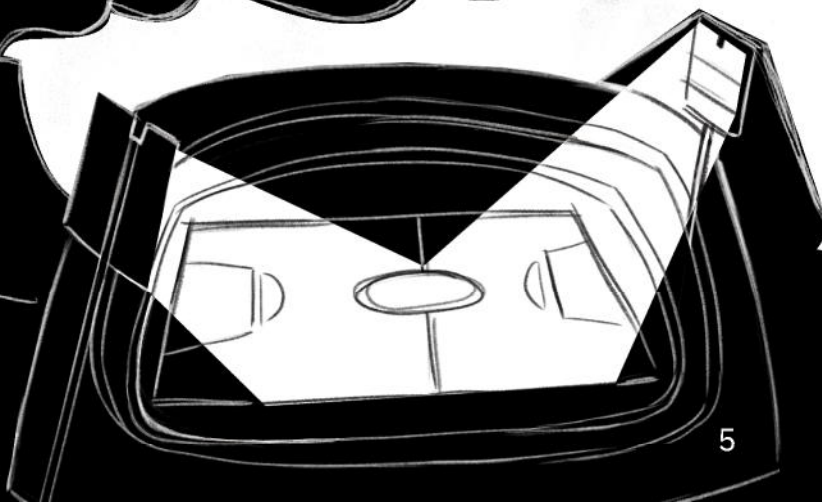


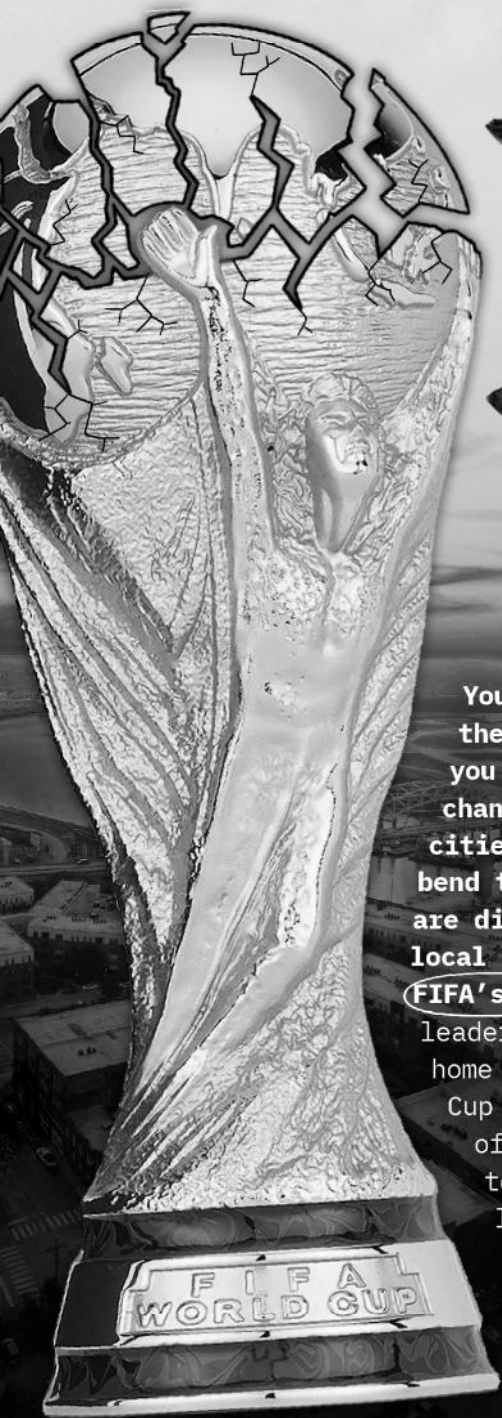
In the face of climate crisis, we cannot ignore what's at stake. Since the U.S. last hosted the Men's World Cup in 1994, climate-related disasters have risen ~35%. The last decade includes the hottest years recorded, leading to ecosystem collapse, public health crises, food insecurity, and increased wealth and racial inequality.

!! Sports are sold to us as a politically-neutral unifying force, an occasion to come together to celebrate competition. Yet, real world harms and political implications cannot be untangled from FIFA's tournament. Hosting the World Cup doesn't benefit us. In fact, FIFA and its wealthy benefactors' fun comes at our expense as they turn KC into a site of extraction—just as the ruling class has done to our air, our water, and our land.



By hosting the most climate-killing World Cup, Kansas City is both participating in and victim to the same patterns of extraction that create crises such as climate change, wealth inequality, and global conflict.





