

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?**

Trust and affordable rates to end users.

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

Use resourceful and common sense energy conservation programs. Invest in our elderly and physically disabled by offering rebates on energy efficient upgrades and weatherization. More transparency on billing and services provided. Better detailed and explanation on line items of charges.

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

Use cleaner energy with less use of toxic gasses.

- 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?**

We need to take the negative pollution and ozone emitting gases and recycle it to a positive use. I recommend this challenge to our most apparent resource in Austin and that's the University of Texas. New minds, new ideas and use of our college students and staff is definitely a positive direction.

- 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?**

Familiarize myself on operations, cost of energy and community impact along with the service plan on conservation and community relations.

Sometimes dumping money into the community is not the solution. Education and community outreach is a better investment.

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

Solar and Wind yes. We need to think outside the box and actually find a way to harness the heat and energy from mother earth like lightning and barometric pressure. The question is how can we hold an electrical charge for a long term basis?

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

We should be totally committed. Until we achieve 100% of energy efficient homes, apartments and commercial buildings along with College, State and AISD buildings.

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?

If the energy is there and the cost is lower than the carbon emitting systems that we're using I, think we should use it but not lose focus on renewable clean energy.