

ECAN - Christchurch Central

AXEL Wilke

Kia ora koutou,

Thanks for putting this together. That's a great service for the voting public. My answers are as follows:

1)

- Default mode of transport is bicycle or public transport, depending on the city I live in (30+ years ago)
- Cut consumerism to a minimum (30+ years ago)
- Boycott McDonald's as they are the prime cause for rainforest conversion to beef farming (30+ years ago)
- Train as a traffic engineer to support sustainable transport (28 years ago)
- Stopped using plastic shopping bags (circa 25 years ago)
- Buy local as much as possible (20 years ago)
- Develop a training course for my peers so they can learn about planning and design for cycling (17 years ago; ongoing)
- Live in the central city to have to choose between walking and cycling for most trips (17 years ago)
- Lobbying and submitting on environmental issues (13 years ago; irrigation is the first one I can recall)
- Purchasing second hand rather than new wherever possible (10 years ago)
- Reduce meat consumption (10 years ago; it's an ongoing process, I now eat meat about once a week)
- Taking my own bags to the supermarket (10 years ago)
- Reduce travel to Europe to not more often than every four years (circa 8 years ago)
- Engaging in public protest: bank divestment from fossil fuels, TPPA, climate emergency (4 years ago)
- Stop flying internationally (2 years ago)
- Stop purchasing shampoo in bottles and instead support local business Ethique's solid bars (2 years ago)
- Purchasing vegetables from Ooooby (1.5 years ago)
- Bake our own bread to avoid plastic bags (1 year ago)
- Replace plastic products such as brushware and scourers with natural and biodegradable alternatives (1 year ago)

- Looking for alternatives to grocery items in plastic packaging: glass jars, refilling my own bottles, purchasing direct from suppliers (1 year ago)
- Decrease dairy in my diet, increase vegan meals (1 year ago)
- Seek approval from the co-owners of my successful business to stand for ECan (10 months ago)

2)

Absolutely. ECan should have declared an ecological emergency at the time of the climate declaration. This needs to be put on the agenda for the incoming council to discuss. I would also seek to strengthen the declaration by adding some meaningful clauses to it, and to set specific target dates for achieving emissions reductions. Plus add the ecological emergency to the declaration, as climate and ecology are interwoven, and ECan's area of influence is strongly ecological.

3)

There is no doubt that the climate and ecological emergency is the most important challenge that faces us. It is therefore essential that this becomes the overarching priority for everything we do and every decision we make. In the first instance, our society needs to become aware of the immediacy and depth of the problem. I would be putting some of ECan's resources towards telling the public the truth about the climate and ecological emergency, ensuring they understand the situation we face, and educating them as to what type and level of action would be needed to turn things around. This would empower the public to call for the change we need, and to support the radical action required. I believe that when people have the right information they are capable of making the right choices. I would therefore engage the wider population in decision-making through a citizen's assembly, providing an independently facilitated forum where technical expertise is made available, and where the complex and inter-related issues can be deliberated and solutions put forward. The representative nature of a citizen's assembly means that any recommendation that comes from it is a strong mandate to act, even on issues which may seem politically tricky. The current ECan council has an agreement to 'consider' the climate crisis when making all decisions. This is not strong enough. Every decision must be tested against whether it ultimately contributes to or mitigates the emergency. A clear set of annual reductions targets must be put in place, and adhered to. There must be an annual emissions budget which aligns with that required to remain below 1.5C of global heating, and when making decisions ECan must ensure they remain within this budget.

4)

It is essential that vested interests are not given a stronger voice in decision-making than the common citizen. The current submissions processes, which allow vested interests (usually considered to be those who are 'immediately affected' by the proposed changes) the opportunity for a second round of submissions following the public ones, must cease. We are all affected by decisions around our water, air and land, and there must not be more power given to a minority simply because they stand to gain or lose profit in the short term, at the expense of the greater majority who will either have to remedy the damage at a later date, or to suffer the costs of a damaged ecosystem.

The system of submissions hearings is fundamentally flawed. Often, high-level decisions have already been made. Public engagement should start much earlier, e.g. at the stage of formulating objectives.

The level of engagement with the wider public must move towards a more collaborative decision-making model, such as a citizen's assembly, and there must be a willingness on the part of the council to adopt the recommendations that the assemblies come up with. I would like to see a citizen's assembly on how to best respond to the climate and ecological emergency, and for this to be binding on the council, within the constraints of its powers and finances.