SAME DIFFERENT PLACE

You cannot be serious about the wellbeing of a place if you aren't serious about climate change. Once every four years, cities hosting the World Cup bend to FIFA's demands: homes are displaced, jobs are lost, and local economies are reconfigured for FIFA's profit. Why would our elected leaders so willingly sacrifice our home for bragging rights of 'World Cup host city'? Just as the greed of the ruling class continues to kill our planet, city leaders risk our future when they decide to drain our already-strained budget and resources for a month-long event.

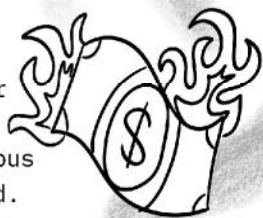
SHIT, DIFFERENT



Our elected leaders have sold us out.
City leadership has prioritized tourists
over Kansas Citians' daily lives.

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Over \$2 million of dedicated funding for more climate-resilient buses is being repurposed for a few weeks of World Cup transit. Meanwhile, bus fares return and more than 25% of weekday bus routes are at risk of being cut by summer's end. Tens of millions of dollars are being thrown at policing, surveillance, and a "temporary" jail in the name of "safety," depriving our community of real investments in systems of care.



Just two months before the World Cup begins, the city decided our tax dollars must fund a new baseball stadium for a billionaire-owned team, again prioritizing sporting events and the interests of the richest among us over public goods for everyone.



This year, we have witnessed public funding surrendered to FIFA and billionaire sports owners, data center development enriching big tech, the underfunding of public services while police funding booms, and the continued negligence of KC's stated climate goals.

These decisions harm us now and for decades to come. This routine of extraction is not unique to KC. FIFA has been doing this for decades, driven by the same profit motive that the ruling class weaponizes against us to take what's ours.



POLLUTERS

Hosting the World Cup is costly. FIFA pays for none of it. While host cities foot the bill, FIFA rakes in billions.

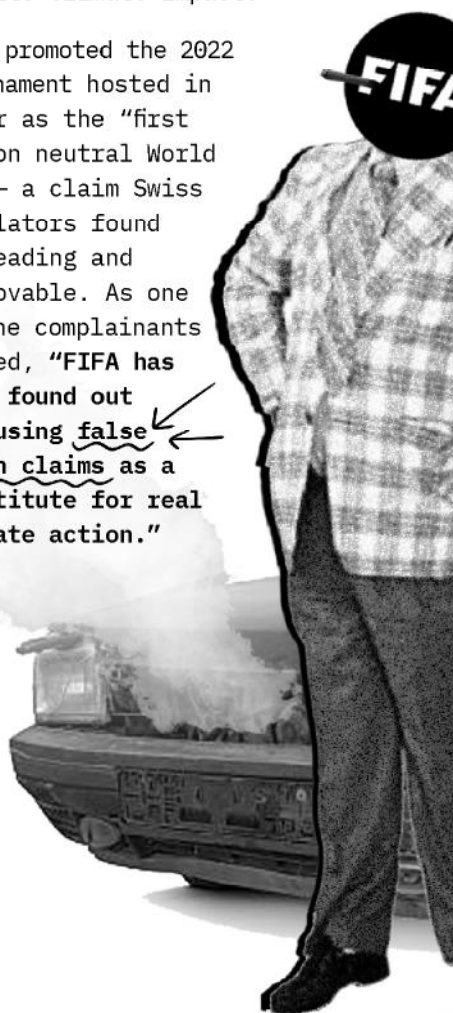
They dodge responsibility while hiking ticket prices, making them inaccessible to most locals. This is an intentional imbalance FIFA writes into the hosting contracts that city leaders compete to take on, creating "a race to the bottom" that allows FIFA to define the terms solely in their favor. By agreeing to FIFA's terms and conditions, leaders co-sign our exploitation.

As further evidence of FIFA's influence, FEMA, the government organization meant to fund disaster recovery, has paid hundreds of millions into World Cup hosting, yet another way climate funding is displaced... for a sporting event.



Similarly, FIFA is unserious about taking responsibility for its climate impact.

FIFA promoted the 2022 tournament hosted in Qatar as the "first carbon neutral World Cup"— a claim Swiss regulators found misleading and unprovable. As one of the complainants stated, "FIFA has been found out for using false green claims as a substitute for real climate action."

