



## MISSION STATEMENT

CFEE Study Travel Project | Spring 2018

### THE NETHERLANDS

In Spring 2018, the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy (CFEE) will lead a delegation of California State Legislators as well as business, environmental, and labor leaders to the Netherlands to examine model practices in water management and advanced technologies in the energy sector.

**WATER** | California is reckoning with a “new normal” that will see both deeper droughts and wetter winters that will further stress an aging, decentralized water system. As the state begins adapting to less snowpack, greater precipitation variability, and continuing stakeholder competition over an increasingly scarce resource, California leaders must look to other examples worldwide on how to conceive, construct, and sustain a resilient water system.

The Netherlands offers compelling lessons for how to plan for too much water. More than half of the landmass of the Netherlands (which literally means “low-lying country”) is either below sea level or no more than a foot above it. The specter of inundation has driven the Dutch to become institutional innovators and master engineers of water management such that urban centers, agricultural communities, and environmentally sensitive areas continue to thrive.

For this reason, we’ll meet with Dutch water purveyors, senior ministers, NGO and agricultural leaders and conduct site visits that showcase world class techniques in urban stormwater capture, greening of infrastructure, project delivery, flood protection, risk analysis, sea-level rise adaptation, and groundwater recharge.

**ENERGY** | California has been credited for its energy leadership on climate change while maintaining a growing economy. This dual success, however, will be tested as deeper decarbonization spreads across the California economy. The realization of an affordable, cleaner energy future will rely on the ability of policymakers to think strategically and act boldly on energy policies during upcoming (and potentially painful) phases of the energy transition.

The Netherlands – which has leveraged its access to maritime passages and continental Europe to become a global energy hub – is also determined to jointly achieve economic and green energy goals. As the Dutch have moved forward with national and European Union carbon reduction policies, they have demonstrated a pragmatic approach to their energy economy by investing in clean technology as well as engaging with major oil companies.

Our delegation will learn firsthand from senior industry executives and clean energy experts how the Dutch are enabling the delivery of environmentally responsible energy infrastructure, cleaner chemical and petroleum refining, greener and quieter transportation, alternative fuels, and various other cutting-edge energy technologies.

**OUR MISSION** is to facilitate an exchange of knowledge, insights, and experiences between California policy leaders and their counterparts in the Netherlands. We strive to identify lessons that can be applied to policymaking in California such that state objectives in water and energy policy are advanced in a manner that balances economic growth with environmental priorities.



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