



Environment

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. If we don't put curbing our carbon emissions and building a carbon-neutral city at the center of our policymaking, nothing else will matter. Every policy I create and review will be screened through a climate lens and I will implement Seattle's Green New Deal and Climate Action Plan.

Incremental change will not solve our climate crisis - our world is on fire and we must act now. I will take immediate action to ensure that all new construction is held to the highest energy efficiency standards with our nationally recognized energy code. One of the reasons I'm so passionate about improving public transit is the environmental benefit, and it is critically important that we utilize our carbon free electricity to electrifying our buildings and transportation systems.

Carbon-neutral City of Seattle

Seattle needs to set an example for others to follow and lead the way to dramatic reductions in carbon emissions. Those efforts have to start with the City itself. We need to incorporate the goals of our climate initiative into the City's business practices - fully electrifying our automotive fleet, bringing all city buildings up to the highest energy efficiency standards, and powering City infrastructure through 100% renewable energy.

Improved transit

Vehicles account for over half of the city's carbon emissions. The sooner we have a citywide network of connected bus lanes with reliable transit times, the people who already want to opt out of relying on their car will be able to do so. We don't have to wait for Congestion Pricing legislation if we have transit that truly moves people and that people can rely on. A network of protected bike lanes is critical, for cyclists and for merging the growing electrified micromobility sector into our transit networks. I will create a network in which users of these increasingly popular modes of transportation can travel safely and effectively.

Green building codes

Buildings are the largest source of carbon emissions in Seattle after transit. We need to make our buildings as energy-efficient as possible to meet our climate goals. I will ensure all new buildings are built to the highest standards of energy efficiency, add distributed solar energy and utility-scale wind and solar to support building electrification, and will include charging stations for electric vehicles. I will also support strong local implementation of building performance standards for existing buildings in alignment with state law.

Tree canopy protection

As the world warms, we need to make sure that our trees—and the shade, character, and carbon sequestration they provide—are intact. Seattle's current tree regulations, which protects only exceptional trees and trees over 2 feet in diameter, is insufficient—we can and must do more. I will prioritize passage of a tree canopy ordinance. This is legislation I have already worked on as staff, I understand the policy and politics, and I will keep the momentum going to pass the Tree Ordinance in 2020.



We need bold, decisive action to address our climate crisis, and we need it today. I will lead the way by working with our community to create robust policy to address climate change. I look forward to hearing from you about additional ways to preserve our planet.