



Office of the Mayor
Nathan Bocks, MAYOR

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the City of Holland Community Energy Plan Strategic Development Team! You will play a very important role in helping keep Holland on track in our 40-year energy plan.

Nearly a decade ago, the Holland Community commissioned the development of an energy plan, intended to make Holland a world-class, energy efficient city. Adopted in 2011, the Holland Community Energy Plan is a strategy document, which over a 40-year period considers multiple potential initiatives across all sectors, residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation. It is a plan that seeks to balance goals of protecting the environment, while being competitive in our energy supply and attractive to business development. The process was robust and comprehensive, seeking voices throughout the community. Ultimately, the plan landed on a primary metric to represent success, greenhouse gas emissions per capita. We started this journey with Holland at 24 metric tons per capita, with an expectation that without intervention, that number would grow to 37 by 2050. Holland's plan seeks instead to achieve a reduction to 10 metric tons per capita by 2050.

In order for such a long-range plan to endure, the City Council recognized that there must be an operational structure to keep it alive. Two committees have been assigned to ensure the plan continues to evolve as needed and to make regular progress toward the end goal. One of those committees is the Strategic Development Team (SDT). The SDT is charged with reviewing the success of various initiatives undertaken, considering relevant new data emerging, and making recommendations to City Council on the strategic priorities to be worked on over the next 3-5 years. Once these interim strategies are identified and approved by City Council, the other group, the Community Energy Plan Steering Committee, embarks on the process of research, design, pilot, and hopefully institutionalize various programs to address those strategies. Since 2011, many initiatives have successfully gone through to being institutionalized. Our Home Energy Retrofit and On-bill Financing programs, electric vehicle incentives, along with the Holland BPW's energy waste reduction program and electric portfolio shift from coal to efficient natural gas and renewable energy have already resulted in a reduction of Holland's carbon footprint. Instead of being north of the 24 metric ton starting point, we are now down to 19, well on our way.

We are again at the point of needing to convene the SDT. City Council identified the CEP as one of its top priorities this past January at its annual strategic planning session. Voices in the community are also raising concerns about whether the CEP timing is appropriate given recent climate science. This is where you come in. We are bringing together representatives from government, utilities, education, business, and special interest, to help develop Holland's strategies for what's next in energy supply and use in our community. The SDT process is expected to last six to nine months. It is likely that this group, supported by City/HBPW staff and consultants, will meet at least monthly, but perhaps as much as every other week for various periods during the that time. The SDT will review progress to date, receive information from relevant subject matter experts, evaluate options, and recommend potential strategies and goal timelines to City Council. The SDT will also be supported in efforts to seek public input at various stages of the process as the SDT determines to be needed.

Thank you for participating in this tremendously important community effort.