



Renewable Juneau

September 11, 2020

RE: Juneau Assembly Candidate Renewable Energy & Climate Questionnaire

Dear Juneau Voter,

Renewable Juneau is pleased to share with you our **2020 Assembly Candidate Renewable Energy Questionnaire**. We developed this questionnaire to give Juneau voters information about the opinions and ideas of the candidates seeking to represent them.

Our questionnaire was sent to all seven candidates seeking terms on the Juneau Assembly. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all seven candidates for taking time from what we are certain have been hectic campaign schedules in order to offer their input. Our renewable energy and climate questions and candidate answers are being sent to you and over 1000 Juneau households that are members of or subscribers to a Juneau climate and renewable energy non-profit organization. We will also share our questionnaire and candidate responses via social media as a service.

While our organization does not endorse a candidate, we are looking for individual Assembly members who will take personal responsibility and personal responsibility to move our community forward in green house gas reduction and the promotion of using locally-produced renewable energy over fossil fuels. We hope you will find our candidate questionnaire useful in your decision-making process to select candidates who best represent Juneau's present and future concerns. The candidates' answers to our questionnaire are attached to this letter.

If you wish to receive this information in some other manner, do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your interest,

From the Board of Renewable Juneau

P.S. Remember, all voters can vote in every race!

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Renewable Juneau sent a questionnaire to all candidates running for the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, offering candidates the opportunity to share their views on local renewable energy topics. We are happy to share the responses from all seven candidates.

The 2020 municipal election will be conducted via mail. Election day is October 6.

- 1. The Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy affirms that 80% of Juneau will be powered by renewable energy by 2045. Although our electricity is hydro-powered, currently only 20% of our total energy needs come from renewable sources. What policies or actions will you take to advance this strategy, and why?**

Lacey Derr:

The City is already moving forward with the purchase of new electric bus for our local transportation and it is a great start to exploring the viability of these renewable energy vehicles in our harsh environments. In 2019, a Yale Climate Change article cited 2 recent national surveys of American adults where nearly half (47%) said they would pay more for energy obtained from renewable sources. We need to continue moving toward replacing our outdated local infrastructure and rebuilding city owned building heating sources as we can with more ecologically friendly alternatives. There is hope for increased climate change initiatives on a federal level and with that, potential funding options to help offset the initial cost of investing in these technologies. If we hope to keep our future generations here, we need to make smart investments toward our environmental future.

Derek Dzinich:

Juneau has long prided itself on its hydroelectric power generation. I am especially familiar with this narrative as my grandfather Kurt Dzinich Sr. was the project engineer of Snettisham power station. The point raised above, however, is an important one to address. To me, the best way to reduce our dependence on non-renewable energy sources is to focus on two of the biggest polluters; home heating and vehicles. To this end, I think that the Assembly has an important role to play in incentivizing the installation and use to heat-pump technology, as well as in encourage Juneauites to purchase electric vehicles.

Alicia Hughes-Skandijs:

This is something that I'm eager for the assembly to make progress on. I think the most important policy action for the assembly to take at this stage will be to create a specific step wise plan that provides specific actions the municipality will need to take and benchmarks along the way starting with where we are now, and leads us to where we need to be in 2045. If we don't work backwards from our ambitious goal, we're not going to meet it. One specific action the municipality can (and should) take while the plan is being developed is to conduct an energy audit of all city facilities. We need to know what our baseline is in order to improve upon it. Another specific action we could take is to earmark a portion of the CIP in all coming years to address energy improvements.

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Marie Gladyszewski:

JRES indicates that two of Juneau's substantial uses of fossil fuels that could be converted to renewable energy are space heating and transportation. I would continue to support CBJ efforts focused on EV charging infrastructure, city EV purchases, electric bus replacements of aging diesel buses, and acceleration of heat pump adoption for residences (Alaska Heat Smart). We should also continue to look for opportunities to upgrade/retrofit CBJ buildings and utilities to switch to electric-powered space heating and enhance energy efficiency.

Robert Shoemake:

I think the almighty dollar is a powerful motivator for change. We must find a way to make renewable energy more cost-effective. The original bill needs to be modified to account for changes since HB 374 was introduced. Every effort should be made to get utility companies, such as AEL&P, involved in the re-write -- they need to buy into its eventual passage. A new, more inclusive bill could be a significant boost to energy efficiency within our community and our state.

