

Howard Switzer, Green Party candidate for Governor, also responded:

For me none of these questions get to the heart of the problem but I will try to answer. I may sound a little radical but we have allowed a radical altering of the planet as well as a radical malformation of our nations government, and it will take radical action to fix it.

1. What specific experience, expertise and education requirements would you use as criteria for selecting the new Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation?

Can't say, but I would be looking for someone with no connections to the existing political system or chemical/ag corporations. I would seek advice from SOCM as well as other environmentalists I know like Albert Bates and Adam Turtle. I would bring a broom to the agency.

2. Municipal and state-backed models exist for public sector green jobs weatherization initiatives with innovative financing measures and cross- sector coordination (government, private investors, community, labor, businesses, etc.). How would you support a large-scale initiative in TN as a strategy to generate much-needed jobs, reduce peak demand for energy, provide a pipeline for our young people to stay in the state while protecting green spaces and agricultural lands in Tennessee?

We cannot afford the same old lame approach (see my program below)

3. Almost half of Tennessee is in farmland, and agriculture provides over 200,000 jobs. Yet Tennessee loses over 42,000 acres of farmland each year to residential, commercial, and industrial development. What proactive measures would you take to improve the viability of Tennessee's farms?

We will build soil, soil, soil. (see my program below)

4. What economic development incentives do you support to make Tennessee more competitive in the recruitment of renewable energy and energy efficiency manufacturing industries?

We will build our own renewable energy industry. I'm opposed to recruiting any major corporations help. If you can find one not tied to them, maybe.

5. The state is required to establish water quality rules and standards no less stringent than those established by the federal government. Recognizing Tennessee's diverse and unique environment, on what terms do you support water quality protections greater than the minimum established by the EPA?

We live on a planet with only one ocean, the fresh water cycle and all the bodies of living organisms, including us are a part of it. It is said that "the mark of a civilization is that they don't shit in their drinking water" but we do. Water is sacred and water policy should reflect that. The EPA is dominated by corporate wealth and their tepid rules for protecting water a joke... if it

wasn't so serious.

6. As Governor, what steps would you take to support efforts to reduce the amount of water and coal TVA uses to make electricity by investing more in solar, wind, energy efficiency and other water saving energy technologies?

The first one, the second one, the third one until we are there. If I'm elected I the coal and nuclear power industries will be challenged to clean it up or pack it up.