

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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Ward Information

Select your Ward *

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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. Limited the amount of single use plastics
2. Transitioned to using filtered tap water instead of bottled
3. Participated in park clean-ups

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

1. Fully funding of the Office of Sustainability
2. A coordinated effort to consolidate our local advocacy groups into one setting to promote community outreach
3. Working with the City Manager's office to take a comprehensive look at what city programs are accessible for residents of color and which aren't

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

1. Fixing existing ordinances (plastic bag ban, increasing walkability, etc.)

2. Movement of public and private building to renewable energy

3. Protection of natural resources (water, natural areas ordinance, etc.)

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>

Evanston needs to take a comprehensive look at what city programs are accessible for residents of color and which aren't. By analyzing with a lens of equity, we can determine which programs and policies fail to meet environmental justice standards. Examples of programs that need environmental audits are Evanston's community aggregation systems and lead testing system. Using the Office of Sustainability, we can determine if clean energy solutions are accessible to low income residents. Lead testing has been an inequitable process in Evanston. A Daily Northwestern article listed 180 tests in the last two decades; however, only two tests were conducted in the 5th ward. Evanston must test equally throughout all wards to ensure residents are safe from lead exposure. Public and private projects need to prioritize environmental justice when being introduced into the community.

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. The Mayor's office will introduce "Days of Environmental Service". These bi-weekly events would be in partnership with local environmental advocacy groups aiming to bring volunteers together to a location twice a month to promote environmental stability.

2. A mailout campaign will help educate residents on the variety of renewable energy options for residents. The Office of Sustainability has laid out three options that will be available: community solar, electricity aggregation program, and installing solar panels.

3. In conjunction with the school board of district 65 and 202, I will push for early climate action learning and advocate for the hiring of a sustainability coordinator for all schools. This includes programs through the Parks and Recreation Department that will focus on youth education in climate action.

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. Provide "cooling locations" for residents who may need an escape from extreme heat
- 2. Create city relief programs that can be accessed in the event of natural disasters
- 3. Community outreach in these vulnerable communities that emphasizes the resources available at their disposal

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>

With a fully funded Office of Sustainability, we can begin to look at ways to update our public buildings to include green infrastructure. This would prevent the runoff of contaminants into our water stream. Once we update our public buildings, we can focus on private buildings in Evanston. Large scale buildings are the worst offenders of runoff contaminants.

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>

1. Conduct studies to determine average distance from affordable and healthy food options
2. Coordinate with local food banks and pantries to help families during and following the pandemic
3. Increase community garden spaces in Evanston

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

1. Expand composting efforts to both school districts
2. Communicate various composting and recycling programs
3. Increase yard waste bin accessibility

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>

Three steps can be taken to support a circular economy in Evanston. We can re-envision our plastic bag ban for better implementation; working to provide residents with reusable bags for little to no cost. By expanding our composting efforts and increase accessibility to yard waste bins, we prevent food waste from entering landfills. We will gradually move passed single use plastics as we push for reusable products.

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. Working with CTA and Pace to increase public transportation accessibility (and ensure their vehicles are environmentally friendly)
2. Coordinating with the Public Works Department to analyze existing and future projects to emphasize access to sidewalks and bike lanes

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

The leaf blower ban needs to be thoughtfully looked at with a lens of equity as many lawncare businesses in Evanston are owned by people of color. We need to ensure that they are not being disproportionately impacted by this decision.

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