

Chapter 1: Community Energy Plan Background

Project Work Team - Process and Methodology

The City of Holland recognizes that it will face some critical energy challenges in the coming years. It also recognizes the wider uncertainty over the cost, supply security and environmental impact of energy use. At a local level, some major community decisions are imminent that could set the direction of the electricity and possible district heating supply system for decades to come. These combined challenges present an opportunity to rethink the City's overall approach to energy and its role in the competitiveness and quality of life of the community.

In January 2011, the leadership of the City of Holland, the Holland Sustainability Committee and the Board of the Holland Board of Public Works, charged the Community Energy Plan Project Work Team² ("PWT" or "Team") to develop a 40-year integrated energy strategy for the City. The Team included representatives from the City and the consultants. The PWT met regularly from January 2011 through August 2011 to establish the energy baseline and develop the CEP recommendations. Numerous meetings were held to engage the community in the process, including two Energy Town Hall Meetings. A full list of the meetings and participation is summarized in Appendix 1.

This Community Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy Plan ("Community Energy Plan" or "CEP") was prepared by the PWT with guidance and direction from the Sustainability Committee, the Mayor's Energy Task Force³, along with input from the wider community. The CEP is submitted to the City Council, through the Sustainability Committee, as the PWT's recommendation for the City of Holland's long-term energy strategy.

Throughout the CEP, the level of greenhouse gas emissions arising from energy use will be used as a general indicator of both energy productivity and environmental impact. This will be stated both in terms of the evolution of total emissions of the City and as emissions per resident. This latter is becoming a common index for municipalities around the world, and is a useful general metric for tracking the overall progress when implementing the CEP.

Energy Mission and Goals

Holland will ensure its competitiveness for decades to come as summarized by its Energy Mission:

Energy Mission

Enhance the attractiveness of the City to investors, businesses and residents through the availability of cost effective, reliable and clean energy supply.

This will be achieved by meeting the following energy related goals:

Energy Goals

1. Provide lower energy cost than neighboring communities.
2. Develop industrial energy services tailored to investors' needs.
3. Secure highly reliable electricity and heat supply from local sources.
4. Enable flexibility to meet changing technologies, legislation, fuel costs and other market conditions.
5. Meet commitment to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
6. Be a leader in developing a regional energy strategy.

² See Acknowledgements Section for PWT Membership

³ See Acknowledgement Section for membership of the Mayor's Energy Task Force