

Katie's Plan: Lead on Climate

Climate change is an urgent global threat that has already begun to show significant impacts on the Sacramento Valley. [Reports indicate](#) that threats to our health and safety are increasing as a result of higher temperatures and increased risk of floods and wildfire. Sacramento should join more than [1,100 local governments in declaring a climate emergency](#) and then swiftly enact actionable, enforceable, and measurable policies to lead in solving this crisis. While we work hard to reduce emissions and improve infrastructure, we must also ensure our communities are protected against the current and future impacts of climate change. As we learned during the large wildfires in 2018, [Sacramento is not prepared for extreme events](#), and particularly has no strategy for low-income residents or those who don't speak English.

I served as the first Sacramento area representative on the AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, the first consultant for the state's Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies, and now as the Policy & Political Director for the California Environmental Justice Alliance. I'm ready to put my technical expertise and statewide relationships to work so Sacramento can lead on the fight against climate change by reaching for zero emissions by 2030.

As your Councilmember, I will:

- **Keep Sacramento the City of Trees** by continuing to protect and grow our incredible tree canopy and urban green spaces, as well as working to ensure new developments are tree-friendly.

When the recession hit, the City had to cut back on maintaining our parks and trees. Unfortunately, despite a strong economy the level of services for our urban green infrastructure has not caught back up. Our parks are in disrepair, our trees are not healthy, and [some neighborhoods lack sufficient tree canopy](#). I will advocate for resources to ensure our parks and trees stay healthy, that neighborhoods who lack access to green spaces and trees are prioritized, and that future development respects the important green infrastructure that makes our City more livable and vibrant places.

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- **Rapidly reduce emissions** by supporting rapid installation of community charging stations for electric vehicles, supporting stronger energy efficiency and building electrification policies, and advancing the adoption of an ambitious city climate plan.

Sacramento is well positioned to lead on climate by pursuing zero emissions by 2030. This would include tackling permitting challenges for electric vehicle charging stations, passing an energy efficiency and building electrification reach code that phases out natural gas infrastructure in new development (e.g. [San Jose's recent reach code](#)), as well as ensuring our General Plan aligns - or exceeds - the expectations of the Sustainable Communities Strategy put together by SACOG to reduce emissions from transportation.

- **Address transportation barriers** by closing the gaps in our current transportation system, ensuring residents have seamless and affordable ways to get around town without requiring a personal vehicle.

I know firsthand how hard it can be to get around Sacramento without a car. I also know the impact of poor air quality, having grown up next to oil fields and experiencing childhood asthma. Transportation is the largest source of both [GHG emissions](#) and [air pollution](#) in the Sacramento region. A critical way to reduce both is to increase walking and bicycling and public transit use. Making these modes viable requires a comfortable and connected network for walking and bicycling from neighborhoods to key destinations. I will also use our role on the board for Sacramento Regional Transit to push for a targeted ridership survey to identify and address gaps in our transit system.

Sacramento should follow the examples set by cities like Washington D.C. which have invested in closing the gaps in the transportation network, creating viable options for people at all income levels and levels of ability to get where they need to go without a personal vehicle.

- **Ensure the city has an emergency plan for every neighborhood** for coping with wildfire-driven extreme air pollution days or weather-driven evacuations, and working to communicate those plans to everyone - particularly youth, elderly, and those who don't speak English.

Whether it's fire, flood, or heat wave, Sacramento must have a plan for how to protect and communicate with residents in times of emergency. State law requires local governments to have emergency plans in place, and has recently been refined to explicitly require that those plans reach people who don't speak English. Sacramento can lead on this by establishing innovative ways to communicate with our

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neighbors and by ensuring that we have adequate plans in place for any emergency situation that might arise.

- **Employ the city's purchasing power to cut pollution** by passing procurement standards for City purchases to phase out single-use packaging and unnecessary waste and adopting Buy Clean purchasing policies that prefer cleaner manufacturers.

There are ample examples of local and state governments using their purchasing power to clean up the environment; one such example is the collection of model policies on the [CalRecycle website](#), developed based on 2002 legislation. I will work to ensure that Sacramento leads on implementing and learning from these policies.