

Candidate Questionnaire on Climate and Energy

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

Candidate Name: Travis Duncan

Candidate For: Mayor of Austin

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

Regional Environmental Toxins Ban – As public servants, it is our duty to ensure the public safety. This includes the protection of fundamental liberties and sovereignty of every being and the planet itself. A core principle of public safety protection is to ensure the sustainability and harmony with our planet, to protect the rights of future generations to self-determine. If we damage or alter the natural environment such that it limits their options and even threatens their very existence, that is a violation of their sovereignty on Earth. It is not one individual's or entity's right to infringe upon any other sovereign individual or entity's rights to have access to Earth's resources. This planet is not owned by any one single individual. Therefore, under the authority given to us by the 9th amendment of the United States Constitution, and Article 2 of the Texas Constitution, I will lead our legal action to protect public safety as our number one priority, by asserting that all damaging environmental toxins must cease being created and distributed, in Austin and any regional area that is ecologically connected to Austin. This would include the burning of fossil fuels, the use of petro-based/non-biodegradable single-use plastics, soil chemicals that disturb balance, neurotoxins (& more) in water supply, fracked gas, toxic concretes and building materials, air-polluting air conditioners, genetically modified foods, and any other product or thing that is damaging to collective human health, even when used by an individual. For example, it would be a violation of fundamental rights for someone to dump toxic fertilizers or pesticides in their yard, because it would likely cause the neighbors to not be able to grow organic foods in their garden. This very simple principle of full-sovereignty adherence will actually cause us to be more considerate of our choices we may think are individual, but have a larger collective effect on the greater health of humanity, and so it is reasonable to assert that we protect the maximum human expression of life, especially given that when these factors become multiplied and compounded, they begin to cause massive scale damages to the Earth (this is not helped by the maximum sales driven industrial behavior). We will also be given tremendous innovative opportunity to solve these major problems locally (create non-toxic substitutes) and then market these products to the world. For those who are driven

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by profit, we can also accommodate within the reasonable bounds of Earth-Protection and Full-Sovereignty of ALL life. Austin, Texas being the first city on the planet to take this bold step would catalyze the innovation and cutting-edge evolution locally, giving us more international notoriety.

Zero-Emissions Transportation – Our transportation needs are very clear, and in other forums I have laid our plan to accelerate our construction of new projects by maximizing cooperative human energy, incentives, and regenerative investment. Whereas the traditional ways of building things may take years, we can accomplish within weeks with these new methods. In addition, we have laid out a proposal for an open-source solution-modelling platform on which any citizen can contribute their ideas for transit infrastructure plans, and then the public can interact and comment, revise and republish, and collectively ‘vote’ on the ideas that project the highest promise. The purpose of this platform is to increase our probabilities of finding the absolute best solutions. The platform serves as a sort of Google Maps/IBM Watson/Sims game, infused with the latest AI, quantum computing, machine learning, intuitive design, fluid/liquid/rank-choice democracy engagement tools, so our broader population can be the source of the solution. We obviously need a smart, quick, quiet, and innovative urban rail, which will be completely renewable, in addition to a full conversion of our bus fleet to zero-emissions. While we are switching our fleet, we will likely need to explore autonomous-enabled vehicles, and smaller pod type of vehicles that can automatically pick anyone up at their home and shuttle them quickly and safely to the nearest train or bus stop. Once we have urban rail running on every major street, multi-level, dedicated roadways, autonomously interacting vehicles, & constant-flow transit, we will nearly eliminate the need for personal cars as a mode of transportation. However, in the immediate transition period, we should develop a maximum incentive program to any household who converts their personal vehicles to zero-emissions & autonomous-enabled (this part is crucial, because rapid advancements in this technology are swiftly arriving, mainly in the area of software and coordination with the existing roadways, and we need to be as prepared for this as possible). The whole point of all of this is maximize freedom of transportation and efficiency of system so that our air can be completely clean and our bodies can be stress free. All of this plan includes, obviously, the need for protected and unobstructed pedestrian, bike and scooter roadways. The plan is to make every place accessible to everyone using public transit and self-powered mobility, in a way that is completely safe and efficient for all involved.

