Energy Democracy is the practice of building a just energy system with these qualities: if you are impacted by a decision about energy, you should get a voice in that decision, people are always put ahead of profit, and input is highly valued. It means building an energy system that prioritizes energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy sources, local control, and education and information.

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Healthy Homes

**KEY PROPOSALS**

- Grants and low- to no-interest financing for home repair, weatherization, and sustainable home upgrades for households at all income levels, rented and owned, to improve health, comfort, and financial viability of homes, including historic and unique Highland Park houses.
- Incentives for green infrastructure for homes and businesses to minimize cost impact on water system.
- Municipal advocacy for energy affordability and access to clean energy for Highland Park households, businesses, and institutions, including the City government. Many of the goals in this framework require actions outside the jurisdiction of the City government, so Highland Park must become an active advocate with regulatory and legislative bodies at all levels. The City should be an active partner and supporter in these efforts and beyond.
- Implement affordability plans for water, electricity, heat, and internet that protect households from rising costs for all basic goods. In Wayne County, poor households are spending over 40% of income on these critical services alone - if they can even afford them. A robust affordability plan would follow the accepted standards of 6% of gross household income for energy bills and 4.5% for water. (1) There is no established standard for internet affordability - yet - but the critical need for internet access implies that it must be considered in a cumulative affordability standard. Setting these benchmarks will drive decision-making that puts residents first.

A Guide for the City & Citizens to make Highland Park, Michigan a Global Model of Sustainability & Self-determination

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