

Environmental Questions for Candidates

Approved in 2018, the Evanston Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) identifies actions our City must take to meaningfully address climate change. The following questions relate to the various elements of CARP and align with the actions featured in the plan. Citizens' Greener Evanston appreciates your participation. Your responses will be shared with the community in advance of the election.

Evanston Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP)

<https://www.cityofevanston.org/home/showdocument?id=45170>

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Select your Ward *

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1. What are the top 3 things you have you done in your personal life to reduce your own, or your family's environmental impact? *

I led the movement to shut down the Northwestern University Hospital Medical Waste Incinerator. I also led the effort to restrict medical waste incineration at the state level which led to legislation restricting medical waste at the national level. We recycle, reuse, and I work very close to home and when possible I ride a bike or walk to work and other destinations.

2. List 1-4 steps you would take to help implement the CARP plan incorporating key City departments and decision-making processes. *

I am currently researching cities of comparable scale that have made significant progress on the climate action front to compare municipal budget allocations towards this, to see, for example, what sort of staffing is necessary to effectively oversee CARP goals. I have discussed this as well as the need to also research cities that have effectively addressed impact of advancing climate goals while not harming low income communities with other candidates. I'm researching low income/ environmental justice component of implementation) now, along with staffing needs for the successful implementation of an environmental program so that we can hit the ground running once (hopefully) elected. I have been meeting with members of CGE and the Environmental Board to better understand the work and structure of the various groups working on CARP and to understand the measures (or lack thereof) taken to date with regard to implementation. I will collaborate with Council and staff to immediately assess a backwards by design approach to achieving CARP goals and adapt our city budget in the short and long term to reflect the necessary steps and allocations to achieving the goals.

3. What are your top environmental or climate priorities for the City? *

Fulfilling the CARP objectives, ensuring environmental justice is advanced, protecting and enhancing our lake front.

4. The City just passed an Environmental Justice Resolution. What steps should be taken to ensure that Environmental Justice (EJ) is incorporated into City Code and that all City staff is trained to identify and tackle EJ issues? *

Environmental Justice Resolution (Click Link) - <https://www.cityofevanston.org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=59213>

Immediate outreach within our low-income communities should begin with surveys to determine interests and needs of these residents with regard to the environment. These surveys should be developed, and distributed, analyzed by same members of this community in collaboration with city staff, the Environmental Board and partnering organizations (CGE) to determine needs and course of action.

5. Building energy consumption is the greatest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Evanston. Assertive action and meaningful behavior change to address building energy consumption are needed to mitigate the gravest impacts of the climate crisis. Would you endorse: *

Yes

No

Maybe

Updating the building code to require LEED Gold Certification or higher on new construction?



Updating the building code to improve overall building energy efficiency beyond the minimum requirements of the State of Illinois Energy Conservation Code?



6. List 1-3 of your ideas to engage and educate the public so that Evanstonians have the knowledge and resources to address the climate crisis. *

Hold neighborhood information sessions and outreach led by residents of respective neighborhoods; solicit interests and needs via surveys; consult and collaborate with Blacks in Green to gain insights on successful proactive measures to promote environmental awareness among all communities of Evanston.

7. List 1-3 of your ideas to ensure that our most vulnerable residents are prepared for the challenges of climate change such as extreme heat, flooding, etc. and that they know where to get support when facing such challenges. *

Assess potential and current vulnerabilities of Evanston residents with regard to climate change such as extreme heat, flooding. Determine the necessary preparedness measures and means to implement such measures. Develop, with community members' participation, the steps necessary, including City budgetary accommodations, to effectively inform and deliver necessary supports.

8. Would you endorse: *

| | Yes | No | Maybe |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A pathway to free beach access for all? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| An affordable pathway to lead pipe replacement? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

9. How would you advance green infrastructure in Evanston? *

Info: <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure>

All capital planning and expenditures will optimize green infrastructure. Evanston is considerably below a healthy canopy coverage. Incorporating and expand the urban tree canopy particularly in neighborhoods with the least canopy coverage.

10. Reducing food waste is a top climate solution. The USDA estimates that 30-40% of food is wasted in the US, while as many as 14% of Evanston residents may be food insecure. List 1-3 ideas to ensure all people in Evanston have enough healthy food to eat. *

The USDA estimates that 30 - 40% of food is wasted in the US. <https://www.usda.gov/foodwaste/faqs> 14% of Evanston residents may be food insecure. <https://icma.org/articles/article/evanston-il-producemobile-continues-provide-fresh-fruits-and-vegetables-community>

Establish an accessible central office at the City of Evanston that is open regularly during city hours to inform of resident food insecurity, reallocate funding from the police department to social work services (such as CAHOOT programs in other cities) to adequately address food insecurity needs of our Evanston residents immediately.

11. List 1-3 ideas to combat food waste in Evanston, including at schools. *

See above. Coordinate centralized City of Evanston food insecurity services with designated coordinators in our schools.

12. Would you endorse: *

| | Yes | No | Maybe |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A path to ban all single-use plastics, including shopping bags? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Expanding bulk shopping options at stores? | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

13. How would you support a circular economy in Evanston? *

Info: <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy/concept>

We need to implement policies that incentivize primarily the reduction of consumption, additionally, establish policies that focus on the largest institutions and businesses to ensure the greatest positive environmental impact.

14. List 1-3 ideas you have to advance climate-friendly transportation and mobility in Evanston, either through project investments or big picture changes to urban development planning. *

Maximize walkability in all new capital projects; promote developments of density near public transit; prioritize walkability and ride-ability on school routes while advancing bike safety measures.

15. Would you endorse: *

Yes No Maybe

Preserving large native trees on private land?

More info -

<http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1635842,00.html>

Requiring bird-friendly construction on new buildings and renovations, like Chicago and New York City? More info -

<https://studiogang.com/publication/Chicago-tribune-safer-migration-chicago-birds>

Leaving leaves to decompose on city properties, rather than hauling them? More info - <https://awaytogarden.com/fall-cleanup-with-ecology-in-mind-with-doug-tallamy/>

Expanding the city ban on gas, propane and electric leaf blowers? More info - https://library.municode.com/il/evanston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT9PUSA_CH5GEOF_9-5-20NOPR

and <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/109428.html>

Additional Comments

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