

As a proud resident of Harrisonburg, I am committed to its prosperity and consider myself an integral part of the community. This commitment drives my decision to seek re-election. I aim to ensure that everyone who calls Harrisonburg home feels secure, valued and has abundant opportunities.

The City Council vision, adopted in 2023, envisions Harrisonburg as a harmonious, caring, and inclusive city that:

- Embraces and celebrates diversity
- Overcomes barriers to progress, and
- Courageously addresses inequities.

The Environmental Action Plan (EAP) includes city leaders, staff, and community members working together to implement sustainability visions and principles. For more details visit: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/EAP>

***1) According to Harrisonburg's 2022 Community inventory report, the three biggest sources of community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the city are commercial (30.8%), transportation (27.5%), and residential (12.7%). How will you approach lowering GHG emissions in each of those sectors?***

Commercially, efforts could include improvements in energy efficiency for commercial buildings, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for new constructions and major renovations and encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable practices, such as waste reduction and water conservation policies. For transportation I will prioritize a comprehensive study of our current bus system to improve routes and stops, ensuring that they meet the needs of all residents. I support bike lanes, pedestrian paths, and other infrastructure to promote walking and cycling and the use of smart traffic management practices to help reduce idling and congestion to decrease overall emissions. I will continue to support the City's residential programs that assist low-income households with weatherizing their homes and collaborate with local businesses, non-profits, and government agencies to leverage resources and share best practices

***2) One of the community goals of Harrisonburg's Environmental Action Plan is to "ensure that the transition to a low-carbon future is effective, affordable, equitable, and inclusive." How will you work to ensure that the environmental benefits are equitable?***

The City of Harrisonburg has implemented initiatives to ease the energy burden on low-income community members. Energy Efficiency Programs, including weatherization projects and energy-efficient appliances to reduce energy consumption by enhancing energy efficiency, making energy services more affordable. The City also offers subsidies or discounts on energy

bills for low-income households, funded through taxes or fees on energy providers. I support exploring solar programs for community members to invest in solar energy systems and conducting a tree canopy study to identify heat islands and enhance green spaces. The city could also explore “Tree City” designation to address sustainability and provide resources for future tree initiatives. I’ll continue to partner with local organizations like Community Housing Partners to educate vulnerable communities about available programs. Education plays a pivotal role in creating support for clean energy.

**3) 37% of community GHG emissions in Harrisonburg are from electricity. If Dominion Energy doesn't meet its VCEA renewable energy commitments sufficient for the City to attain its emissions goals, what actions will you take specific to our municipal utility, Harrisonburg Electric Commission, to reduce those emissions?**

HEC already offers energy efficiency initiatives that encourage comprehensive energy audits and retrofitting services, focusing on low-income and vulnerable populations. I would encourage public engagement and education around these existing programs and highlight the importance of reducing electricity consumption to support our sustainability goals. HEC could also consider integrating renewable sources through long-term contracts with renewable energy providers to stabilize energy costs.

**4) The city has started the process of revising its zoning ordinances. Sustainability and urban planning experts have noted that mixed-use and higher-density development are ways that zoning rules can help address climate change. What opportunities do you believe this process presents? What needs to happen to ensure that revising our zoning ordinances will produce equitable outcomes and promote the City's GHG emission reduction goals?**

Opportunities include increasing housing affordability, revitalizing urban areas by stimulating economic growth, and improving public transit access through more efficient and frequent public transit services. Harrisonburg is a vibrant community dedicated to addressing the complex challenge of affordable housing. This issue requires a collective effort from all of us. I will work closely with our housing coordinator, community stakeholders, and developers to identify and support housing developments that meet our community's needs. By establishing a housing trust fund and enhancing the business environment, we aim to attract more developers and increase the availability of affordable housing.

**5) What other environmental issues do you see in the city, and how would you address them?**

Limited bus routes have not adequately served our broader community, particularly those who rely on public transit for work, medical appointments, and access to grocery stores. I will prioritize a comprehensive study of our current bus system to improve routes and stops, ensuring that they meet the needs of all residents. Additionally, I will address the shortage of bus drivers by advocating for more livable wages and enhanced benefits, creating a reliable and efficient public transit system that supports the mobility and livelihoods of our community members.

I'll advocate for policies that reduce emissions, enhance public transportation, and improve clean energy access. I am committed to working with stakeholders to reduce our GHG emissions and advance our environmental goals. Together, we can make progress toward a cleaner and more sustainable future for our community. By fostering partnerships and promoting sustainable practices, we can ensure a resilient and thriving Harrisonburg for generations to come.