



Scott
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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: My office is currently working with the City of Detroit Law Department, DWEJ (Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice) and several other environmental justice organizations to write an ordinance that requires the City of Detroit to reduce greenhouse gases. This conversation has been going on for approximately one year, and we hope to have a draft ordinance before the end of the year.

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: The same way I have been doing so during my tenure as an elected official. Ensure that environmental impacts are discussed and vetted by our health department, legislative policy staff, planning staff and BSEED (Buildings, Safety, Engineering and Environmental Department). Examples of which can be seen in the conversation around the bulk solid storage ordinance, which has input from the environmental community, industry, DEQ (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality), Detroit Health Department and BSEED. We need to craft policy and approve deals that take physical health and potential tax revenue into account during the negotiation/approval process.

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: (1) Implement the bulk storage ordinance, which measures particulate matter in the air from dust producing industries. (2) Implement the greenhouse gas reduction ordinance. (3) Invest in renewable energy. My office is currently working with developers to implement a solar belt in Detroit.

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: My office has led the way on recycling in the City of Detroit. As a result of my office organizing a site visit to San Francisco to learn about renewable energy and best practices, we were able to convince the Director of BSEED to remove the cost of recycle bins, so all Detroiters can participate in curbside recycling free of charge. This resulted in an increase in participation rates from 4% to 21% in less than 18 months. As the chair of the Green Task Force, I am working with the Recycling Subcommittee to look at ways to implement recycling in apartment buildings.

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

A: We are currently working to increase participation in curbside recycling, which reduces the amount of solid waste going to the renewable energy plant. This not only reduces the amount of solid waste being incinerated, but it also works to allow for a reduction in the solid waste fee as it encounters fewer tipping fees due to less garbage being incinerated.

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, as much as is practicable, place publically owned property back on the tax rolls though land sales, land transfers, leases, etc. The City of Detroit is land-rich and we need to look at creative ways to exploit this abundant natural resource. We did not become the owner of this much vacant land without some extreme circumstances placing us in this situation. I suggest we work with local thought leaders to identify best practices and develop other creative ways to get our property on the tax rolls. It is financially unsustainable/irresponsible for the City to own 24 square miles of vacant land that is not producing tax revenue and is not being properly maintained by its current owner.

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: Work with the urban agriculture community to ensure that City Council supports repurposing of land to uses that support urban agriculture and urban livestock.

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) **Ensure Accessibility:** Make water-related recreational opportunities (e.g. fishing, kayaking, swimming, boating) accessible to all and friendly to the environment. (2) **Inform and Guide Consumers:** Educate people about sources of water, water issues, and water-related challenges in terms of development, growth, access, and affordability. (3) **Provide Recommendations for Water:** Look at various perspectives and needs including: conservation, stormwater management, pollution prevention, innovation, open space, wastewater management, urban and commercial agriculture, food processing, educational programs, and community impact.

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: Work with DWSD (Detroit Water and Sewerage Department) to identify grants and other resources to help reduce the cost of stormwater management and infrastructure improvements. In addition, work with developers to build stormwater infrastructure that can accommodate new construction as the City continues to build out and see new large scale development.