Kenny Solomon-Gross:

The Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy became a CBJ community value with the adoption of Resolution 2808. The Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy was developed by the Juneau Commission on Sustainability and had extensive public input and discussion.

Hydropower produces lower-cost renewable energy over time while fossil fuel prices are volatile. Locally produced renewable energy not only produces local and sustainable jobs, but it also reduces the cost of CBJ transportation and heating costs which is in the best interest of Juneau taxpayers.

I support private and public efforts to economically achieve these transformations to renewable use. I support the CBJ continuing to convert our transportation fleet of Capital Transit buses and vehicles to cleaner electric and I support our CBJ buildings migrating from diesel heat and boiler systems to cleaner and long-term lower-cost renewables.

Christine Woll:

The Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy offers the beginnings of a blueprint for how Juneau reaches this ambitious but achievable goal. Moving this strategy forward with a comprehensive approach will be necessary in order to achieve this goal. At a high level, I will continue to push for the Assembly to prioritize a comprehensive implementation plan.

Specifically, there are several key actions that the city can be thinking about now. Most prominent is the development of an energy management program with a central coordinator. This program could kick start a few initiatives that specifically target increasing the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures specifically in our city buildings and transportation fleet. The JRES estimates that the city could save as much as \$500,000 in the first three years of a comprehensive strategy to address building efficiencies alone. This program and coordinator could institute energy audits in our city buildings and then guide implementation of the necessary upgrades. An infrastructure bond (like the one on this year's

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ballot, see below), could help fund some of the efficiency improvements already identified. In addition, this program could develop incentives or rules for switching CBJ's fleet to more electric vehicles or more fuel-efficient vehicles, such as requiring minimum fuel efficiency standards. CBJ has just begun applying for and receiving funding for purchases of electric buses, which should also continue as busses need to be replaced.

Heating represents a large percentage of our fossil fuel usage, and also a significant opportunity for us to switch to more renewable energy. Heat pumps in particular are an exciting opportunity in private homes and commercial spaces, and the city can make headway on this goal by partnering with and helping fund Alaska HeatSmart, which is helping encourage and incentivize heat pump use and energy efficiency upgrades. In the future, there may be ways to develop a revolving loan fund or other financial mechanism to help private building owners make the switch to electric heating, and save money in the long-term. Support for opportunities such as C-PACE (see below) is also important.

Transportation is another opportunity and the use of electric cars is growing rapidly in Juneau. Continuing to expand access to charging stations in public spaces should be a priority, and I do not recommend charging users for this at this time, while we are trying to encourage adoption. We can also be providing developers and private building owners incentives for providing electric chargers. We also can be increasing the use and socializing park and rides as both a parking management strategy, and a way of lowering fossil fuel use. Finally, we have a non-motorized transportation plan that has not been fully implemented that could increase access for residents interested in using more non-motorized transportation options.

And finally, increasing our dependence on renewable energy will necessitate new renewable energy sources. The first steps here would be a public comprehensive understanding of energy load management, load trends, and how those relate to the development opportunities.

- 2. One of the items on the October 6 ballot will be a \$15 million infrastructure bond intended to create or maintain jobs in Juneau while improving CBJ assets. Some of the proposed projects will also reduce long-term CBJ costs by improving energy efficiency. Do you support the bond proposition? Why or why not?**

Lacey Derr:

Looking for areas to cut costs will continue to be a focus of the Assembly and the community. COVID-19 has hit every aspect of life from personal to business, citizen to government. Although our financial future is uncertain, we must not lose sight of continuing to address the substantial change we have seen in our climate, especially at a local level. I support continuing to maintain jobs in Juneau and smart investing in CBJ improvements.

Derek Dzinich:

I wholeheartedly support the bond package. Juneau needs more cash in the local economy as it grapples with the loss of economic activity from the COVID-19 epidemic. Improving energy efficiency not only reduces long term financial costs but also cuts down our city's carbon footprint. This will help us to achieve our renewable energy goal for 2045. Additionally, as a semi-isolated community, bolstering our use of renewable energy sources decreases our

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dependence on imported fossil fuels, increasing our resilience to an interruption in import capabilities.

Alicia Hughes-Skandijs:

I do. Initially the assembly hadn't addressed the projects in that specificity, and we received input from members of the community highlighting the opportunity for adding the intent that the projects improve energy efficiency. This was an excellent suggestion and I'm glad we were able to adjust our Bond proposal and improve upon it before sending it to the voters. I believe it was an improvement because it will save the city money in the long run, and it will get us closer to our long term renewable energy goals. This is the sort of thing we could be specifying in the CIP regularly.

