

Vote Jonathan Channing

DIVERSITY OF THOUGHT

DECISIVENESS OF ACTION

INTEGRITY OF CHARACTER

Standing for
St Saviour



Green Hustings Questions and Answers

General

What is your stance/opinion on climate change and Jersey's role/ current commitment to tackling it?

I believe Jersey as a global citizen has a role to play in climate change and we are playing that role through our commitment to the Paris agreement.

Sitting Deputies and new candidates: What is your biggest environmental or sustainability- related political goal in the next four years?

A goal of mine is to spark the conversation around behaviour change to win support in the Assembly for more innovative methods of promoting sustainable living. I would like to see in the next four years an eco incentive program developed to facilitate that behaviour change and give a platform for sustainable businesses to thrive in addition to creating 'eco points' to reward sustainable choices.

What credentials and experience do you have to advance Jersey's sustainability initiatives as we tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis?

I have no credentials, all I have is an ability to think outside the box and a passion to deliver for my community. Having a background in technology and more recently developing an understanding in Social Value I bring certain competencies and understandings of the potential that exists for Jersey to lead the way and notably be regarded as an innovative jurisdiction in its approach.

Local

GoJ - The States Assembly have declared a Climate Emergency. In order for GoJ to expect and encourage Islanders and businesses to decarbonise, it must lead by example and do the same. What areas do you see as the priority areas for decarbonising within your Parish?

I think the Parish will have to embrace more sustainable transport methods, I suspect this to include increases in bus coverage and frequency. I also would like to see more focus put on nature corridors in the parish to better coexist with nature.

Energy

Energy supply and agency over the Island's own production of electricity is a growing issue, which was exacerbated by the fishing disputes in 2021. What is your stance on Jersey's current energy supply, would you change it and if so, how and why?

I believe Jersey had a tremendous opportunity to harness tidal energy and not be held captive to the will of France's parliament. We should seek to move towards energy sovereignty but this will require substantial investment and have to be a longer term strategic ambition.

how would you work with Jersey Electricity to encourage the incentivisation and uptake of renewable micro-generation for Islanders?

I would seek to introduce solar panels on new build properties to ensure that we start the journey towards renewable micro-generation. There may be an argument for a grant based scheme that fits solar panels to a number of properties and directs surplus back to the grid.

If you secured your seat in the Assembly, what would you do to support the switch to low-carbon heating systems for residents on the Island?

I think there exists opportunities for green roofs which are popular in Germany and mandatory for new buildings in commercial zones in France. This addresses carbon reduction and increases biodiversity as well as reduces the amount of energy required for heating and cooling.

Transport

What do you believe are the key areas within the transport sector that need addressing in order to achieve a reduction in emissions and benefit local Islanders?

I believe we need to invest in our buses and ensure greater frequency and coverage. This coupled with ensuring reasonable provision for cyclists and encouraging households to car share or considering hydrogen electric for their next car would help reduce emissions.

If elected, how would you support the development and funding of active travel on the Island?

I would support active travel through incentivising it and creating 'active travel circles' to create healthy competition amongst peers. I would also explore the creation of 'eco points' for sustainable choices such as using an Evie bike.

What would you do to address the gender gap for active travel and encourage cycling for all young people on the Island?

I would seek to understand the factors at play to understand the gender gap and what underpins it. There could be an argument for more representative role models to encourage adoption or heightening channels of communication on this within schools.

What are your views on walking routes to school and would you do want to develop this within your parish? If so, how would you implement it/what is your priority for developing safer walking routes to schools within your parish?

I believe this has to start with education and promoting active travel amongst schools. We then need to work out the rather complicated Parish demographic and geography and how we ensure equity for all students in the Parish in terms of creating safer walking routes. I support exploring solutions using a 'Digital Twin' of the Parish to ensure we aren't missing any opportunities for safer walking routes.

What are your views on this and what would you do to develop this opportunity for the Island?

I would work with Digital Jersey and bodies internationally to ensure Jersey's narrative as a sandbox is well represented and we are seen as the go to destination to pilot new technologies.

What will you do to ensure that Jersey takes action to significantly reduce carbon emissions during the next term?

I think it's important to reach the target by 2050 but as an island with a small population and not so substantial contribution to the larger picture I do think we need to be proportionate in our ambition and balance it with being fiscally responsible.

