

4/1/2011

Everyone,

Don Triezenberg, as a member of Holland's sustainability committee made a presentation for us at Hope Church on March 13th. Holland is in the process of constructing a forty year energy plan. To that end consultant Peter Garforth has been engaged. Don briefed us on the background of the project and requested our engagement. This is an important process, but Don indicated that city council isn't receiving much feedback from citizens. If council is to embrace the final plan, they need to understand that it is important to us.

Don requested that we contact members of city council to simply say that we support the process. We needn't argue for any specific energy source or program content; but council does need to hear from us. Absent community feedback, council is unlikely to invest political capital when it comes time to implementation of a plan.

I encourage you to contact city council. Following are two paragraphs (Depending on your residence in or out of the city) with suggested text. You could send the message as is. Or, better yet, make your own statement. Attached also is a listing of council members with their contact information.

Holland City Resident:

As a citizen of City of Holland, I enjoy the high quality of life that living here affords. I do understand, however, that quality of life is not a given. We all have to actively work at maintaining quality. For this reason, I am very interested in this city's plan to create a forty year energy plan. We may be in the early stages of future energy systems, but it does appear that the old familiar systems will be burdened with expensive legacy and environmental costs. I commend the city council for taking the proactive step of engaging Peter Garforth as a consultant. Planning for the future is far wiser than blindly hoping for the best. I look forward to hearing details of the energy plan as they are announced.

Greater Holland Community Resident:

As a citizen of the greater Holland area, I enjoy the high quality of life that living here affords. I do understand, however, that quality of life is not a given. We all have to actively work at maintaining quality. For this reason, I am very interested in this city's plan to create a forty year energy plan. We may be in the early stages of future energy systems, but it does appear that the old familiar systems will be burdened with expensive legacy and environmental costs. I commend the city council for taking the proactive step of engaging Peter Garforth as a consultant. Planning for the future is far wiser than blindly hoping for the best. I look forward to hearing details of the energy plan as they are announced.

Thanks for your consideration.

Peter Boogaart
Caring for Creation Coordinator