

Candidate Questionnaire on Climate and Energy

350 Austin, Solar Austin, Earth Day Austin, Shades of Green

Candidate Name: Amit Motwani

Candidate For: Austin District 3 Council Member

1. What are your top three priorities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Austin, and what actions would you take to implement needed changes?

- Priority 1 - Pull out of Fayette Plant Contract ASAP (reduce GHG from electricity production)
 - Actions: (barring legal issues, policy fiat seems to be the answer, and economic viability seems to solve for itself, given studies)
- Priority 2 - More solar Energy production (reduce GHG from electricity production)
 - Actions: Increase commercial and residential incentives for solar, including rebates, tax benefits, and increased VoS return rates (all this coupled with outreach and edu around how to leverage existing incentives)
- Priority 3 - Reduce GHG from on road cars trucks
 - Actions: strong outreach/edu around leveraging existing tax breaks for electric vehicle use, strong promotion of new city-based incentives around electric vehicle usage, improvement and development of multimodal transit and mass transit systems that are powered by clean renewable energy sources.

2. As mayor or council member, you will be a member of the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee. What will you do to make sure that Austin Energy takes the necessary steps to phase out its use of fossil fuels for power generation by 2030?

- Work with experts to develop accompanying actionable project plan and milestones inclusive of mandated monitoring, reporting, and continuous improvement of the same.

3. Despite declining costs of solar, many low income residents and multi-family housing tenants are challenged to participate in Austin Energy's existing rooftop solar programs. Do you think it is important to expand access to solar by developing targeted programs and policies at Austin Energy? Please explain.

- Yes, I think it's important. Participation in environmental stewardship through progressive strategies is often inaccessible to lower-income households, and

therefore targeted programs that align incentive by demonstrating both reduced buy-in risk and clear return on investment, coupled with culturally appropriate outreach and education are the right combination to promote solar energy production and reduce dependence on high-GHG energy production source (see response to #1)

4. Local, distributed scale solar installation has produced values to the utility, community and the local economy. Do you support the expansion of utility investment programs (including rebates) for installing solar locally within the Austin Energy territory? Please explain.

- Yes, it creates a public investment that dilutes investment risk and spreads the benefits to all community members while paying non-monetary dividends in environmental quality. Also results in increased solar production which improves market leverage for AE., immediate savings for lower income users who qualify, and empirically proven to create local mid-high skills jobs.

5. What specific role and responsibility do you see Austin taking in responding to local, regional and international impacts of climate change, including preparing for large numbers of people displaced by extreme weather events?

- Investment in continued and increased flood mitigation (support Prop D), including storm drain improvements, streambank stabilization, low-water crossing improvements, and buyouts in flood-prone areas
- Aggressive deeply/affordable housing development on public lands that are outside of 500 year floodplains (development practices in general that treats “500-year” flood as commensurate to previous “100-year” notion) or as directed by experts.
- Residency-exempt tenant protections for renting households, including potential insurance funds for lower income/more vulnerable households who may not have formal coverage
- Maintain and/or improve cohesive inclusion of expert groups for policy and investment guidance