What will you do to ensure that Jersey takes action to significantly reduce carbon emissions during the next term?

The Taskforce for Nature-Related Financial Disclosure, endorsed by the UN, provides a framework for risk management and disclosure for organisations to report and act on nature-related risks. Once this is officially published in September 2023, would you support the adoption of mandatory introductions of nature based financial disclosures for organisations based in Jersey, particularly within the Finance Sector?

I am receptive to exploring this in more detail once published.

Agriculture

What are your thoughts on pushing the need for sustainable farming practices, particularly policies of regenerative agriculture?

Ecological farming I believe must become the norm for Jersey. We need to step away entirely from pesticides and chemicals in our farms and focus on persevering our soil and leaving future generations in a sustainable position.

Food systems

- What are your views on the Island's level of food security, and would you change anything? If so, what would you want to change and how?
- How do you plan on supporting and developing the agricultural industry within your parish?

I believe food systems thinking is crucial for Jersey and we must ensure we think in systems to reduce the cost and carbon footprint of food necessities. I have a good relationship with prominent figures in the agriculture industry and will work alongside them to bring about measures, sustainable change.

I also believe looking at our supply chains and ensuring they are decentralised will be crucial for our food security. We as an island mustn't be reliant on external forces for food necessities.

What would you do to ensure that the CNR receives appropriate funding to reach net zero by 2050?

I would support the direction of travel but review the Road Map and make improvements where necessary if elected as a member of the new assembly. It is important we as an island make every citizen an active participant in the fight against climate change, I believe further consideration can be given to promoting more sustainable mindsets.

Circular economy

What are your views on the circular economy and its applicability to Jersey?

For me it's important that we champion sustainable business practices with a view to them becoming the norm in the future. A circular economy makes a great deal of sense and we should seek to heighten our support for businesses acting with a circular economy mindset.

What initiatives would you put in place to encourage the adoption/transition to a circular economy for the Island?

I think we should do more to support local businesses who are working to a circular economy methodology and have a dashboard so islanders are able to choose them over other businesses and be rewarded with 'eco points'

International

How do you plan to build relations with global delegates and to further play your part in meeting agreed targets? / how would you plan on Jersey expanding its impact and representation at the next COP?

I believe we need to get serious about our food systems and how we propose to achieve something remarkable on a 9by5 island. This will have to come from innovative stances and empowering those with the most relevant knowledge in our community to really step forward and be supported as thought leaders on behalf of the island.

What role would you play in helping Jersey contribute to this pledge, despite the limited support for this pledge within the CNR?

I believe Jersey needs to be realistic and balanced in our ambitions. We absolutely should do our part as global citizens but we must do so and understand we as an island have a part to play but it is a proportionate part. I would imagine our carbon offsetting activity could be centred around supporting this pledge.

How do you plan to support Jersey's finance industry in collaboration with the UK to provide a solution in their decarbonisation journey?

I will support through proactive engagement with Jersey Finance and the industry to truly understand the opportunity for Jersey to add value to the U.K. ambition and other countries with similar ambitions. ESG first thinking is a something I am keen to drill into government.

As a Parish, what policies or strategies would you hope to implement in order to reduce your scope 3 emissions?

I think as a Parish we can support buy-local schemes more and hold events demystifying carbon emissions and climate change making younger people apart of the journey and empowering them to educate over the dinner table.

Some worry that the decision to review and produce a carbon offset framework in 2025, along with the decision on becoming carbon neutral to be taken by 2028 is too late. What is your opinion on this, and what would you do to support GoJ, or your parish, in producing a carbon offsetting policy? For wanting change/things done differently for environmental commitments:

I believe carbon offsetting is a crucial activity for us to undertake as an island to achieve our targets but we must be broad in what carbon offsetting initiatives we invest in and ensure we are truly delivering value. I would move forward the timeline to review and produce a framework. I would also keenly explore and set into action local methods of carbon capture to ensure we are being proactive in the fight against climate change.

You will make many commitments as a politician, but how will you actually ensure these are achieved?

I will make sure my commitments are achieved through choosing to commit to the issues that I will work tirelessly to resolve and not the issues that I suspect will make me popular with the public.