

# Candidate Questionnaire on Austin Energy Issues

## Participating Organizations:

- Public Citizen
- SEED Coalition
- Sierra Club
- Solar Austin
- Texas ROSE (Ratepayers' Organization to Save Energy)
- Clean Water Action
- Austin Climate Action Network
- Texas Drought Project
- First Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary Ministry
- Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church

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- 1. The mission of the Austin Energy Department is to deliver clean, affordable reliable energy and excellent customer service. During your term, what will be the most important challenge for the city in regard to Austin Energy?**

To do just that. It's a tremendous challenge to deliver clean, affordable reliable energy and excellent customer service to the citizens of Austin.

- 2. From a citywide and district perspective, briefly describe your vision for managing and improving Austin Energy?**

I would continue the work that current Council has already done. Austin has been cited for being a leader in implementing building energy codes, adopting building energy disclosure policies, and for having a significant building performance workforce infrastructure. Beyond buildings, Austin Energy has also been a leader on district energy and combined heat and power (CHP) and is a leading municipal utility on efficiency programs. Austin is also notable as the city furthest ahead in our state on energy efficiency policy and implementation. Austin also scores much higher than Texas as a whole on equivalent metrics. And if elected, I would support an increase in Austin Energy's renewable 2020 goal and would look at auditing Austin Energy.

- 3. What is your position on climate change?**

I think climate change is real and is becoming a problem that we need to address.

- 4. Do you support implementation of the recommendations in the report developed by the [Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force](#) and are there any other specific changes you would like made to the [Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2020](#)? What would you change and how?**

I do support the implementation of the recommendations in the report developed by the Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force. The only change I would like to see to the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2020, is to increase Austin Energy's renewable 2020 goal.

- 5. City Council serves as the board of directors for Austin Energy. As a council member, what do you consider your role to be in regard to Austin Energy's governance?**

As a council member, my role is to balance Austin Energy as a business and providing energy at an affordable rate.

**6. What renewable energy resources and programs should be incorporated into the Austin Energy generation resource mix?**

I think the current diverse generation mix of wind power, solar power, biomass, natural gas, nuclear, and coal is adequate enough. I don't see any new renewable energy resources and programs that should be incorporated into the Austin Energy generation resource mix at this time.

**7. How and to what extent should Austin Energy provide customer energy efficiency programs?**

I believe it's the City's obligation to provide customers with energy efficiency programs. With this new 10-1, I think we'll be able to do better at community outreach and do a better job at informing the public of what programs are available to them.

**8. What are your thoughts on whether Austin Energy should invest in more nuclear reactors and whether the utility should remain involved in the existing South Texas Project reactors after their currently scheduled retirement dates of 2027 and 2028 if they get relicensed for 20 additional years?**

I don't think we need to invest in more nuclear reactors and I also don't think that they should remain involved in the existing South Texas Project.