

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

Candidate Name: Matt Stillwell

District: 6

Email: matt@mattstillwell.com

Phone: 512-422-4021

- 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?**

Restructuring the utility to adapt to a market where the utility provides less product (units of energy, as people conserve more/use less and rooftop solar continues to grow) and still remain economically successful.

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

Continue to press renewable sources of energy production and move away from fossil fuels, audit and adjust the business plan to adapt to the changing landscape described in Q1.

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

It's real, it's our fault, it's already happening, and there's not much we can do to fix what we've wrecked. Our kids will live in a different world with a different climate. It's a tragedy that our leaders of the past weren't forward thinking in relation to treating the environment with the respect it demanded.

- 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 support the recommendations of the task force. I'll be looking for input from the various stakeholders I'll cull together to find ways to improve the climate protection plan. It's a good document and has laudable goals, but Austin should continue to strive to be the leader in environmental responsibility.

- 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?**

Provide direction, safeguard against rising rates, hold the utility accountable to the goals council sets for the utility.

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

I'd like to see a push for more rooftop solar, I'm encouraged by some European countries and their efforts to move in that direction. Germany this year moved past the 50% threshold of energy produced by rooftop solar, it's a model Austin could follow.

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

This is a good strategy to address affordability for renters, requiring landlords to update and increase the energy efficiency of their properties will result in lower rates for renters. The efficiency programs are a good tool to push back against rising monthly costs to ratepayers.

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?

The potential for disaster and the enormous amounts of water necessary for nuclear production make me hesitant to support any further expansion of nuclear energy production for Austin Energy.