



Beverly
Kindle-Walker

Climate Resilience Ordinance

The DEA supports passing the Climate Resilience Ordinance, a municipal law that will help the City reduce greenhouse gas emissions incrementally through 2050. This law will help protect residents, especially our low-income communities of color, from impacts of climate change (e.g. extreme weather).

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: I support the passing and expedited implementation of the Detroit version of a “Climate Resilience Ordinance” for the environmental health and well-being of our City residents.

Sustainability & Equity

Sustainable and equitable development requires our City officials to balance public health and environmental needs with economic growth and job creation. When new projects and developments are under consideration, all too often economic interests may outweigh critical environmental concerns, that are likely to decrease the quality of life for residents, especially low-income, people of color, and other vulnerable communities.

Q: As you consider development proposals in your role as an elected official, how would you balance economic interests and environmental concerns?

A: Historically, in the City of Detroit, environmental issues have not fared well on the front-end of developments. It is important that City Council operate in a more proactive stance on all issues and concerns that come before the body. Experts such as the Detroit Environmental Agenda will be a valued source for information gathering that I would use to assist in making decisions.

Air

The DEA supports the air quality improvements recommended in the Community Action to Promote Healthy Environments (CA-PHE) Detroit Air Quality Public Health Action Plan:.

Q: Share up to three air quality improvements you will work to enact during your term in office. Explain how.

A: The air quality improvements that I will support include: (1) Developing a better relationship with Wayne County's legislative body to help hold both the County's Department of Environment, the City's Office of Sustainability and other departments accountable to the people and true to their respective missions relating to enforcing, promoting, and creating a healthier environment for all; (2) Encourage and support a budget that reflects positive actions toward developing public policies on renewable energy like solar and wind. Also, capturing the power that can be generated from the Detroit River may be a possibility and; (3) I would support empowering citizens to assist in the monitoring and reporting on the quality of the air in their respective neighborhoods. A community advisory committee could facilitate that exchange with the appropriate departments.

Waste

Recycling brings value back into the waste stream, reduces negative effects of disposal (including toxic emissions, leakages, and lost resources and energy), and creates the potential for new markets. Detroit has an opt-in curbside recycling program limited to single households and residences up to four units. Given your role, share the strategies and policies for waste reduction and reuse you will support in response to the question below.

Q: How will you work to increase recycling options for all residents, including people who live in apartments?

A: Waste reduction or recycling for apartment dwellers may be a challenge, but can be achieved similar to the current curbside program by having receptacles available for that purpose. Just as apartment dwellers are responsible for putting their garbage into the proper receptacle, some are probably interested in recycling.

Q: How will you work to increase diversion of waste from the incinerator, for use in industry and commerce?

A: Promoting active recycling will reduce the amount of waste that goes to the incinerator.

Land Use and Food Access

The City of Detroit owns 24 square miles of structure-free, vacant land that can be put into private hands for productive use.

Q: What is your top priority for publicly-owned land in Detroit?

A: To re-evaluate the Detroit Land Bank Authority's role in the disposition of publicly owned land.

Healthy food and urban agriculture are surely connected in Detroit. Accessing healthy, culturally-appropriate food can be a challenge. Residents depend upon the network of gardens and farms that exist throughout Detroit for sustenance.

Q: Given your role, what would you do to ensure that residents have access to healthy, culturally-appropriate food?

A: I would support a City funded "clearinghouse information" brochure that will provide information that connects people to the food. There are a number of creative food sources in the city of Detroit that the larger community is not aware of. Information is power and life-saving.

Water

Detroit is a Great Lakes city. The DEA supports the Detroit Water Agenda, which provides recommendations for ensuring all Detroiters will have access to affordable, clean, safe water to drink and use. It encourages water conservation and endorses effective models of resilient water management, which embrace a basin-wide perspective and integrated planning of urban development, green and gray water infrastructure.

Q: Share up to three Detroit Water Agenda recommendations you will work to enact during your term in office. Explain how.

A: I will work towards efforts and policies to restore affordable water to households which currently do not have running water. Many food service employees are reporting for work coming from homes without water. Children are affected as well. This is causing a silent health crisis that is going to explode with an increase of viruses and other hygiene-related diseases. The other efforts that I will work to advance are in the area of building demolitions where a more environmentally friendly de-construction of buildings can be implemented. Materials of all

sorts can be salvaged for reuse. Being more labor intensive, this effort would require the hiring of general laborers who would gain some construction knowledge on the job while earning a livable wage. In addition I would like to see the important work of the Green Task Force started by former Detroit City Council Member Ken Cockrel, Jr. continue and the publication that was produced be made widely available for citizens.

Green stormwater infrastructure helps manage sewage overflows, reduces basement flooding and builds healthier, more attractive neighborhoods. Residents, businesses, and places of worship can receive stormwater/drainage credits from the City to help build green stormwater infrastructure.

Q: How would you help people build green stormwater infrastructure and access to these credits during your term of office?

A: By helping to inform people with pertinent DWSD (Detroit Water and Sewerage Department) information about ways that they can gain a better understanding of the green stormwater infrastructure and drainage fee credits.

