



Mary
Waters

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 would support the proposed Detroit Climate Resilience Ordinance by lobbying other council members to enact the model ordinance and seek broad based community support in that process. I would, by example, ride or walk to work to encourage others to use bicycles and walk to work when possible to cut down on fossil-based car fuel use. I would work to subsidize passes for mass transit including buses. I would ask owners of existing buildings to paint roofs white and design new buildings to use less energy for heating and cooling. I would seek local tax credits for use of renewable energy such as solar and wind instead of fossil fuels, like coal and gasoline.

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: All new building projects and city budgets must include an environmental impact assessment for review before projects are approved. Those standards would be developed by a group of private, public sector, and non- government environmental organizations. The profit motive must always be balanced by environmental impact.

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: I am a breast cancer survivor that believes in direct action against polluters. I will fight for clean air as I did when I helped to stop a Koch Brothers pet coke truck from dumping on the shores of our Detroit River by physically blocking the delivery trucks I will support renewable and alternative energy. We need to shut down the incinerator that is close to an elementary school and better regulate other industrial businesses that emit cancer causing agents into our air in Southwest Detroit. I will fight for ordinances with teeth to shut down polluters.

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: I will support and help develop recycling options for all residents. We will ask the various communities for their preference. All residents must be provided an opportunity to recycle to promote/support a cleaner and safer environment.

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

A: Using the boilerplate approach of "3 Rs" of Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) my task would be to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3Rs) with focus on waste prevention, waste reduction, and waste recycling. Above all we must not accept the status quo approach of accepting that more waste is inevitable so we just treat and dispose. The status quo approach is too costly and only further pollutes.

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: I will work to develop safe affordable housing with green space and learning playgrounds with daycare facilities for single mother households in Detroit. I will fight the trend toward land giveaways to rich beneficiaries of corporate welfare.

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: Quality grocery stores that are monitored quarterly. I would work with private sector, foundations and individuals to provide seeds, gardening tools and land to grow vegetables in every neighborhood in Detroit with container rooftop/patio gardens in high rise or multi-unit housing. In addition, I would work with churches and food distribution centers to make distribution cover more areas of need for 100% Detroit children who are currently living in poverty.

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: (1) No water shutoffs where children, seniors, or expectant mothers reside. (2) Work for an income based affordable water plan. (3) Above all get my Council to publicly proclaim that the right to water in Detroit is a human right that is to be honored by providing water to all citizens of Detroit no matter what.

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: My office would be a supportive resource to community organizations with experience building containers to capture water and educate citizenry on the process. I will be a resource, not an obstructionist.