

## **NEXT STEPS**

**At the Town Hall:** H&H Solar will be installing a 16.96 kW system on the Town hall roof in August/September. An audit of the Town hall's lighting energy use will be conducted this summer.

**Residents and Businesses:** More homeowners/ businesses are going solar every day! With the decreasing costs and available rebates and tax credits, this is a very affordable option.

The Town of Holland is partnering with H&H Solar to offer "bulk buying" to residents and businesses. Bulk buying involves grouping project assessments and installations by H&H Solar, which will enable them to offer a discount to each owner who participates.

If you are interested in a solar site assessment for your home or business or if you want to learn more about this project, please plan to attend one of the informational meetings.

At these meetings, H&H Solar will explain their process for handling every aspect of the project from assessment and design through permitting, construction, and interconnection.

To learn more about H&H Solar, check out their website at: [www.hhgroupholdings.com](http://www.hhgroupholdings.com)

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY FIRST!**

The Town of Holland will be partnering with Community Green Energy (CGE) to provide energy audits and upgrades to local businesses and public buildings. An energy audit will assess your energy use and determine what upgrades will be most beneficial to your facility.

The Town of Farmington and the Holmen Area Fire Department both conducted such audits and upgrades to their lighting will result in great savings!

The assessment is designed to be a fairly short and simple preliminary look that focuses on lighting, as this is often the most basic and lucrative energy efficiency upgrade that can be made. From this assessment, CGE will conduct an in-person audit of your facility at no charge and propose possible upgrades. All upgrades will be available on a no investment basis through short term shared savings plans. In addition, the audit will highlight whether the facility is eligible for Focus on Energy credit. More information on this program will be available shortly, though if interested in participating you may contact David Thurnau: [dthurnau@communitygreenenergy.com](mailto:dthurnau@communitygreenenergy.com) or 262-248-0927 ext. 1007.

# Town of Holland **Solar Energy Project**



## **Open House**

Saturday

September 10, 2016

10:00 a.m.—Noon

## **Informational Meetings**

Monday

September 12, 2016

2:00 p.m. or

6:00 p.m.

***Solar is not just an option for the rich, but a real opportunity for anyone looking to take greater control over their monthly utility bills and make a long-term, relatively low-risk investment.***

**[NC Clean Energy Technology]**

## BACKGROUND

In September 2014, the Town Board appointed a Community Solar Committee to study the possibility of installing a solar farm on Town property.

A preliminary site study suggested the area could support at least a 100kW system. The Committee met with various vendors, researched options and analyzed the different structures. The Committee also studied the many legal, financial and project design considerations and assisted in drafting a proposal.

In early summer 2015, a “request for proposals” went out and multiple companies provided bids to Riverland Energy in late August. At about the same time, Dairyland Energy (the parent under which Riverland operates) solicited proposals for a 1-megawatt site, which put our solar farm proposal on hold.

Early spring 2016, the Committee decided to move forward and study other solar options. A “request for proposals” was issued and four companies provided quotes to install solar panels at the Town hall and to participate in a “bulk buying” program. On June 8, 2016, the Town Board approved the Solar Committee’s request to hire the services of H&H Solar (Madison, WI), using money from the CapX2020 Environmental Impact Fee Fund. In addition, the Town will be receiving a Focus on Energy credit for the total system.

## WHY SOLAR?

It’s clean!  
It’s sustainable!  
It’s local!



Top reasons why the Town of Holland will be installing solar:

1. The Town will be taking a leadership role and setting an example. The solar project will be promoting localized energy, which can be adopted by the rest of the community.
2. It is a good investment for the town/ community.
3. This project will save tax dollars for years to come.
4. It is good for the environment by producing renewable energy which will offset our carbon footprint.
5. The installation of solar panels will not cost the taxpayers anything – the Town will use CapX2020 Environmental Impact Fee monies.
6. This project could lead to energy independence when battery/storage systems become perfected, rather than continue installing outdated and unwanted transmission lines

The photovoltaic (PV) system that will be installed on the Town hall will be using “net metering” which means the Town will use the power and receive a bill credit for any unused excess power that is sent to the grid.

## INTERESTING FACTS

- Contrary to popular belief, solar does work in Wisconsin. According to a NC Clean Energy Technology study, “a 5kW in Chicago...(known more for their extended cold, grey winters than for sunshine) can offset more of their energy than [a 5kW system] could in Phoenix...”. Based on industry studies, solar panels perform better on a sunny 30<sup>th</sup> day than 95<sup>th</sup>.
- Solar panel costs are decreasing while grid electricity costs are increasing. In 1998, median cost of residential solar was \$12/watt. In 2014, that cost was between \$3.70-4.24/watt. [NRCO]
- Federal Investment Tax Credit for residential installation (ending in 2016) can be up to 30% of the solar PV system installation.
- Solar panels are very durable and can withstand hail, wind, snow and heavy rain. Many panels have a 20-25 year manufacturing guarantee (but are projected to last much longer).
- In 2016, rooftop solar could generate as much power as 1/3 of the nation’s nuclear power plants. [Solar Power Authority]
- Here in Wisconsin, in 2014 alone, residential solar installations had a lifetime environmental impact of not burning 232,120 gallons of fuel and 833 tons of coal. [H&H Group Holdings]
- Wisconsin employs over 1,670 people in the solar industry, including those working in manufacturing, sales, and installation. [John Muir Sierra Club]