Water zone committees are a flawed model of engagement, and need to go.

Lan Pham - ECAN - Chch - Central

1. What changes have you made in your life, personally, in response to the climate crisis?

(Note: It's really tricky in answering this question because for me, the lines are completely blurred between what is 'personal' and what might typically be considered 'professional'. For example, my running for ECan was primarily driven from my personal response to the climate crisis and my pursuit of intergenerational justice, so that's why I'm including that here amongst other personal life changes.)

- Chose freshwater ecology as my field of specialty in an attempt to contribute to the active restoration of Aotearoa's precious waterways and the amazing critters which inhabit them.

- I ran for Regional Council in 2016 whilst stationed on Raoul Island in the Kermadecs because in short – although the life of an island hermit was awesome, I knew urgent action on the climate crisis was needed, and I knew regional council was the greatest avenue of influence available to me. Since being elected, I've been in the privileged position of being able to lead the council in opposition to oil and gas exploration off the Canterbury Coast, the establishment of a dedicated 'Climate Change Integration Programme' (which has a number of key work streams including: developed a process to ensure all high-level decision making incorporates climate considerations; undertook ECan's first GHG emissions footprint assessment; and is currently undertaking a 'first pass' regional climate change risk assessment to eventually feed into the National Climate Change Risk Assessment), strong submissions on the Zero Carbon Act and following Climate Change Amendment Act, and the first NZ council to declare a 'climate emergency'. Don't get me wrong, there is a long way to go. This is just the beginning of what was possible under this current council.

- Consistent submissions and participation in climate-related marches/rallies/protests (e.g. bank fossil fuel divestment, TPPA, etc) since becoming aware of the issues in 2010 when completing my masters in freshwater ecology. My first experience in submitting to central government on climate issues was in 2010 on behalf of my law class where we were opposing continued oil and gas exploration (where I was later quoted in parliament!).

- Organised the only Global Climate March (on Raoul Island in 2015) where the 'entire population' (of 7 people...) turned up to the march. Made international news in the Guardian!- Bike everywhere I can (although I must admit since recently being hit by a car on my bike at night, I have been avoiding biking at night while I regain my nerves and when it's raining heavily I drive, carpool or bus). Have invested in bike trailers and baby bike seats so I can get around easily with my one year old by bike as preferred mode of transport.

- Chosen to live close to the city to maximise ability to bike, walk and access to bus routes.

- Buy local produce and organic where possible in an effort to support local food supply chains that have minimal environmental impact. Minimise purchasing plastic packaging eg. bake own bread, use shampoo and conditioner and moisturiser bars, use refill stations and own containers, etc.

- Have been a meat and dairy minimiser and vegetarian/vegan maximiser for 3 years.- Have chosen not to fly internationally since 2015. Reduce domestic flying as much as possible and I offset my emissions when I do fly domestically.

- I have sourced my clothing second hand or from ethically produced and environmentally sustainable brands since realising in 2014 that I was the end

point and totally complicit in the hugely destructive (for both workers and the environment) 'fast fashion' industry.

- I talk about the climate and ecological crisis! At every public (and personal...sorry friends and whanau!) opportunity I have. Which has involved countless talks and events over my now almost 3 years as a councillor.

2. Will you, if elected to the ECan Council, vote to reaffirm the Climate Emergency Declaration and to amend it to 'Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration'?

Yes, absolutely I would support that amendment. It is after all, a statement of fact. After trying, and failing, at getting council to consider adding the 'ecological' part at XR's request, I was eventually relatively content with ECan falling short in declaring a 'climate AND ecological' crisis (we simply declared a 'climate crisis') because at the time (and in discussion with other individuals and groups like you XR!) I could see the importance of getting the declaration 'over the line' in recognition of how critical the 'domino effect' could be with a number of councils considering declarations in the following hours, days and weeks. I was extremely relieved and now very proud that we got there with the numbers. I would include in the amendment a call to other councils and central government to declare also, and ideally make the amendment at the appropriate time within our first annual plan deliberations so that we can enforce the change with bolstered funding and resources to ensure it is no longer primarily a symbolic statement.

3. Are you willing to make the climate and ecological emergency the overarching priority for everything that you do/every decision you make? How will you do that?

