



## Candidate Survey Response

**Amy Midis**  
**City Council**  
**At Large Seat C**

**1. *If elected, would you support a comprehensive and equitable community-wide Climate Action Plan to reduce Knoxville's carbon emissions in half by 2030?***

I would support a plan proposed by the Mayor on behalf of the City of Knoxville. The currently proposed plan by the city to cut carbon emissions in half by 2030 is only based on municipal usage. The previous goal of cutting municipal emissions by 20% by 2020 amounted to a total reduction in city-wide emissions by 8%. Therefore, a considerable amount of engagement with the community, including residents, businesses, and public institutions will be needed to be successful. I believe that global warming is real and needs to be addressed now; however, changing behavior is not easy.

While the reductions by previous city administration should be applauded, they were easily implemented and financially justified under current budget savings. The reductions needed to attain a goal of 50% reduction by 2030 will need a considerable amount of public support. Cost savings may need to be quantified in order for residents to justify the financial outlay. Also, the city administration might need to supplement the cost for lower-income residents. Many business owners and institutional employers would need financial incentives in order to adhere to new standards.

Growth plans that are created by Knoxville Planning would need reflect this new initiative. The city's new zoning ordinance prioritizes smart growth and development principles encouraged by many climate advocates. Increased density along corridors where access to alternative forms of transportation is available and accessible is emphasized in this new zoning ordinance. Infrastructure improvements would be needed to accommodate alternative forms of transportation. We should encourage locally grown produce markets and community gardens, allowing our residents access to food options that do not add to the carbon footprint for transportation to our city. There could be many avenues within Knoxville to achieve the goal of a 50% reduction in carbon emissions, but the city needs to take a leadership role in organizing, incentivizing, and communicating its path to success.

**2. *How would you engage the community in developing this plan?***

I would encourage all city stakeholders to be engaged prior to adoption of the plan. Once a proposal is developed and key stakeholders have agreed to the methods needed to successfully achieving the

goal, city administration, city council, and local global advocacy groups like Climate Knox and Sierra Club will need to perform a significant amount of education with residents, institutional leaders, and business-owners on ways they can achieve emission reductions. These steps should be clearly communicated and easily tracked, increasing buy-in and reinforcing the mission of the program. Furthermore, data regarding emission reductions should be collected and communicated on a regular basis to monitor the progress of the program as well as determine if additional measures may be needed.

**3. *What would be your timeline from the launch to develop the plan to when the city would put the***

***plan into action?*** Any timeline would be determined by the Mayor and city administration, not City Council members; however, I would support discussion of this plan as soon as possible.