



Edmonton's Energy Transition and Climate Resilience Committee Municipal Candidate's Survey 2021

1. How will you help the City get through a climate emergency?

We are in a declared state of climate emergency alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, which we cannot ignore. I think we need to put all possible tools on the table for consideration if we expect meaningful progress to occur. We have some excellent plans in place and we need to implement them. First and foremost, the next City Council needs to ensure that appropriate budget supports are in place to make this happen right from the get go.

2. What is your strategy to implement a carbon budget? Or how do you deal with a carbon budget as per the Energy Transition Strategy and Action Plan (CETSAP)?

One of my platform planks discusses priority-based budgeting, and using the city's strategic plans as lenses to inform budgeting. I see the carbon budget as another lens to inform priority-based budgeting. In other words, I think we need to better integrate carbon into the core budgeting process or risk it being left behind. We only have so many dollars to spend and likewise we cannot continue to emit greenhouse gases at our current rate and expect our economy and communities to thrive. I'd love to see more innovative fiscal and budgeting tools that can help council and administration mirror financial costs with environmental and carbon 'costs' so that we can more transparently understand and justify budget decisions with a climate lens. We need to recognize that the economy and the climate are closely interlinked and carry out our budgeting accordingly.

3. Which of the actions in the CETSAP would you prioritize, and how do they fit within the values and priorities of constituents in your riding?

My riding of Ward Karhiio stretches from the industrial zones north of Mill Woods, through Mill Woods, and down into the new developments in the Southeast. The Energy Transition Strategy actions are closely intertwined and I think we need to prioritize based on the strategies that will have multiple benefits - reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, economic opportunity, and that contribute to a just and equitable transition.

It is incredibly important to me that as we do this work, we do not forget about the JUST part of a just transition. As our city continues to grow and becomes more diverse everyday, we need to ensure all perspectives and voices — Indigenous peoples, newcomers, racialized communities, and working class folks — are heard when we talk about climate adaptation and mitigation. To ensure some of these voices are meaningfully represented, I would love to see bodies form, like the Indigenous Leadership and Elders Council proposed in my platform, and play an active advisory role in collaborating and implementing the transition plan.

We need to support building energy retrofits and realize the local economic benefits of the job creation that this will spur. Many people in my ward have been hit hard by the recent economic downturns and now more people have suffered job loss because of COVID-19. Many of them could find opportunities in the energy efficiency retrofit and renewable energy sectors. People need good work to support their families and to build great lives in Ward Karhiio. This also needs to include the City modeling the way with its own corporate energy use - I would support actions in the plan around achieving 100% renewable energy for civic operations and the retrofitting of city facilities.

With the Valley Line LRT nearing completion and the recent bus network redesign impacting many people in my ward negatively, transportation is another big one for me for both climate and equity reasons. We need a transportation system that gives everyone choices in the ways they move around the city. But we can't expect people to take the bus or ride a bike if it is not convenient, affordable, or if they feel unsafe. Innovations like the new electronic fare Arc (Smart Fare) card open the door to opportunities like more flexible transit pricing and support data-driven decision-making. We should also continue to support the transition to electric buses, and continue to improve other active transportation infrastructure in newer neighbourhoods.

Finally, tied to both of these, is that as we grow, I would support stricter energy codes for new buildings alongside the development of 15-minute districts that offer community-focused businesses, services and amenities close to home. This sets newer neighbourhoods up for success, by using less energy in the

first place, providing more access to services and amenities closer to home, enabling more opportunity for social connections and stronger neighbourhoods, and lowering transportation impacts. It's a win-win.