Maria Gladziszewski:

Not only do I support it, I helped get the energy efficiency piece into the package. I support the bond package it because it will inject money into the local economy at a critical time of Covid-induced economic downturn, provide local jobs, and perform priority maintenance on Juneau schools, retrofit CBJ buildings with energy-efficient HVAC systems, and rehabilitate high-demand recreation facilities.

Robert Shoemake:

I support the bond package so long as the Assembly follows through and uses this money for what is stated in this current bond package. The Assembly has a history of changing the use of funds voted on in previous bond packages. It is a low-interest loan, that is good business; however, we also need to manage it well. For example, there is no point in buying a fleet of expensive electric buses if there are no customers; there must be the right balance. This funding can help support our local economy if used wisely.

Kenny Solomon-Gross:

Although I personally prefer to see bond measures stand on their own, given the current economic situation construction is a key factor in keeping our economy stable. Investments in energy efficiency and conversion from outdated and expensive diesel fuel boilers and heating systems to more efficient, lower-cost heat pumps are a wise investment. I believe projects identified for the schools will make them more energy efficient and are a good use of these funds and I will support this package.

Christine Woll:

Yes! This bond is important for multiple reasons. In order to mitigate the impacts of the recession, spending on infrastructure will be important for creating local jobs and economic activity quickly which is needed. Improving energy efficiency in our city buildings is important because it will save the city money, reduce our carbon footprint, and help create local jobs. Hopefully, some of the proposed projects will also consider switching heating sources to electric.

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- 3. Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) is a program enabled within Alaska statute wherein commercial property owners access low-interest loans to make clean energy and efficiency improvements to their buildings. A city ordinance would be required to enable this program in Juneau. Is this something that you would support as a member of the Assembly? Why or why not?**

Lacey Derr:

During these uncertain times, financial investing must be done with increased discretion and thoughtfulness. We are in the time where we will need to seek the assistance of funding through all available grants/resources so there is ample support for these sorts of ordinances to succeed. It is through thoughtful spending, creative funding, and perseverance to make positive changes there can be the support need to see programs like the C-PACE flourish.

Derek Dzinich:

I would certainly support an ordinance enabling C-PACE to be utilized by businesses in Juneau. Our city government must lead the way in helping local businesses access and use clean energy to combat climate change and meet our clean energy goals. Especially given the difficult economic circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe that Juneau must do everything it can to access resources which are already available. C-PACE is a perfect example of such a program, and we need to do everything we can to take advantage of programs like it.

Alicia Hughes-Skandijs:

I confess that I wasn't aware of this program previously. Based upon what I have read, I think this program is a good way to make efficiency upgrades to a property more attractive to an owner. I would want to do a little more research in order to be sure, but based upon my current understanding of the program I would support this. The city only has control over city properties, but in order to make the kind of shifts that are necessary to meet the climate crisis, governments will need to use tools like incentives to make sure the private sector is doing its part. This seems to be a good example of that.

Maria Gladziszewski:

From what I understand of this nascent state-level effort, C-PACE could be a useful financing mechanism that over time would help to upgrade the energy efficiency of Juneau's commercial building stock, with minimal administrative support by the CBJ. I am open to exploring C-PACE further, provided there is interest in the financing program by Juneau's building owners.

C-PACE has proven effective as a financing approach in other states and cities, whereby a private financial institution provides the loan for commercial building energy upgrades and the loan is repaid as an additional line item on the municipality's property tax bill to the building owner. The municipality then transfers the loan repayment to the financial institution. The concept is that having the loan repayment on the property tax bill enhances the likelihood of repayment, thereby lowering the credit risk to lender, which provides more favorable loan terms.

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The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has been working on a statewide study over the past year to develop a state-level, shareable administrative structure that municipalities could buy into (rather than each city coming up with its own admin support) for a local program. AEA is also developing a model ordinance municipalities could adopt and has also conducted a survey of commercial building owners to gauge interest. I would be interested in hearing an analysis of the applicability of such a program locally from the Juneau Commission on Sustainability.

Kenny Solomon-Gross:

Yes, I believe anything we can do to help property owners access funding to help them improve their properties and make them energy efficient is worth pursuing. I support the AEA's effort to establish a statewide administrator for this program to make it more efficient for the municipalities to implement the program.

