



Candidate Survey Response

**From: Eddie Mannis
Candidate for Mayor**

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?*

Climate change is a very serious issue not only here in Knoxville, but across our nation and the world. I firmly believe that we have to adopt a comprehensive approach and take concrete action in addressing this issue as a city. As mayor, I will build on our past successes by continuing Mayor Rogero's commitment to reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 and by 80% by 2050. These goals build on our city's success of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020, a goal set by then Mayor Bill Haslam. I am proud to continue this bipartisan effort in reducing Knoxville's carbon footprint.

Continuing to address climate change will not only help our planet, it will also help our bottom line here in the city. As we continue to grow as a city, our investments in an environmentally-sound Knoxville have paid off. Our success in achieving our goal of cutting emissions by 20% has saved families on average \$500 dollars annually in utility costs. Our update to city street lights have saved taxpayers roughly \$2 million a year in reduced energy, maintenance, and operating costs.

Additionally, our successful modernization of city waste collection has saved the city an additional \$2 million a year in expenses.

Obviously, city government cannot accomplish these bold goals alone. We need buy-in from the private sector and from our friends and neighbors who live and work in the City of Knoxville. But the City must lead by example, and I am committed to ensuring that we do our part to encourage cross-sector leadership addressing climate change.

Climate change is an issue that we as a city must work together to addressing in Knoxville. I want to work with community leaders, private sector partners, and others with a vested interest in combatting this issue to develop goal-oriented solutions that we can work toward together. I would certainly be in favor of working with these partners to extend our goals for the City of Knoxville government city-wide.

Additionally, I am currently researching innovative ways looking at traffic control and red light patterns to address a concrete way in which the city can meet our goal of reducing emissions 50%

by 2030. This technology will reduce idling, cut down on travel time, and reduce the number of stops, resulting in a 20% reduction in driving-related emissions.

(Vote Climate Note: The candidate has focused his response on reducing the city government's emissions rather than the asked for reduction in community-wide emissions.)

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

I think community engagement has to be at the heart of everything we do as a city. As mayor, I would make it my goal to convene relevant department heads, city employees, and community stakeholders to brainstorm creative solutions to problems associated with climate change. Additionally, I would prioritize fostering community input on a regular basis as it relates to formulating logistical ideas aimed at continuing our success in addressing climate change here in Knoxville. We are so fortunate to have such an amazing natural environment, and as such we must be committed to protecting it to enable access to the rich quality of life opportunities it provides.

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

Addressing climate change will be a priority of my administration. In the first 100 days, I will meet with the Director of the Office of Sustainability and other relevant stakeholders to gauge our progress on meeting the goals laid out in reducing our carbon emissions. Although I do not have all the details right now, I will work with this office to ensure that there is a timeline in place to keep us on track towards meeting our goals, and I will work to meet checkpoints as they arise throughout my administration.

Additionally, I will ensure that the Office of Sustainability is making regular check-ins to ensure that we are on track to meeting our goals as a city. Staying on target with our timeline will be imperative to success.