

CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE: **CLEAN CITY**



A clean, energy efficient city is essential to keeping our water and air clean, and allowing citizens to live healthy lives. As a member of the City Council, I will work toward ensuring our City is creating an environment all our citizens are pleased to call home:

Improved Recycling: We must work with the County and Waste Management to increase recycling in apartment complexes and businesses. These are not adequately served. It also hinders material collection numbers, which are important economically and environmentally.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles: Public transportation vehicles should be alternative energy based, using electricity and/or compressed gas. In the long term, this saves money which can better be used to improve service.

Energy efficiency: All public buildings must be energy efficient.

This is done through systematic reviews of energy plans, equipment that regulates usage and use of innovative techniques that reduce consumption. All future construction should incorporate green building best practices. Traffic signals, crosswalks, school speed zone signals, etc., should all be converted to LED lights and solar energy.

Clean Up Fund Preservation: The City must advocate at the state to ensure funding exists for cleanup efforts. The current fund is losing money and adjustments need made to tipping fees to ensure dollars are preserved. Without the fund, if a hazardous site is discovered, a municipality must pay, not the state. These funds are essential to keeping areas clean and reducing the economic burden on cities.

Public Transportation & Bikeways: Providing safe, reliable alternative transportation is essential to keeping Topeka clean and reducing maintenance costs. We must continue to invest in bikeways and improve public transportation.

Community Advocacy: We must partner with groups like local Chapter of Keep America Beautiful & the Kansas Organization of Recyclers to educate citizens on the importance of energy and recycling. We must develop curriculum for schools to enhance programs & promote efforts.

Community Gardens: We have community programs that should be expanded into other areas that have needs and open areas. Not only are these great programs for education purposes but also provide productive outlets for youth.

Water Conservation: Many cities have instituted water best practices to reduce consumption when not necessary. For example, roundabouts should be landscaped to need minimal water usage.

Safe Chemicals: Road chemicals in winter can be used that are less harmful to trees and waterways. These alternatives and other chemicals are just as effective, do not have burdensome costs and are better of the overall health of our community.

Alternative Energy: We need to pursue trial programs that tap into solar and wind energy to help low income housing and areas reduce energy costs.



Spencer

