

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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First Name *

Devon

Last Name *

Reid

Candidate type *

Alderman

Ward Information

Select your Ward *

Environmental Questions for Candidates

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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? *

1) Over the past two years, Devon has exclusively used green modes of transportation (walking, biking, ridesharing, and public transportation).

2) Devon follows the principals of reduce, reuse, recycle, over half of his personal belongings are/have been recycled or second-use purchases.

3) Devon exclusively uses induction and electric for cooking and has curtailed consumption of high-impact foods, (particularly beef, still needs work on avocados!).

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

- 1) Devon will secure necessary funding for an operational Sustainability Division.
- 2) Devon will collaborate with State and Federal partners to identify and secure funding for need-based sustainable home upgrades.
- 3) In partnership with relevant staff and BCC's, Devon draft and pass necessary ordinances to guarantee we achieve our CARP Goals.
- 4) Devon will ensure the City is leading by example. Similar to the need for a clearly defined equity lens, Evanston should have a sustainability lens built into all operations.

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

Devon has had a long-term commitment to sustainability notably launching the "Plates Over Waste" campaign to simultaneously address food waste and food insecurity. This proposal would ensure large retailers and restaurants repurposed unused food in a sustainable manner prioritizing providing healthy food to residents experiencing food insecurity.

As Alderman Devon's Sustainability agenda will focus on air-quality issues, fostering circular economics, Climate Action Resiliency Plan implementation, and ensuring local businesses and residents have access to green jobs and federal and state dollars to support Green infrastructure and home upgrades.

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>

As Clerk Devon developed a metrics-based approach to reaching our equity goals by amending annual committee filings so we can measure the racial diversity of our Boards and Committees.

As Alderman, Devon will work to ensure a community-defined equity lens is sewn into our institutional processes. With an equity and environmental lens at the foundation of all City operations, the confluence of the two should foster a clear environmental justice platform that is lead by our community's brightest environmental minds.

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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Updating the building code to improve overall building energy efficiency beyond the minimum requirements of the State of Illinois Energy Conservation Code?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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. *

As Clerk, Devon has broadly led on increasing voter participation and government accessibility.

As Clerk Devon practiced "Popular Pedagogy" regularly holding sessions to educate residents on many aspects of Government. Sessions ranged from parliamentary procedure to accessing records using the Freedom of Information Act.

As Alderman, Devon will continue bringing in experts for community discussions particularly relating to City finances, equity, and sustainability.

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. *

Devon will collaborate with Federal, State, and County partners to identify and secure funding for need-based sustainable home upgrades.

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>

As Clerk Devon served on the "Local Board of Improvements". This board is primarily tasked with paving Evanston's unimproved alleys. Devon has consistently been supportive of permeable alley upgrades wherever feasible.

Looking at the data Devon sees the gap in canopy cover for poorer communities in Evanston. As Alderman Devon will make the case against setting our equity goals at odds with our environmental, as was done with the Dutch Elm funding this year.

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>

Devon personally understands the urgent situation too many of our neighbors are currently facing. In his youth, Devon survived homelessness. In 2015 Devon co-founded "Plates Over Waste" a policy initiative to simultaneously address food waste and food insecurity.

Please learn more about Devon's work on this issue: <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2016/01/26/city/plates-over-waste-discusses-future-goals-for-food-conservation/>

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

Please see Devon's work on this issue in response to question 3 and 10.

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>

Devon supports environmental impact fees for all single use products and packaging.

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. *

In collaboration with Alderman Rue-Simmons, Devon's office researched and drafted "The Case for Reparations" a memo laying the initial legal foundation for the Evanston Reparations Program. The memorandum focused on our City's history of exclusionary zoning laws. Devon understands addressing affordability and density issues will have positive environmental impacts.

As Alderman, Devon will focus on responsible development to increase density in transit-oriented areas. Further, Devon will call for a review of our zoning code. During this process, Devon's focus will be developing an anti-racist inclusionary code. Critical to this work is securing more opportunities for all basic needs to be met within a 15-minute walk of any residence in our City. This will encourage green modes of transport.

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

As Clerk, Devon has been apart of the City's annual budgeting process since 2017. Analysis of the 2020 budget reveals a several million dollar shortfall in the City's parking fund. This is due to reduced travel as a result of Covid stay-at-home orders. Devon sees this as a harbinger, to a not-so-distant future. As autonomous driving technology advances and we make personal sacrifices to achieve our sustainability goals, fewer cars will certainly be on the road.

As Alderman Devon will lead on simultaneously increasing affordability and meeting our sustainability goals by reducing parking requirements for large retail and residential developments in transit-friendly zones.

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