

**Name: Angela Kugler**

**Position: Kenmore City Council, Position #3**

**1. Do you accept that there's a Climate Crisis, and what's your plan to deal with it?**

Yes, I accept that there is a climate crisis, and I aim to deal with it in a number of ways, including supporting policies that reduce greenhouse gases, finding ways to incentivize the increased plantings of trees and restoring wetlands (and other natural carbon management systems), voting for candidates who support Climate Action, finding ways to live more environmentally friendly, and continuing to educate myself and others on how we can change behaviors and practices consistent with contributing to the reduction of GHGs.

**2. If you win, you would be taking office when the city is starting to implement its first Climate Action Plan. The next decade is pivotal in solving the climate crisis. Are you familiar with the city's plans and goals, and how would you help the city do that?**

As a current Councilmember, I am familiar with the Kenmore Climate Action Plan and I'm thrilled that we are moving forward with developing this plan. It's long overdue that we actively pursue strategies to reduce our greenhouse gases in our community and look at it through a climate justice lens. At this stage, we have just approved initial target GHG reduction goals and sought community input. Next, we will begin discussing strategies for achieving GHG goals and becoming net zero by 2050. City staff are now working on developing tactics and strategies for achieving GHG reduction, and I look forward to seeing those soon as well as providing input and suggestions for how we can be more ambitious than regional and state goals.

**3. Could you discuss how the U.S. and local governments should address climate justice? What opportunities do you see for this in Kenmore?**

In tandem with the City's Climate Action Plan, I believe it's essential that we tie-in equity, diversity, and inclusion and bring in marginalized voices, especially those who have been disproportionately affected in our community.

One such approach that I believe we can take in Kenmore is to review our tree canopy issue through an equity approach using a resource like the tree equity score available at [Tree Equity Score Project - American Forests](#). Increasing the density of trees in our downtown area and those that have lower scores first could help prioritize budget and community outreach and engagement and help restore trees where they're most needed first.

Other issues and opportunities we have to address as part of climate justice are access to affordable housing, anti-displacement efforts, and access to good quality, affordable food. We do not have good quality food or farmer's markets within our city limits and we have to travel to neighboring communities to access a lot of organic, locally grown, and naturally healthy foods.

Additionally, easy access to public transportation is critical for climate justice because it reduces single driver cars on our roads and also when coupled with affordable housing, can allow people to live closer to where they work. I have advocated for Kenmore to be included in Sound Transit's plans for easy access to their core light rail spine because having grown up in the D.C. area where we rode the Metro, I know that having access to public transportation is critical to accessing places easily, reducing pollution, and also providing economic opportunity and value to the area that's within close proximity and access to the transit lines.

We also need to help (by providing incentives or financial support) with improving the heating, cooling systems in older homes, especially for those who may be on fixed incomes or who cannot afford them.

**4. What do you think the potential could be for financial partnerships with federal and state and county governments to work on climate solutions?**

There are potentially a number of ways that Kenmore can partner with county, state, and federal governments to work on climate solutions. We just aligned ourselves with local county and state GHG reduction goals, and we're part of the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), which works with 17 partners and King County to secure grant funding and other shared resources and opportunities. In reviewing King County's Climate Action Plan, I think many of their strategies will be replicated in Kenmore's as well and there will likely be opportunities for working together on these goals.

On the State level, our governor recently signed the Healthy Environments for All (HEAL) Act, a law instituting a Clean Fuel Standard, which aligns Washington with the rest of the West Coast in promoting the use of low-carbon, renewable transportation fuels and increasing vehicle electrification. Additionally, he also signed new laws that ban most uses of Styrofoam packaging, and all uses HFCs. Knowing what the State has done, gives us opportunity to know where their priorities are and how we might work to synchronize on shared efforts.

On the federal level, we can look for grants through the EPA or other organizations that support wildlife, water quality, and other climate change resiliency and mitigation efforts. With the lack of a consistent federal climate action policy, we can partner with other cities both locally and across the United States to share best practices, ideas, and encourage other local municipalities to develop their own climate action plans. We can

connect with these other cities through the Association of Washington Cities, the National League of Cities, and the “Mayor’s Leading the Way on Climate” through the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. We can also help lobby for climate action bills with our local and federal legislators.

Finally, I believe there must be work with private utilities and businesses to really effect change in a quicker and long-lasting manner. Working with companies like Puget Sound Energy, Waste Management, and businesses will allow us to understand their challenges and motivations and allow us to advocate better for moving quickly toward a cleaner environment.

**5. What are your ideas about affordable housing in Kenmore?**

We should revisit zoning rules and policies, create more density and variety of living situations within neighborhoods, especially traditional, single family home communities. I’d like us to consider Co-ops, tiny apartments, or micro-homes all as possible options to provide variety and affordability at many income levels.

Additionally, I’m trying to learn more about community land trusts or other ways that the City can purchase land for future affordable housing projects that we can keep affordable too.

An additional related issue to affordable housing that we should be looking at are the factors that keep housing affordable – livable wages, access to good jobs (availability in Kenmore, access via transportation, and job preparation), and green building/construction materials.

**6. Do you support actions at the city level to reduce GHG emissions by adopting energy performance standards for new and existing buildings, eliminating new “natural” gas connections?**

Yes, I think these are both good ways of reducing GHG emissions in our City. We should be moving toward clean energy only and not contributing to additional dependence on fossil fuels.

\*PCA has a policy of not endorsing candidates. However, we consider this discussion to be very important and the beginning of an ongoing dialog. We do reserve the right to publish responses on [peopleforclimateaction.org](http://peopleforclimateaction.org). Please answer in writing on this document and send to [vgrayland@earthlink.net](mailto:vgrayland@earthlink.net). Please be in contact via email about scheduling a Zoom interview, an individual response to our questions, not a debate.