Robert Shoemake:

I support this program. Low-interest loans that help businesses become more efficient and make our community a better place to live will also stimulate our local economy. I think that is a win for everyone.

Christine Woll:

Yes, this program seems like a win-win to help the city support its renewable energy strategy goals, while also allowing commercial property owners to save money long-term.

- 4. Juneau was one of the first places in the world to provide shore power for cruise ships. The two newest CBJ docks do not offer this service. Multiple CBJ plans have recommended providing shore power for cruise ships to reduce emissions and make Juneau a more attractive and competitive destination. There has been strong support for dock electrification from most major cruise lines. Would you support providing shore power for cruise ships at the city docks and support efforts to provide shore power to privately owned docks? Why, or why not?**

Lacey Derr:

One of the most frequent complaints/photos I see are from residents highlighting the amount of exhaust emitted from parked cruise ships. I would support our remaining docks being equipped to provide shore power to ships. As we look forward to the future and what tourism is going to look like post COVID-19, we can evaluate how timely this issue will need to be addressed. One of the consequences of big cruise ships is their negative impacts to the environment. It will be essential as we rebuild our community travel destination, that we positively rebrand our expectations of those who visit to be cleaner, healthier and more ecologically friendly. Shore power is an excellent example of ways to provide resources to support these positive, green expectations.

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Derek Dzinich:

While idling cruise ships burn hundreds of gallons of fuel per hour and thousands of gallons per day, Juneau residents are often left with a hazy and polluted downtown. Electrifying Juneau's cruise ship docks and allowing ships to use our electricity will cut down fossil fuel emissions and improve quality of life for Juneauites and Juneau wildlife. As a community, we see the impact of these emissions daily (especially at the Glacier), and dock electrification is a tangible step toward making real change. Additionally, my family has a long and proud history when it comes to sustainable energy generation in this town, and I want to do all I can to continue that legacy.

Alicia Hughes-Skandijs:

I am supportive of providing shore power to our cruise ships. This is something that I believe is widely supported by the community as a whole. The study currently in progress by Docks and Harbors and Haight and Associates should provide an updated snapshot and hopefully cost estimate of what it will take for us to get there.

Maria Gladziszewski:

Ideally, all ships traveling to Alaska would hook up to shorepower at every port up and down the coast of Alaska. I still await details on how it could be worked out and who will pay for various components. Shorepower would further enhance our past investments in city docks by making them more attractive to the cruise lines and will provide tax revenue on the electricity sales. In addition, use of shore power will address air quality issues downtown, make Juneau a more sustainable/desirable destination to cruise passengers, and bring our port up to current industry standards. CBJ would look to the electric utility and other possibly other local power producers to provide the necessary capacity and transmission and distribution infrastructure upgrades necessary to power the cruise ship energy needs. CBJ should work with the cruise industry to define the power needs and look to the electric utility to meet the community's power needs under typical electric utility regulations. As the Greens Creek Mine power needs provided the justification that supported the past Dorothy Lake hydro project development, the cruise industry power needs can be a substantial part of the justification for the next increment of hydropower development for Juneau. In a post-Covid tourism world, it's hard to game out what will be feasible in the near or long term.

I would encourage privately-owned docks to install shore power but do not believe it would be up to the city to support that infrastructure financially. The more the merrier, in a general sense, as more power users can spread sunk costs across more cruise line ratepayers.

Robert Shoemake:

Yes, I support this as a citizen and as a mariner. Having shore power available to cruise ships and other transient ships helps everyone, from the crew, that does not have to run and maintain engines, and to the citizens who don't have to breathe the smoke.

Kenny Solomon-Gross:

Yes, I support the idea if it can be accomplished without undue hardship on local electric customers and companies. The city is currently studying this idea but there are unknowns

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regarding which ships have the capability and can those ships dock at these docks. Given the uncertainty in the industry today, making sure we have accurate and timely information is going to be key before moving forward with a project of this scale and complexity.

Christine Woll:

Yes – it is clear from hearing from the community and the cruise companies that this is a desire. As part of the downtown planning process, I heard this message consistently. Dock electrification offers the opportunity not only to reduce carbon emissions, but also to improve the air quality in Juneau.

