

Roadmap to Climate Contracts

IN DRENTHÉ • THE NETHERLANDS



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Introduction

Drenthe is committed to CO₂ reduction. To this end the Province of Drenthe has set up the 'Energy Agreement for the North of the Netherlands', together with partner administrations in the northern Dutch provinces. To accelerate the process Drenthe has made a number of agreements with the regional municipalities to ensure that goals regarding renewable energy production and the reduction of CO₂ emissions are achieved sooner rather than later. These agreements have been set down in so-called 'climate contracts'. The municipalities are important partners since much of the implementation takes place at municipal level.

This roadmap describes the progression of this process for the partners of the EU project North Sea Sustainable Energy Planning (NS SEP), the relationship with other responsibilities and some preliminary results.

NS SEP is a project under the North Sea Region Interreg IVB Programme. The 14 project partners, including representatives from government authorities, regional cooperative bodies and the private sector, all focus on a number of crucial aspects in terms of sustainable energy planning in the regions. By sharing knowledge and experiences and working in full cooperation, the partners join forces on the road from ambition to implementation, building networks and entering into public-private collaborations. When the NS SEP project ends the regions will have a number of projects ready to be implemented. At the same time the partners in the NS SEP network are learning from each other's approach, filling in the knowledge gaps together

and discovering what exactly is needed to make a network successful.

A number of common issues are being dealt with from a practical perspective:

- How to tackle energy planning on a regional level
- How to translate a regional energy plan to the local level
- How to facilitate cooperation between municipal spatial planners, energy suppliers, the regional business sector and knowledge institutes to achieve the ultimate goal – sustainable and energy neutral building
- How to create and maintain a sustainable regional network – what tools are necessary?
- How to make a business model that other regions and municipalities can use
- How to guide the process of energy planning so that set goals are achieved

Aims of the Climate and Energy Programme

- 40 – 50 PJ sustainable energy and 4 - 5 Mton reduction of CO₂ emissions in the North of the Netherlands in 2011: this is the energy consumption of 800,000 homes.
- 15 – 20 Mton reduction of CO₂ emissions in the North of the Netherlands after 2011 - by capturing and storing CO₂ where possible (allowing for the fact that the development of this concept is still ongoing, both at national and European level).



The Process in Drenthe

In order to achieve its ambitions in terms of sustainable energy and CO₂ reduction, the Province of Drenthe has set up an implementation programme – the Climate and Energy Programme. To accelerate the process and reach the desired CO₂ goals, so-called ‘climate contracts’ have been agreed upon with the municipalities in the region, whereby the Province offers subsidies. This form of cooperation fits in with the ‘New Style’ of the Province – provincial goals are achieved by implementation on a local scale.

To qualify for subsidies the municipalities have designed sub-programmes containing descriptions of the projects to be implemented. The climate contracts were drawn up in the period 2010 – 2011 and projects are expected to be finalized by December 2013. Besides the projects’ content, municipalities have guaranteed their resources and financial contributions, using the municipal budgets and official capacity available. Alignment with other programmes and the various policy departments was included in the process.

Climate Contract

A ‘climate contract’ is an agreement between the Province of Drenthe and a municipality in Drenthe regarding the execution of the Climate and Energy Programme. The details of what this cooperation entails have been set down in the Municipal Implementation Programme 2010 – 2011.

Each municipality has drawn up an individual programme in which they have stipulated their own contribution of resources and the required funding

from the Province. In total, the municipalities applied for 11.7 million Euros. Following assessment the Province finally allocated just over 6.5 million Euros to the municipalities while within the scope of the Climate Contract Programme some 30.5 million Euros is being invested in climate and energy goals.

Perspective of the Province of Drenthe

Point of departure for the provincial authority is that the municipalities have a more in-depth knowledge of the local situation regarding the nature and scale of physical, economical, environmental and social issues and are, therefore, in the best position to act accordingly, with an integral approach. The scope of each agreement allows for made-to-measure solutions as well as the concrete and convincing results stipulated in the implementation programmes.

The Province of Drenthe and its municipalities have agreed to support each other at all levels – politically and administratively – to ensure a speedy implementation of local projects. The partners intend to exchange knowledge, insights and experience by, amongst other things, holding regular scheduled meetings.

The Climate Contract Framework

When drawing up the Climate Contract Programme a set format was chosen. Each agreement contains conformities focussing on individual projects. The projects must be based on guaranteed funding and employee capacity within the municipality.