Yes, it's a must. I think the key to achieving this is ensuring there is general acceptance on council that we are an evidence-based decision making authority. Given that, it is indisputable that anything other than climate and ecological issues are at the core of how ECan governs and operates. I think council is well set up for making it so, as one of the key achievements I feel I contributed to on council was elevating biodiversity to council's highest strategic priority alongside water. Climate, water and biodiversity are inextricably linked, and given ECan's role in the sustainable management of our precious natural resources, it follows that our guiding strategic focus is to minimise climate disruption and maximise ecological restoration and repair. I've already outlined a bit about the 'Climate Change Integration Programme' which I see as the bare minimum of what will be able to inform a hugely bolstered focus for this next council as being our overarching priority. For example, every decision should be assessed on whether it ultimately

contributes to or mitigates the climate and ecological crisis. I also want to position ECan as a leader in responding to the climate and ecological crisis and 'walking the talk' on the ground we've traversed so far in our submissions on the Climate Change Amendment Bill where we urged government to set emission targets in-line with limiting global heating to 1.5C. I'd like to see that backed up with an annual emissions budget for Canterbury which aligns with that goal.

The other key aspect is going on this journey of unprecedented change alongside our community. That means much more investment and focus on awareness, education and support in citizens understanding the climate and ecological crisis, and providing the 'why' to inform the reasons behind the actions we need to take.

4. How will you ensure that all voices are heard equally in matters relating to the climate emergency?

I often talk about an appropriate response to the climate crisis being that we would have 'everyone, everywhere, doing everything they possibly can within their sphere of influence' which could involve one or all of: getting politically active in calling on leaders to take action, urgently reducing emissions, reducing our consumption and waste habits, reducing our impact on the environment in how we carry out our lives and livelihoods, actively building and/or participating in local food systems/economies, and actively restoring nature. So to me this means different people have both different responsibilities to contribute to urgent action (e.g. for those of us who have the privilege of health, income and security, we have more responsibility, and different perspectives to offer in informing council of our communities views. Are they all equally relevant and important? Yes. However, where I believe ECan has gone wrong is there has been an acceptance and facilitation of some sectors of society having elevated influence, and that is primarily in the agricultural sector with individuals, industry and lobby groups who have vested interests. As a new council, I believe we would actively pursue the diverse voices in the region through use of 'people's assemblies' which would advise council and their recommendations would form the basis of council's deliberations on funding and resourcing the recommendations in our annual and long term plans. One of the most critical aspects of hearing all voices equally would mean implicit recognition of the 'voices' and rights of future generations to a stable climate and an ecologically functional ecosystem.

Alan Chow - ECAN - Central - Ohoko

My responses below

1. I sold my SUV and purchased a fuel efficient hatchback in May 2019.
2. Yes
3. Yes, I will put climate change central to my considerations.
4. I will engage with stakeholders and those that are affected by all my decisions.

Regards
Alan Chow

Felicity Price - Central Ohoko Ward - ECAN

1. What changes have you made in your life, personally, in response to the climate crisis?

At home, I try to reuse as much as possible. There was no such thing as a single use plastic bag in our house, and now plastic bags are scarce I substitute paper bags and bread bags. I recycle clothes (ie I mend them and reuse, which is a dying art) and find most things come back into fashion after a few years! I hate this throwaway society, especially the cheap throwaway clothes from China. Our home is heated by a heat pump, and I walk or catch the bus into town whenever possible. If elected to ECan I will catch the bus into the office (it's right opposite the bus interchange). ECan is in charge of the buses after all and is busy telling everyone else to catch a bus, but I bet the councillors don't! I won't be taking up a councillor carpark and I challenge other city-dwelling councillors to do the same. I try to have a paperless office now, and rarely print out documents. These are all small actions, but if everyone makes small actions, it will add up to a lot fewer emissions.

2. Will you, if elected to the ECan Council, vote to reaffirm the Climate Emergency Declaration and to amend it to 'Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration'?

I am happy to reaffirm the Climate Emergency Declaration -

it was and continue to be the right thing to do. I don't see a problem in extending this into an Ecological Emergency declaration as well.

3. Are you willing to make the climate and ecological emergency the overarching priority for everything that you do/every decision you make? How will you do that?

