

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? *

1. Reduced overall consumption - buy only what we need, and buy things that will last. 2. Bicycle, walk and use public transit as often as possible (my 2013 car has under 50K miles on it). 3. Joined (a) Clearway Community Solar and (b) Collective Resource Compost.

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

1. Add "Combating climate change and improving climate resilience" as a stated goal on the city's website (<https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/strategic-plan>). It's a glaring omission. 2. Create and fill a senior CARP implementation specialist position (one chief sustainability and resilience officer is inadequate). 3. Consider whether the Environmental Board needs aldermanic membership.

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

Environment/climate is one area where we need a more top-down approach. While we absolutely should provide public education, individual behavior change will have less impact than institutional and structural change. We need to find equity centered, cost effective and affordable ways to reach the top two CARP goals of reducing building energy consumption by 35% by 2035 and reaching 100% renewable energy supply by 2030 (not relying exclusively on renewable energy credits).

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>

Alderpeople should speak regularly about the importance of environmental justice. We need to evaluate city programs and policies, including those designed to combat climate change and improve climate resilience, through a true equity lens. In other media I have spoken about the need for us to participate meaningfully in Government Alliance on Race Equity in order to develop an equity tool.

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. *

We need to meet people where they are. I would discuss climate in ward meetings and have climate tips in my newsletters. However, I am well aware that not every resident will be able to attend meetings or has access to technology. The city needs to partner with faith and service organizations, Districts 65 and 202 as well as Northwestern University in order to educate the public.

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. *

Climate resilience is an environmental justice issue. We need to ensure equitable access to resources such as cooling centers and the lakefront, and subsidize financing for home renovations that incorporate sustainable practices. Additionally we need to care for and expand the urban canopy and green space in all areas of Evanston.

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>

City staff, consultants and contractors need to be trained on how to implement green infrastructure. I would specifically promote green infrastructure in public projects, and require or encourage green infrastructure in private projects. We could find and model best practices in other cities.

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>

This is a huge question - equitable access to healthy food is a significant national issue that has been exacerbated by COVID. In Evanston we should address it at the neighborhood level by encouraging and providing funding for local grocers, food cooperatives and community gardens. We should also encourage donations of excess food to food pantries.

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

1. Do a better job educating residents and businesses about food waste and its impact on climate change. The EPA has tools and resources that we could link to from our website (<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food>). 2. Develop a local program modeled on the EPA's Food Loss and Waste 2030 Champions, which are businesses and organizations that have made a public commitment to reduce food loss and waste in their own operations by 50 percent by the year 2030.

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>

Evanston restaurants should be required to compost and recycle. At the individual level we need to do a better job with recycling and composting education. We should also subsidize Collective Resource Compost for those who are unable to pay.

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. *

1. Ensure equitable access to non-vehicle transportation, including safe sidewalks and bicycle lanes; 2. Review and possibly reduce parking space requirements for new developments 3. Implement and electric vehicle charging station plan.

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>

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