The Province aims for a factor 1:4 in terms of co-financing all contracts, whereby financial contributions are limited to a maximum of 20% for research and 40% for implementation.

On 14th April 2010 the Province of Drenthe and each of its 12 municipalities agreed to cooperate on climate and energy issues. This statement included agreement by all parties to draw up a climate contract - all 12 contracts have since been signed.

Division of Costs

Signing a Climate Contract is compulsory in order to be eligible for provincial subsidies. The available funds are divided amongst the following sub-programmes:

- *Diep onder Drenthe* – Underground energy sources
- Knowledge-based economy
- Living
- Water
- Climate landscapes

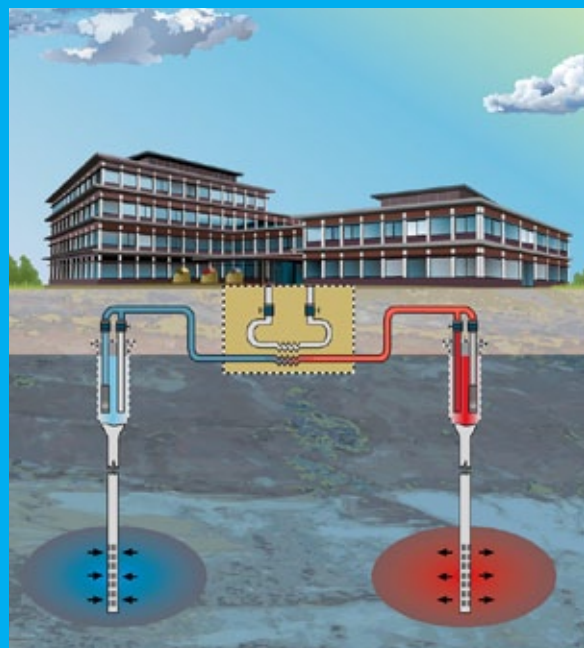
A total of 30.5 million Euros has been invested in climate contracts.

These funds have been divided as follows:

• Provincie Drenthe	6,522,456
• 12 Municipalities	19,101,339
• Third parties	4,959,120

Sum of investments	30,582,975

Construction works at the Provinciehuis - the thermal storage system.



Thermal Storage System

Monitoring and Evaluation

Progress reports on Climate Contracts contain the following information regarding content and financial status:

- Expenditure for implementation; funds and man hours
- Results achieved during implementation of the programme
- Division of costs per municipality and the Province for each sub-programme
- Monitoring results

Each municipality must submit an annual progress report at the end of the year and a final report will be delivered in 2014. Progress is monitored half-yearly during administrative meetings and once a year during talks between the Executive Board

Member of the Provincie Drenthe with the Municipal Council Member responsible for climate and energy. The provincial and municipal authorities evaluate the status of their cooperation regarding the climate contracts on the basis of these annual reports and decide whether adaptations are necessary or desirable.

The programme's targets are monitored using a CO₂ monitoring system. This system measures what each municipality has contributed to the goals set down in the 'ambitions statement' of the Climate Contract Programme. The same monitoring system is used in the northern provinces, allied under the Energy Agreement of the North of the Netherlands, and employing it is one of the stipulated conditions when signing a Climate Contract.

Results

The whole process of setting up Climate Contracts has gone relatively smoothly. Municipalities have taken keenly to their tasks and ambitions have been clearly recorded. Concrete project results can not, as yet, be presented since the programme is still running and projects can be submitted up until the end of 2011. The various parties are in

close contact with each other and lines are shorter between all organizations involved. This is valued as an additional benefit resulting from the Climate Contract collaboration and the scheduled contact structures will be kept in place after the programme has ended.

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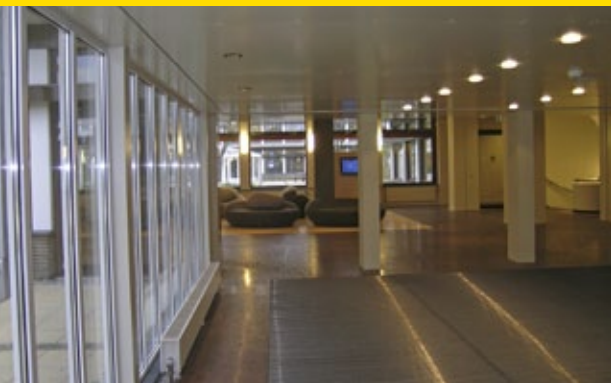
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