Where possible, yes. I'm not sure it applies to everything ECan does though - ECan is a regulatory authority that is responsible for a number of things that aren't so relevant to climate change, such as Civil Defence, identifying natural hazards, biosecurity and flood protection. However, most of ECan's work involves kaitiakitanga of the region's water, land and air quality. And this includes our precious biodiversity, planting along waterways, and getting rid of the air pollution that has plagued several Canterbury cities and towns. And by far the most important of all is protecting our waterways. I strongly support reducing the allowable levels of nitrates in rivers and streams well below the 3.8mg of nitrate per litre of water set recently by ECan. There are too many cows in Canterbury and reducing allowable nitrate levels will effectively and slowly reduce these numbers, while protecting water quality. I'm also against the transfer of water use consents as happened at Cloud Ocean in Belfast, enabling the extraction and export of nearly two billion litres of our precious pristine aquifer water to China and the possibility of getting several billion litres more. Cloud Ocean's future is uncertain, but it could easily happen again unless we stop the transfer of consents like that without any consultation. We have to protect the valuable aquifers under Christchurch for our grandchildren and the future.

We also need to make our rivers swimmable and fishable again - and that's not just our rural rivers. I remember as a child being able to fish and even swim in the Avon. I want to see it cleared up and we city people have to do our bit too - stop putting pollutants down our outside drains like paint-wash, car-wash solvents, rubbish, cigarette butts, and the pollutants in our city soils that wash into the Heathcote every time it rains. It all ends up in the river which is why it's such a mess. We can't just blame nitrates on river pollution. In the cities, it's up to us to clean up the rivers.

4. How will you ensure that all voices are heard equally in matters relating to the climate emergency?

ECan has to consult with those organisations that have a mandate to do something about our environment and to ensure their voices are heard.

Felicity

Nicole Marshall - ECAN - Christchurch Central - Ohoko

Hi team,

1. I have responded to climate change by changing my consumer habits. As a preference buying brands and products that are sustainable, local, and have pro-environmental records. I try to minimise car use. Professionally, I advocate for adaptive approaches to managing our resources and pragmatic solutions that do not compromise our future.

2. 100% yes

3. Yes. I will address these emergencies by being future focussed. Tomorrow is created in today's decisions. My decisions will reflect that we are facing increasing uncertainty and our approaches need to reflect this while also minimising potential to snowball any further through focusing on the uncertainty of it all. We must adopt the precautionary approach and take action now to enable transition away from industry and practices that we know are harmful to ourselves and our future

4. Firstly, not bowing to pressure from established advocacy groups. Secondly, ensuring effective engagement and education of our communities. So our people know what's going on and understanding why, what pressures there are, and any potential limitations. Thirdly, listening to the evidence not the agendas. I will be holding strong to my personal values; we're all in this together, and to get out of it we need to work with each other not against.

Paul McMahon - ECAN - Central - Ohoko

Kia ora,

My answers are as follows:

1. My wife and I have two children (7 & 10) and we only have one (hybrid) car, I have a push-bike and an e-bike. I used to bus a lot but ECan cut my route to work. I keep my electronic products for as long as I can and repair or get them repaired - I have had the same laptop and phone since 2014. We make sure that we compost all our food-scrap. My KiwiSaver is with Simplicity, an ethical and sustainable charity.

2. Yes.

3. Yes. We must do everything in our power to make sure that our decisions are based on ecological sustainability, rather than trying to seek some kind of balance between the economy and living systems - we need to live within the environmental limits of growth. In saying that, I am committed to ensuring a just transition for those people who are affected by the need to de-carbonise our society. One way that we (The People's Choice) have talked about ensuring we keep this front of mind is that we setup an independent environmental ethics body to advise us and keep us honest.

4. I grew up in South Auckland, I live in Woolston, and I have spent my entire adult life working for communities like mine. One of the reasons I decided to run was because my community - Woolston - was being ignored while Westmorton got an upgraded bus route. In terms of New Zealand (as opposed to globally) and Canterbury, we need to re-invigorate regional democracy by providing multiple ways for people to engage. The current consultation on Plan Changes 2 & 7 are the antithesis of the kind of approach I want to see taken. Partly it's just about fronting up and spending time listening, but also it's about developing pathways to help people participate in decision making that affects them.

Cheers,
Paul McMahon.