

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 *

rebecafor5th@gmail.com

First Name *

Rebeca

Last Name *

Mendoza

Candidate type *

Alderman

Ward Information

Select your Ward *

5

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>

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. Educate myself and others about this issue because I care deeply about it. 2. I make every effort to limit my waste by reusing, reducing, and recycle. 3. I support business and companies that hold this as a priority.

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

1. Allocate adequate funding
2. Educate
3. Participate and support efforts in our city
4. Help businesses incorporate low-waste merchandising and practices

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

To ensure we are funding met CARP goal and provide the necessary education and outreach to enable all our residents to participate paying close attention to language access and highlighting issues of environmental racism.

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 a partner through my work in Evanston Latinos, language access is a top priority as well as identifying matters that impact our Black and Brown communities most. The support from the city is crucial to this. Again, funding and proper staffing needs to be allocated to this.

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. *

1. We need to make it available in multiple languages.
2. Provide education to underserved communities and highlight specific matters that are relevant to our ward such as water testing, lead exposure, and waste management.
3. Work in better partnership with local NGOs. This conversation is largely missing from this sector as part of their existing work. Helping them to make the connection as well as serve of ambassadors for awareness.

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. *

1. We need to do a better job at engaging and starting the conversation first. The most vulnerable are largely missing.

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>

This needs to be brought up at every conversation that involves infrastructure. It can't be siloed from CARP work.

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>

We could be working better with our local business to support zero-food waste. We've learned through the pandemic that food insecurity is a real issue here in Evanston. That's not going to go away anytime soon as we deal with recovery from this disaster. Better communication and management of waste can be improves as well as a education by part of the COE for business owners.

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

1. Encourage and promote a waste audit
2. Partner with pantries and other food security groups that have established during the pandemic.
3. Create a platform to provide interactive education on food waste.

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>

Share information as part of an educational campaign for the city. One thing I would like to explore is working with our local restaurants to reuse takeout containers as it's been done in other cities like Portland.

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. *

Honestly, I'd have to research this area more to see how we can improve.

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

Thank you for extending the deadline.

