

Windsor Law Cities and Climate Action Forum

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September 30, 2020

1. In 2017 the City of Windsor passed its [Community Energy Plan](#) committing to a 40% reduction in 2014 emission levels by 2041. In November 2019 it passed unanimously the [Climate Change Emergency Declaration](#) and in May 2020 the report on [Acceleration of Climate Change Actions in response to the Climate Change Emergency](#) (see page 503 at link), was passed unanimously by Windsor City Council. Which, if any, of these documents have you read?

I've been a resident of Windsor for over 25 years so I care deeply about the issues. I have always been aware of the City's climate plans especially when our city declared a climate emergency. I have addressed the declaration for a climate emergency during the debates and have spoken extensively with concerned residents regarding climate change. Furthermore, I have stated that I would like to protect the current green spaces and expand parks across Windsor. As a candidate in this race, I have continued to stay up-to-date with the topics and motions brought up at Council. Having the possibility of being elected, I want the residents of Ward 7 to know that I will already be well versed on all discussions currently going on with Council, so in order to do so, I go over all public materials regarding matters brought forth at City Hall. Therefore, I have read all three of the documents.

2. How do you intend to ensure the City's effort remains on climate mitigation in addition to climate change adaptation? For example, although continuing to address the flooding in Ward 7 would be a beneficial climate change adaptation response, how will you work to ensure the City also takes sufficient measures to reduce emissions, and in a way that benefits all residents?

I have several ideas as to how the City can implement the necessary measures to reduce emissions. One of my first proposals for city planning would be to expand bike lanes, especially in the downtown core to reduce emissions. Secondly, I would propose to expand our transportation system to encourage our residents to use our public transit system. However, I would not just stop there. While increasing our transportation system, I would bring a motion forward that we should begin investing in and buying electric busses.

I would also fight to improve walk ways and paths for pedestrian as this will encourage environmentally friendly recreational activities rather than seeing individuals using their cars and emitting more CO2 into the atmosphere.

I would like to see the city invest in solar panels for bus shelters, public spaces and other areas where we are able to do so.

We can ensure our street lights throughout the city are being replaced by eco-friendly light bulbs as well as building eco-friendly homes.

As the automotive hub of Canada, we can encourage and reward automotive companies for choosing to go green.

I cannot stress the importance of spending money in green technology now before it's too late.

3. If you are elected as Councillor for Ward 7, where will the necessity for climate mitigation action rank in your priorities when it comes to the City's budget decisions? What is your position on allocating funds in the 2021 and future budgets to address climate mitigation (i.e. reduction of emissions) in Windsor-Essex?

We are currently in the middle of a pandemic; thus, I believe our top priority should currently be the safety of our residents. This does not deter from my focus on climate mitigation whatsoever. Climate mitigation would rank in my top 3 priorities regarding the City's budget decisions. We already know we need to spend money to reduce emissions and global warming. If we wait any longer, we will simply continue to raise the price on how much we must spend to reduce the harm, we are causing to the planet. I would support increasing future budgets to have funding to fight against climate change.

4. What do you think about the idea of a [carbon budget](#) for the City of Windsor?

I fully support a carbon budget. A carbon budget incentivises residents to choose green methods of technology and transportation. This will aid our residents in reducing their carbon emissions and stay within the allowable emitting limits. I believe it is imperative for the City to mandate a carbon budget to assist in lowering their federal carbon tax. Without a carbon budget we will neglect to inform our residents as to what reasonable emitting levels are.

5. Urban sprawl has been called "[Ontario's oil sands](#)". If elected, how would you ensure that the City of Windsor makes climate-friendly urban planning decisions?

To ensure that the city of Windsor makes climate-friendly urban planning decisions I would advocate for greater environmentally friendly policies. I would implement ways for commuting to be easier, by investing in green transportation and houses that are eco-friendly. I would work on zoning laws to ensure we do not expand beyond what would cause harm to our environment.

6. What are your ideas on how the City of Windsor can work with the County of Essex, surrounding municipalities and the City of Detroit in order to actualize climate mitigation action?

I think the best way to actualize climate mitigation action is to form a committee whose primary role is to bring the different municipalities together and begin change. There is a joint committee working on the Great Lakes waters and there should definitely be one to work on climate change so that we can all jumpstart our efforts.

7. Climate action is a priority for many youth voters. Why should young voters come out and vote for you?

I am the proud parent of two daughters. I often speak with them about climate change and their worries about the future. I have personally seen how drastically our temperature has changed over the years and it is very concerning to me. As a home owner, tax payer and parent, I share the same sentiments and concerns as young voters do. It is our responsibility as global citizens to ensure we are doing everything now to eradicate global warming and environmental impacts. That is why I will not leave my responsibilities behind to the younger generations, especially to my own daughters when I understand my role in tackling climate change. I know the importance of going green and making the changes now so that we have a sustainable future.