Sell Fayette, Plant Hemp – Some estimates place our (Austin Energy) stake in the Fayette Coal Plant at around \$400,000,000. I will lead the effort to sell this ASAP, so we can recoup the most amount of money from this deal. Then, I recommend strongly that we take this money and invest in the purchasing of land for the purpose

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of growing hemp. Currently, this is illegal in Texas, which is in fact a violation of our Constitutional Rights and Natural Law Rights. However, we (Austin Energy) could purchase and manage hemp farms across the nation in states where it is legal. Some hemp farmers are seeing returns of \$400-800 per acre of hemp. Hemp can be used for medicine, food, construction materials, biodegradable plastics, clothing, non-toxic cleaning supplies, and much more. In addition to this, and perhaps most importantly, hemp absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and remineralizes depleted soil. This can be utilized as a new revenue stream for Austin Energy, and will contribute to our carbon offset program planetwide. It's important we perceive ourselves as in debt to the world, since we, with the Fayette Coal Plant, have been contributing to the negative outcomes of pollution. There are likely reparations that need to be paid to the surrounding communities, and one way of accomplishing a 'clean-up' program is to plant hemp and profit-share with the locals. I've intentionally left this area broad, so it can be read as an approach, a way of doing things, not a detailed proposal. There is still much to consider. However, there is no doubt that investing \$400,000,000 in hemp will yield higher (& ecologically regenerative) returns than Fayette ever could. This is about Climate Justice. On that note, I also advocate that we use some of the profit from our hemp investments in lobbying strongly for the clearing of ALL marijuana convictions in the state of Texas, and liberate anyone currently illegally and immorally incarcerated.

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?

Lead 100% Renewable ASAP Campaign – We will accomplish 100% renewable energy by 2022 once I am mayor and we get our act together. This must include a complete phase out of our current polluting forms of energy, the decommissioning of all gas-line infrastructure, the complete and total divestment of all petrochemical investments and holdings, and of course the installation and innovation of new renewable sources of local production, like solar and other quantum technologies.

Innovation is KEY. We must establish a cooperative, people-owned, universally-accessible, innovation laboratory, as a part of our greater Profit-Sharing Contributionism Business Network, where every citizen is able to contribute their time and energy into the innovation of renewable energy generation technologies, energy storage, efficient transmission, grid resilience, propulsion, & anything else deemed valuable to research and develop. Experts will lead teams of people in creating the next wave in the energy movement. There are NO limits, and we must

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allow the creative energy of the people to thrive! We have the facilities and the resources to provide, and the people will innovate beyond our wildest comprehension. Money Does Nothing. People Do Everything.

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, this is of crucial importance. In fact, in 2016, I came before city council to offer a plan to get solar at less cost, at a faster rate, in a way that has completely equitable, and would dramatically accelerate our installations and generations, while catalyzing a massive boom in our solar industry. They did not listen...

This plan includes three main planks: (1) People's Power Plant (2) Wholesale (3) Cooperative Labor.