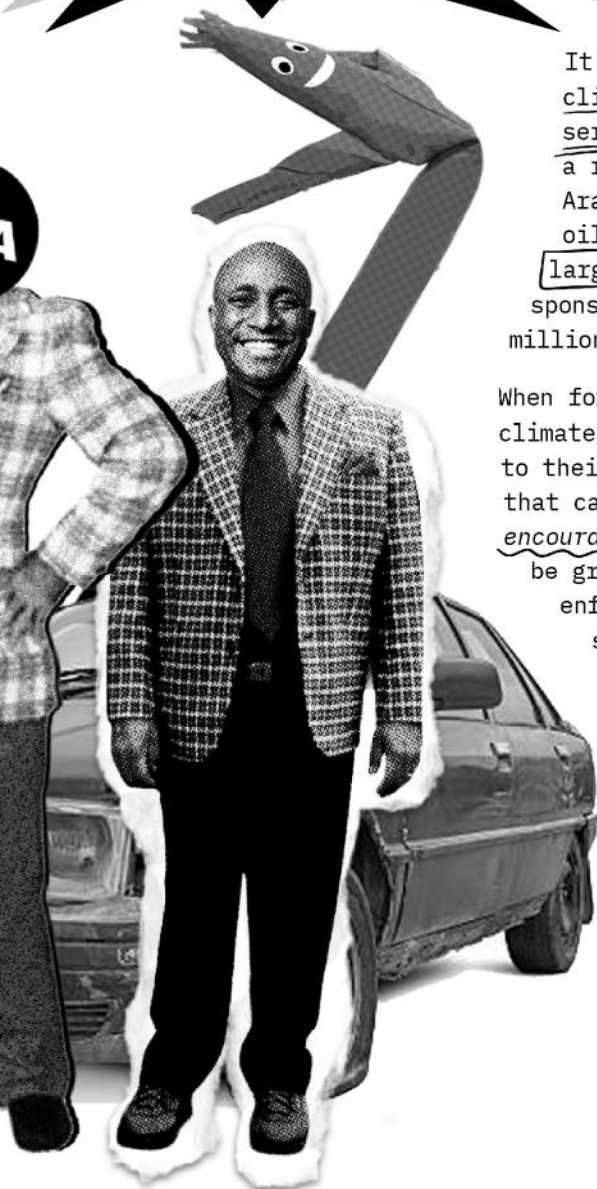


PROFITEERS

It's impossible to take any climate initiative from FIFA seriously when they have a robust partnership with Aramco, the Saudi Arabian oil company and world's largest oil producer. This sponsorship alone produces 30 million tons of emissions.

When forced to confront their climate harms, FIFA points to their sustainability plan that can be summarized as encouraging host cities to be green, as empty and enforceable as a gentle

suggestion. In a burning world, not only does FIFA offload financial responsibility onto strained host cities, FIFA scapegoats them, leaving our homes to be collateral damage. Host cities like ours drain their budgets and foreclose better futures in service of FIFA's bottom line.



DEAD Entanglement

By exploiting us, FIFA copies the playbook of U.S. political and corporate oligarchy.

The bottom line is all that matters. Being in bed with Big Oil is something FIFA and the U.S. empire share. The fossil fuel industry is one of the largest corporate backers of the Trump administration. As a quid pro quo, Trump has delivered oil-friendly policies and rollbacks on climate protections to ensure their continued shared dominance – **a partnership that threatens all life.**

This mutually beneficial relationship rationalizes the U.S. toppling entire governments (i.e. Venezuela, Iran) to boost Big Oil's profits while growing U.S. empire. FIFA's stake in an oil-powered status quo makes us the continued subjects of an economic order that kills us while curtailing our ability to imagine and build better worlds.

We are already dying from climate change.

In the logic of extractive capitalism, those deaths are necessary in the ultimate pursuit of *more*.

Locally, we live with the consequences of such negligence with record temperatures, poor air quality, disastrous storms, increased flooding, agricultural strain, and climate-exacerbated illnesses. Nationally, corporations and governments capitalize on the erosion of our communities. Internationally, imperialism and its lust for oil destabilizes entire nations and displaces whole communities forced to reckon with interrelated violences – war, extractive land grabs, upended homes due to unnatural disasters (i.e. monsoons, landslides, droughts).

arts



"LET'S REMEMBER THAT THE 'SYSTEM' IS LED BY INDIVIDUALS, BY A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE, WHO HAVE NAMES, WITH MORE MONEY THAN GOD AND CERTAINLY LESS COMPASSION. THEY SIT IN BOARDROOMS DECIDING TO EXPLOIT FOSSIL FUELS FOR SHORT-TERM GAINS WHILE THE WORLD BURNS. THEY KNOW THE SCIENCE, THEY KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES BUT THEY PROCEED WITH ECOCIDAL BUSINESS AS USUAL AND DO IT ANYWAY."

