

AMSTERDAM

CITIZENS DRIVE PHASING OUT OF NATURAL GAS



731,289
INHABITANTS

To achieve its ambitious CO₂ reduction targets and phase out natural gas, the city has set up the Amsterdam Climate Neutral 2050 programme, a roadmap for reducing dependence on coal, oil and gas. Another major programme aims to achieve a circular economy by 2050 and includes the goal of reducing raw material use by 50% by 2030.

55%

CO₂ REDUCTION
TARGET BY 2030
FROM 1990 BASELINE

95%

CO₂ REDUCTION
TARGET BY 2050
FROM 1990 BASELINE

0

PHASE OUT
NATURAL GAS
BEFORE 2040

CONTACT

Julianne Kurschner

j.kurschner

@amsterdam.nl

TAKING NEIGHBOURHOODS OFF THE NATURAL GAS GRID

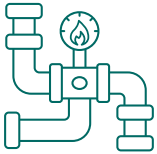
Through its Natural Gas-Free City Deal programme, Amsterdam is embarking on the irreversible process of taking three neighbourhoods off the natural gas grid.

Housing corporations are invited to initiate this transition in at least one neighbourhood where they are active. In this way major maintenance and repairs will be clustered, in line with the area-specific approach set out by the programme.

The city is investing financially, alongside stakeholders and the national government, to get these first projects off the ground. Amsterdam provides financial support to prevent property owners from losing out and avoid any 'climate injustice'. This investment is seen as 'tuition fees', with the city learning by doing to discover what solutions work best where and to use this knowledge and experience to make the whole of Amsterdam gas free.

One of the first investments was made in a project in Middenmeer started by citizens who set up an energy cooperative — MeerEnergie — in a bid to make their neighbourhood natural-gas free. Their plan was to use residual heat from a local science park data centre via a heat network.

The municipality is investing €11.2 million in a main heat pipe network for the neighbourhood — and capitalising on cost savings as its roads were already scheduled to be opened for electricity and sewer renewal works. The project will enable 1650 households to switch from natural gas to district heating.



ADAPTATION

Amsterdam is part of the national Deltaplan of climate adaptation 2018. Together with Waternet, the municipality has created the program rainproof 2013. This aims to increase the storage capabilities for rainwater in the city by allowing its storage to work like a sponge; it can contain water when there is too much and release the water when there is a period of drought.

CHALLENGES

- **Dealing** with a clash with national government, which still allows citizens to opt for natural gas
- **Making** sure the sources of the district heating network are sustainable. In the case of MeerEnergie, the electricity which the datacenter uses to generate heat should be produced in a sustainable way. It is necessary for the district heating system to be more sustainable than the current natural gas system.
- **Handling** the lack of city control over construction of heat networks and security of supply
- **Being** unable to guarantee the affordability or reliability of this energy system
- **Ensuring** the system's affordability for all incomes through accessible financing (a heat fund for example) so it is possible for municipalities to issue guarantees and financing measures where systems are not yet profitable
- **Finding** the budget for expensive heat pipes and pumps

LESSONS LEARNT

- ***The energy transition will only work if it is affordable for all income levels, especially low and middle incomes, so special funding schemes must be created. The project of MeerEnergie will succeed only if a large part of the neighborhood participates. The starting point is that it will not work if the residents become financially worse off***
- ***Buy-in from citizens is critical***
- ***While speeding up implementation of heat networks, their optimisation must be a focus***



1, Square de Meeûs
B-1000 Brussels

tel +32-2-552.0888
info@eurocities.eu

www.eurocities.eu
[@EUROCITIEStweet](https://twitter.com/EUROCITIEStweet)

