

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>

Email address *

Rosinski2021@gmail.com

First Name *

Mary

Last Name *

Rosinski

Candidate type *

Alderman

Ward Information

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. On a personal/family level we recycle, conserve utilities, and have planted organic vegetable and native plants gardens, 2. I have worked to save our parks and lake front from being privatized and preserve our open spaces. 3. In my business as a realtor, I try to be paperless whenever possible and promote green building and renovation with clients and fellow agents promoting the Evanston Rebuilding warehouse as a place for people who are renovating to recycle or purchase necessary.

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

1. Work with Mayor and City managers to promote with every council meeting and newsletter awareness of the plan, progress and at least one suggestion. 2.) Planning and Development-encourage promotion of 100% green building plans with geo thermal, gray water systems, solar and green roofs 3.) economic development-work with business and larger non profits to get a commitment to climate action plan with measurable goals each year. 4.)

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

Reduce our carbon footprint, preserve and enlarge our tree canopy, new city buildings use renewable energy sources, retrofit old buildings and give incentives to private citizens to use renewable energy by reducing or eliminating fees for that part of the projects. Make bike lanes safer and available throughout Evanston.

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>

A positive beginning by having in house training of all staff in all departments would be a good beginning, this is ongoing discussion which requires awareness and discussion of options and looking at what other cities are doing which is successful. Maybe solicit one or two people from each ward to be part of a committee in the environmental board that are willing to be environmental advocates in their neighborhood. Access to the lakefront for enjoyment of everyone is so important and I would work to ensure beach access is free to all Evanston residents.

Every new public service building or expansion of old buildings must have at least 2-3 public meetings which include residents for at least 5 blocks and adequate notice and residents health and preservation of their quality of life is priority. CGE has done a great job of bringing climate action plan to the forefront, the challenge is getting as many people as possible on the same page. Working with the school districts starting in kindergarten -12 grade is important. Kids often bring the new ideas home and can be our leaders.

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. *

1. TO begin with an announcement /statement can be made at the beginning of each city meeting. It can be a statement to go to the website and a statement of some new idea. In my business my manager used to start each weekly office meeting with a statement to always treat every client the same way and provide the same information and to not violate any fair housing rules, to imagine what you would feel like if roles were reversed
2. An easy resource page on the website is always helpful.
3. Reach into all the schools and Northwestern to solicit new ideas
4. Tap into our residents and come up with a PR campaign- Litter was a greater problem before Lady Bird Johnson started a "don't be a litter bug" or the no smoking campaigns but I would ask that it was positive with a vision of the future

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. *

I would think we need to evaluate what the baseline living conditions are so we know where to focus energy. In areas which are dense and concrete, we must find ways to get trees and green spaces, promote pesticide community gardens, if there is flooding we need to find the source and develop solutions to diverting the water. We must work with planning and Development and new construction to ensure there are water soluble areas instead of huge areas of concrete which act to cause water problems on surrounding areas. When possible preserve and expand green spaces, help with insulating residents in need so that their living spaces are more energy efficient.

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>

Building codes is one place to start with water management. The more we can keep the water from the storm sewers and run off is better. Water permeable parking lots and patios will help, green walls, roofs are helpful. I would encourage the elimination of pesticides. I was concerned when two of the people at the city told me that all our fields use pesticides and I would like to find alternatives. I am concerned about the run off into the water which is contaminated. The rain barrels are good and we might want to look into creating a jobs program so that people can sign up to have them set up at their home with a nominal fee, and if costs are prohibitive then the city can subsidize them, that way more water would be used for watering and gardening.

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>

Make sure there is access to health food in all corners of the city, I like the idea of produce mobile. Community gardens are becoming more and more popular, we can work with gardeners and store to collect produce and make sure it is distributed. We could also have a community canning facility so produce can be preserved. We may need to look at city regulations to ensure that restaurants and grocery stores are able to donate foods. I would also work with non profits and help fund delivery to people who are housebound. Getting a garden going can be a challenge so we could assess how many people would like a little garden at tier home and help build one. My brother up in Greenbay builds garden planters that are for people in wheel chairs as well as able bodied. It a volunteer program and the garden planter this ar3 about 3 x 6 and three feet tall are prepared after they are dropped off. If creates such a great feeling for the people who then become the Gardners. We have lots of gardeners who would help. I love Ron Finlay and what he has done for his south LA community - he has been an inspiration <http://ronfinley.com/the-ron-finley-project/> and Stephen Ritz -from the Bronx who started a school program which blossomed into jobs and community builder. We can harness peoples energy and make a huge dent in food insecurity.

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

Enable a process of donations which is easier to tap into, give away the food which is safe and not eaten. Assess what is being discarded and adjust purchasing and assess why. When I had little children I heard of many times when food was thrown away even when a child was still hungry. That is criminal.

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>

I would start the discussions with kids as well as adults so we are all on the same page. Then I'd look for companies or start ups that are working on reusing products like phones, TVs and items that don't need to go to the landfill, I'd find a way to give economic development money and grants to support them as long as they also did a jobs training program for Evanston youth for specified period. I'd also like to see the use of an old building to become an aquaponics garden, saving the building from being torn down and encouraging a place to grow food all year long. We can look at our resources see how to reallocate for projects like these to promote jobs training and aid in reducing food insecurity.

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. *

If we have smaller electric busses that traveled throughout out Evanston all day long, people might not feel the need to drive so much, it would also enable people who are further from our lakefront easier access. You would probably need to have 4 running at time going through all the wards. For example If I knew that a bus would be coming about every 15-20 minutes I wouldn't mind taking that to the Levy Center, downtown, Howard St. the lakefront. I think of all the elderly or people without cars who have such difficulty getting to places in Evanston. People who can pay, will pay and those who can't don't. Support local business development so that each corner is self sufficient with food, jobs, community gardens, access to free or low cost transportation throughout town.

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

I'm not so sure I would oppose electric blowers but would love to see some sort of blower down the road which was solar and lasted. Gas and propane blowers yes.

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