

Get to Know Your Candidates: City Councils and Mayors Can Have a Huge Environmental Impact

Mayors and city council members can have a huge impact on the environment. Get to know the candidates. Ask them some environmental questions, such as:

- Do you have any environmental priorities for the city?
- What efforts would you support to reduce fossil fuel consumption by the city?
- Do you support developing a climate action plan for the city?
- Would you support our city setting a goal of 100% clean energy?
- Would you engage with your local utility company to ensure that the utility is moving to 100% clean energy as soon as practical?
- Would you support investment in electric vehicle charging stations?
- Do you support the purchase of electric vehicles for the city?
- Do you support increased funding for public transit?
- Would you support increased flexibility in the types of vehicles that the transit funds can purchase?
- Would you support municipal ordinances to reduce the night-time lighting while still keeping the community safe?
- Are there any particular clean water projects in our community you would like to pursue?
- Would you support a local ordinance requiring the return of 4-inches or more of topsoil to building sites after construction?
- Would you support investment in improving and increasing wildlife habitat and ecosystem restoration at our local parks and public lands?
- Would you support adding land to the city park system?



Photo by Pam Mackey Taylor

- Would you support proposals to improve and expand multi-use trails in our city?
- Would you support efforts to reduce building on environmentally sensitive areas, such as wooded areas, prairie, wetlands, and floodplains in the community?
- Would you pursue policies to promote infill rather than expanding into agricultural land?
- Do you have any plans or ideas for increasing recycling, composting or waste reduction in the city?
- Would you support removing city funds from banks that have been sanctioned for fraud?
- Would you strive to engage minority and low-income leaders in the decision-making process to ensure environmental policies do not adversely affect these vulnerable members of our community?
- If elected, will you work to identify and address those specific environmental threats and needs that are unique to our low-income and minority communities?