

Candidate Questionnaire on Climate and Energy

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

Candidate Name: Lewis Conway

Candidate For: Austin District 1 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** (nearly 28.5 percent of 2016 greenhouse gas emissions)
 - b. **Electricity production** (28.4 percent of 2016 greenhouse gas emissions)
 - c. **Industry** (22 percent of 2016 greenhouse gas emissions)
 - d. **Recommendation**
 1. In regards to East Austin and District 1, the best plan forward is one advocated for by PODER and T.EJ.A.S.

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?**
 - a. I pledge to seek total adherence to the mission, scope, and responsibilities of relevant advisory committees guidelines established in 2013:
 - o strategic and generation plans;
 - o major capital purchases or transactions;
 - o rates, annual budgets, the general fund transfer and any other utility transfers;
 - o financial policies and the financial status of the utility;
 - o the sale and/or lease of utility property; o AE programs for low-income customers; o energy efficiency and solar programs; o customer protection; o fuel hedging and related financial strategies; o key accounts and special tariffs; and o competitive matters.

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.**
 - a. Absolutely. In fact, we can utilize lakes and waterways (Decker Lake) during off-peak season as a way to supplement our current system. The methodology I propose is a system of floating solar power plants that generate solar photovoltaic (PV) power.

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.

a. Absolutely, rebates and credits should be used to incentivize consumers to seek solar solutions.

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?

a. We are advocating that COA develop an environmental justice strategy that lists programs, policies, planning and public participation processes, enforcement and/or rulemakings related to human health or the environment that should be revised to

- 1) promote enforcement of all health and environmental statutes in areas with minority populations and low-income populations;
- 2) ensure greater public participation;
- 3) improve research and data collection relating to the health of and environment of minority populations and low-income populations; and
- 4) identify differential patterns of consumption of natural resources among minority populations.

Include in the Strategy, where appropriate, a timetable for undertaking identified revisions and consideration of economic and social implications of the revisions.