-ROBIN WALL KIMMERER
THE SERVICEBERRY

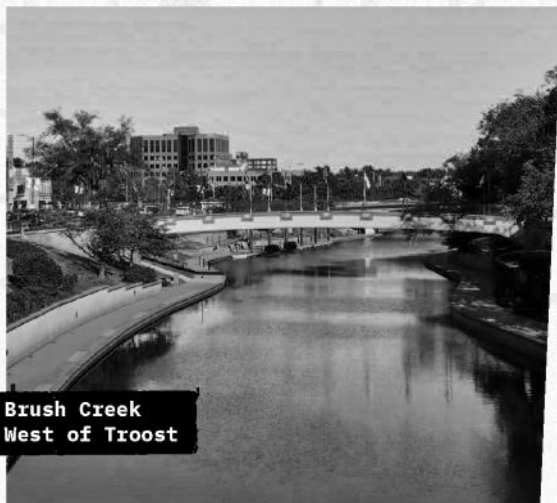
ORGANIZED ABANDONMENT

Troost

Late last summer, Kansas Citians took to Brush Creek to demand environmental justice for those living on the east side. West of Troost, Brush Creek and the surrounding area is well-maintained. Yet, residents on the east side deal with trash, grime, and toxic runoff. As *KC Defender* reports:



"The disparities are especially clear as Kansas City prepares to host the World Cup. While the East Side still grapples with crumbling sidewalks and polluted waterways, enormous sums are being directed elsewhere. The State of Missouri has allocated approximately \$50 million for immediate World Cup preparations."



**Brush Creek
West of Troost**



For decades, resources flow in one direction: away from the communities most harmed by the system. **Hosting the World**

Cup only worsens long-standing structures of

environmental racism. Yet, our out-of-touch city leaders unfurl the red carpet for FIFA, forcing us to ask at whose expense all this fanfare comes? Who benefits?

What is there to be proud of in hosting the most climate-killing World Cup that drains resources so our city becomes a playground for FIFA, tourists, and billionaires?

The shortsightedness in offering up our city to FIFA is the same one that has allowed an entire century of extraction and accumulation to irreversibly damage our planet. Neither the earth, nor our city, should be a disposable playground for the wealthy.

It is uncertain that KC will have 650,000 visitors. City leaders have made a massive gamble for people who don't even live here—who may not even visit. The stakes? Everything we love about our city and the possibility of shaping better futures for it. Their wager shows how removed they are from our reality, revealing how they are entirely uninterested in what makes a place worth living in, visiting, and calling home.



**Brush Creek
East of Troost**



The current and future health of our city and planet relies on a deep care and provision for the land that sustains us and all the life entangled with our own. We leave you with some considerations:

"Those closest to the problem are closest to the solution"

A more just community must include and be led by those most impacted by the polycrises. To address the climate crisis, look to the leadership of Indigenous land stewards and defenders, the communities bearing the brunt of exploitation. Indigenous peoples make up 5% of the world's population, but steward 80% of the planet's biodiversity.

Refuse to believe that we benefit from our own exploitation

Capitalism sells a dream that in exchange for our time, money, and labor, we can have whatever we want. After forfeiting all that we have, we realize the game is rigged. The top-down structures of governments and corporations only result in bottom-up extraction. See through the false promises of a zero-sum system.

Embrace Reciprocity

The counteraction to extractive systems is reciprocity. Understanding that all life is interconnected calls us to act accordingly. Our lives rely on the health of the ecosystems and the human and non-human neighbors we share our homes with.

"The prosperity of the community grows from the flow of relationships, not the accumulation of goods."

- Robin Wall Kimmerer, *The Serviceberry*

Reject Individualizing Climate Action. Organize!

The most effective individual action to combat climate change is committing to collective action.

"Even amidst omnipresent violence we have to remember that the future is a process we generate through our collective commitment to organizing together today and every day."

- Harsha Walia

Commit to the Intersectionality of Climate Justice

Climate justice is bound to all liberatory struggles.

The 'climate' is not separate from the social, economic, and political environments in which we live. Climate justice must directly challenge the underpinnings of climate destruction: capitalist accumulation, white supremacy, imperialism, militarism, and settler colonialism. We must see ourselves as part of a constellation of struggles.



"We are many hands in one heart in the struggle."

Join Sunrise Movement KC to fight
for climate justice in Kansas City.

bit.ly/JoinSunriseKC



VIEW SOURCES

bit.ly/Zine_4_Sources



Sunrise Movement - Kansas City (SMKC)

We're a multi-racial, cross-class, anti-racist movement of young Kansas Citians, organizing to address the climate crisis of today and tomorrow. We build people power through direct action, local policies, mutual aid, deep democracy, and community relationships, in order to win a just transition for KC that ends our reliance on fossil fuels, abolishes the systems of racial capitalism, and centers the leadership and well-being of the most impacted communities.

Get involved with us: bit.ly/JoinSunriseKC



@sunrisemvmtkc

SUNRISE MOVEMENT

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