- 1) This plan essentially involves the people of Austin, the broader Austin Energy customer (shareholder) base, purchasing and owning the source of power generation, and generating as much of it locally as possible. AE has nearly 500,000 customers, of which pay monthly on their bills for the cost of fuel/power generation. This plan gradually and expediently reroutes this money toward the purchasing of solar panels & associated necessary equipment for the purpose of installing on any willing home or business rooftop. Localizing the solar helps with the efficiency of transmission (smaller loss), and empowers customers with eligible rooftops to get an immediate discount on their bill for allowing the PPP to use their roof without personally investing any money.
- 2) Wholesale purchases will enable us to get costs below \$1 per watt for the materials. We will be able to work directly with manufacturers, and partner to find the best possible arrangement for this exciting transition. Let's remember that the ultimate goal of the solar industry is to maximize the solar installed, not to make the most money from it across longer periods of time. This is an item on a checklist we need to get resolved and move on better for it.
- 3) Any shareholder (customer) of Austin Energy will receive free electricity in exchange for 3-6 hours per week of donated volunteer contribution, time and energy, in any needed capacity (accommodates all), to the installation projects. Much in the beginning of their time will include training, which will be constantly happening, mostly on the job. Imagine 10,000 volunteers installing solar panels across the city every weekend. Frankly, when led by a competent and safety conscious team of experts, any able-bodied person can install solar panels.

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This plan dramatically increases the rate of solar installs, at a fraction of the cost, while engaging, training, and educating the broader people with practical and professional skills. We will build a sense of pride in our community by maximizing our contributing impact. If Austin is truly a place that is environmentally conscious, we will show it through our determined and relentless actions, not by our passive plans and weightless rhetoric. If we claim to believe in Austin that this is as high of a moral imperative to the human species, we WILL take much stronger action. I do believe Austin is ready for this type of program, and we have lacked the leadership and creativity to do it, until NOW. Now we have this chance to elect me as the mayor of Austin. I am determined and relentless in my dedication to the best ideas! Let's improve upon this plan by sourcing the limitless genius of the people of Austin!

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, in fact, the People's Power Plant can be thought of as a massive utility scale installation. Using the already available local roof space in our city prevent loss of transmission when compared to a solar farm located in a rural area. This is where our engineers will have the unique and invigorating challenge of innovating how the electrical grid interprets this new localized energy production.

I do NOT support more PPAs with any private solar farm or wind farm (inherently extractive). This model has run its course. The only PPAs we need are with highly advanced, EMP resilient technologies like the quantum tech I have presented to the people of Austin. Such is the case if these technologies are not yet directly purchasable for ownership, but require advanced knowledge to operate. Over time, an equity model may present itself.

The entire point is to, over time, eliminate the cost of electricity and all energy, so the resource becomes completely DE commodified. This transition will obviously factor in the employment considerations of thousands, as well as the responsible transference of system design, so we can ultimately fortify and improve our grid stability, which is of utmost importance the protection of many generations of human life thriving on this planet.

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?

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Austin has the opportunity, and the obligation, to catalyze a planet-wide acceleration in our collective effort as the human species to become harmonious with the planet we're blessed to inhabit. This starts with being absolutely honest, truthful, and factual with ourselves. The history around energy use and industrial behavior must be directly confronted, with clear vision and compassion. We must reassert what the latest science is telling us, and act accordingly. We must be prepared for a multitude of scenarios.

Specifically, as it relates to Austin, Texas, our efforts as stated in every section above will be crucial, especially the aspect of legal protections for a non-polluted planet, as must be asserted for ALL life across all perceivable time periods. We will set the legal precedent for forcing the sovereignty-violators to cease polluting activity ASAP, included with regenerative-reparations investments.

In parallel, our move toward Universal Resource Access and the transcendence of extractive taxes, will be of utmost importance in playing a role of liberating all 1,000,000 Austinites (and growing), so we will be liberated from the wage clock, be empowered and self-determining, and will all live our maximum purpose in life. This will inevitably include many solutions leaders for our planets larger issues, like ocean acidification, mass species extinctions, sea level rise, massive pollutions of microplastics, genetic modifications, and so much more. We need to ensure that we increase the probabilities of humanity surviving, and that requires us as a city, a tribe, to ensure that every single one of our people reaches the fullest potential and manifests their genius. With the entire planet still perpetuating the antiquated scarcity driven currency- extraction models, Austin will create something entirely new and catalyze a planet-wide shift toward an abundant and harmonious reality for ALL.

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