- 5. People of color and the poor are more likely to experience environmental health risks and the worst impacts of climate change. What policies or priorities would you support to ensure that minority and low-income Juneau residents benefit from clean energy solutions and a healthy environment?**

Lacey Derr:

Juneau has experienced its 3rd wettest summer on record. Our most vulnerable citizens have seen some of their indoor, warm lifelines close due to COVID-19 and the need to social distance. More of Juneau's homeless population are outside and exposed to the harsh elements due to the perfect storm of unforeseen circumstances. As city officials, the focus must remain on working to improve access to affordable housing, which includes affordable utilities. I support continuing to seek affordable, sustainable, long-term housing options for Juneau's most vulnerable citizens.

Derek Dzinich:

I would like to investigate subsidy programs that primarily target low-income communities and ethnic minorities. Heat pumps and Electric vehicles can have high upfront costs that can be prohibitive for members of marginalized groups, which are often economically disadvantaged. Initiatives like on-bill financing for heat pumps can help mitigate those high costs. Additionally, we need to do a better job of alerting members of marginalized communities to resources which are already available. For example, many Juneauites are unaware of the State of Alaska's energy audit program which provides households with funds to improve energy efficiency. In line with the goals set out in the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy, individual homeowners have a significant role to play, and we must do all that we can to support them.

Addendum As a young person, I will feel the effects of climate change far more acutely than most of those reading these responses and most of my opponents in this race. I am committed to swift and serious action on the climate. If we do not scale back greenhouse gas emissions, my generation and each and everyone one following us will pay the price dearly.

Alicia Hughes-Skandijs:

It's important that for any program the city undertakes it ensures that all segments of the community are able to partake in it, including low-income and minority residents. This means

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ensuring that our resources are being used in a way that will affect the widest segment of the population. Something that has a high initial sticker cost like a heat pump might not be as accessible to a lower income family, in that case it's important to make sure that subsidies or other initiatives are available to defray the cost of installation.

Maria Gladziszewski:

I would support programs/actions that identify and address Juneau's long-term climate impacts, such as drainage and utility upgrades in steep slope and low-lying areas where predicted precipitation increases will adversely affect some of Juneau's high-density rental and owner housing. I would advocate continuing support for helping accelerate heat pump adoption for residences, especially since lower cost housing stock also tends to be among the least energy efficient housing. As a climate-related food security and health issue, I would look to CBJ to identify unused city land parcels that might be converted to community gardens and gathering spaces adjacent to low-income neighborhoods. There are still too few parks/open spaces in the Lemon Creek neighborhood, for example, and indeed given the population of the area, a large park along the size of Savikko Park in Douglas and Dimond Park in the Valley is warranted.

Robert Shoemake:

Our community needs to understand that we all benefit from clean energy. As an Assembly member, I would assemble and advocate for plans for any city-owned subsidized housing units to become more energy efficient. The private sector also needs to see the cost-saving benefits of energy upgrades. The city could look into subsidized energy efficiency loans for privately owned subsidized housing as well. All citizens should be encouraged to increase their energy efficiency through targeted public relations announcements and well as links to information on how they can improve their energy efficiency. Everyone benefits from having a cleaner, more energy-efficient community.

Kenny Solomon-Gross:

The people that have the least ability to affect the outcome of their energy consumption are often those who live in multi-family housing. One way the city can help owners of those properties make these buildings more efficient is to participate in programs such as the C-PACE program discussed above. Those that do own single family homes can be helped by Alaska Heat Smart to help determine the best way to make their home more efficient. Another example is the CBJ Capital Transit system migrating to full bus electrification. Electric buses reduce the environmental and health risk for Juneau's children and the elderly.

Christine Woll:

The policies listed above collectively help all Juneau residents achieve a healthier environment, but your comments about people of color and the poor are important to address, especially as it relates to the upfront costs of these strategies, and who pays. For every policy we develop, we need to think about who it is benefitting, and how to work harder to make sure it benefits the people most heavily impacted the most. For example, electric car usage in Juneau is important to encourage, but providing infrastructure for electric car drivers likely benefit wealthier members of our community more. Electrifying buses should not result in higher fees being

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passed on to the users, which are often low-income residents. Programs like the Renewable Juneau's Carbon Offset Program are good examples of developing programming that specifically affords low-income households more opportunity to cleaner energy. Finally, the assembly just adopted a systemic racism committee – and this may be an area that we can ask for their advisement on as CBJ's energy policies and ordinances are further development.