



**City of Guelph**

**City Council**

**Monday April 25, 2016**

**President & CEO Speech**

**Community Energy Initiative**

**Good evening Mayor Guthrie, City Councillors, and members of city staff. My name is Kithio Mwanzia and I am the President & CEO of the Guelph Chamber of Commerce. The Guelph Chamber of Commerce is a member driven organization with over 900 members representing more than 35,000 employees.**

**A large part of our membership, much like almost 85% of Guelph businesses are small and medium sized enterprises. We are pleased to be here today to offer the business voice and to play an active role as a dynamic solutions provider so as to build a stronger more robust economy and community here in Guelph.**

**So to that end the on-going conversation for Guelph as a leader in energy innovation is both timely and important.**

**Guelph's leadership as a community energy innovator is an important element of how we will be able to be competitive as a community, particularly when it comes to attracting and retaining businesses. From manufacturing to real estate, the Community Energy Initiative resonates with businesses in a wide variety of sectors and has played a role as an attractor of new investment in the community.**

**Being first mover on anything and in particular energy, bears with it a variety of both challenges and opportunities. As a community, Guelph was a first mover in developing and implementing the CEI and to date we have seen a number of communities in advanced stages of both development and implementation of similar initiatives.**

**Similarly, the financial assumptions, modeling and technologies that rang true in the inception of this a decade ago have seen significant changes and advancement.**

**It is therefore with this in mind that we recommend that the City move forward with the update to the Community Energy Initiative as outlined in the staff report.**

**Moving forward with this update is valuable for numerous reasons; however I will highlight two very important reasons in the interest of time:**

- 1.It is important that in order to move forward with CEI that both Qualitative and Quantitative metrics and targets are the basis of decision making moving forward.**

**The implementation and roll out of the program must be grounded in hard truths that are reflective of baseline calculations.**

**Moving the CEI into this phase allows businesses in particular to plan their investment both in the community and in relation to the CEI.**

**2. The capacity for the CEI to be operationalized will be driven largely by the business community. Changes in technology and the capacity for businesses to operationalize the CEI in a meaningful way have changed over the last decade – making the capacity to reach the potential targets of an updated CEI that much more possible.**

**As an organization we have committed through our *Strategic Plan* to work with the business community and government to make Guelph a leading community in which to do business. We commit ourselves to be part of the community engagement strategy associated with the update to the CEI.**

**In closing we reiterate:**

- 1. The need to proceed forward with the update to the CEI.**
- 2. That the business community be involved as part of the community consultation**
- 3. That a metrics based approach be taken that provides a baseline and targets for the future.**

**Proceeding forward with this will be an important step in distinguishing Guelph as a leading centre for doing business and cultivating opportunities in energy management and efficiency, proven by metrics and embraced by community.**

**Thank you again for providing the Chamber with the opportunity to speak this evening, and I look forward to your questions.**