

# **HOLLAND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

## **Preamble**

As the people of this planet as well as the citizens of Holland entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have all come to understand that our world is a very fast-changing place. We see this change all around us. Just a single focus of this change involves the complex issue of the sustainability of our energy sources, energy by-product, energy cost and energy consumption. While the City of Holland does not have the ability to “change the world”, our city can and must build upon past local decisions, initiatives and projects and continue to engage in a decision-making process and specific project initiatives which are sensitive to and responsive to this changing world and changing environment. Holland, Michigan must continue to both think and act “Green”. This committee as with all of our City committees, is directed toward improving the quality of life in our city, making Holland an even better place to live, work, and play.

## **Committee Charter**

To this end the City of Holland and the Holland Board of Public Works will jointly create and empower a new city committee. This committee will assist both entities by making serious studies and holding public sessions in order to raise the level of public understanding of sustainability issues and challenges as well as best practices found in similar communities. This committee will focus their energies on matters of sustainable development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The committee will encourage and facilitate public discussion and dialogue on these issues. Based upon these varied efforts, the committee will offer recommendations back to both the Board of Public Works and the City of Holland. These recommendations would provide valuable guidance and assist with final decision-making on initiatives, policies and projects which are of a “Green” nature. The mission of the Holland Sustainability Committee is to consider and advise both the City of Holland and the Holland Board of Public Works on issues that relate to:

- \*Energy Conservation, Efficiency and Supply
- \*Implementation of Issues Addressed in the City Energy Audit (CHEF Report)
- \*Air Quality
- \*Waste Recycling and Reduction
- \*Water Quality and Conservation
- \*Transportation

## **Committee Actions**

- \*Collect input from the community on matters that relate to sustainability.
- \*Organize community educational programming and public forums on the matters

of conservation and sustainability.

- \* Encourage and advocate for technical and scientific studies of sustainability relevant to current and future needs.
- \* Provide recommendations to both the City and to the Board of Public Works on all matters that relate to “green”.
- \* Encourage the adoption of best available practices in regard to sustainability issues by the Holland Board of Public Works, City of Holland and citizens of the greater Holland area.

### **Committee Membership**

The committee shall consist of 9 members. There will be 4 named by the Board of Public Works and 5 named by the City Council. Of the total 9 members, at least 5 must reside within the corporate city limits, while up to 4 may live within the service area of the Board of Public Works. Each of these citizen volunteers would serve a two year term of office. Both the Board of Public Works and the City Council will solicit volunteer applications from city residents, interview and then appoint their representatives. In addition both the Board of Public Works and the City Council will each name a non voting “Sustainability Committee” liaison bringing the total committee membership to 11.

### **Committee Meeting Schedule**

This committee shall meet on a regular monthly basis in a place and on a day and time that is mutually convenient for both the members and the citizens of the city. The committee shall choose from among their membership a Chair and Vice Chair who shall hold such office for one calendar year with said term beginning January 1 of each year.

This committee shall report their recommendations and activities to both the City and the Board of Public Works in regular six month intervals and also in a timely manner to assist with decision-making regarding specific policies, projects and proposals.

### **Sunset Provision**

The initial charge to this committee shall expire on December 31, 2010 at which time both the City Council and Board of Public Works shall mutually consider the extension of the original or a newly designed charge. This decision could establish a new “sunset date” or consider a recommendation which would establish this as a permanent city committee.