

# Candidate Questionnaire on Climate and Energy

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

**Candidate Name:** Justin Jacobson

**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?**

A. Transportation- We need to get more folks out of their cars when occupied by one person and using more alternative means. Any purposed substitutions need to be as green as possible, i.e. battery and electric propulsion, walking, biking, all of the above. Actualizing an Austin where people can live without a car needs to become a reality.

B. Austin Energy Generation- Ensuring that Austin Energy switches to 100% renewable by our current 2030 deadline is paramount. Holding the utility accountable via oversight and providing the funds needed for the transitions is how we can get there.

C. Building Greener Structures- We need structures that help decrease our city's energy needs while also helping to generate renewable power. There are other efficiencies we can have baked into new buildings and offer increases in entitlements for green community benefits.

**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?**

I would have no reservations about being assigned to this committee. As soon as possible we need to divest from the Fayetteville coal plant. Austin Energy should be giving us monthly, quarterly, and yearly reports on progress. If we're not getting there, then council needs to step up and say something.

**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.**

Everyone that wants to participate in solar should have the option. It shouldn't be limited based on any given category. It's a smart investment on the part of Austin

Energy to develop more local community solar projects. We can open them up for all kinds of residents to buy into, thus, helping to reduce or emissions and providing additional revenues to expand our renewable infrastructure.

- 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.**

I fully support expanding this program. I believe it's the smart kind of invest that will help Austin to become a leader in localized solar programs.

- 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?**

Austin needs to be a leader in a world impacted by climate change. We have to figure out how we keep growing while also being cognizant of our limited water resources, climbing temperatures, and increasing risks of wild fires. The solutions that we can come up with here will impact the world. To do so, we need to make sure that we prioritize funds to deal with these issues and partner with other jurisdictions to have a well sorted plans in the event of emergencies.