



# Dutch 100CNSC Cities Pilot

AMSTERDAM, EINDHOVEN, GRONINGEN, HELMOND,  
ROTTERDAM, THE HAGUE & UTRECHT - THE NETHERLANDS

## Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



Consumption of non-electricity energy for thermal uses in buildings & facilities



Consumption of electricity generated for buildings, facilities & infrastructure



All vehicles & transport (mobile energy)

## Key Focus Areas

District investment | Co-financing | Public-private partnership | Climate budgeting | Platform governance | Natural gas-free districts | Citizen engagement

## Levers of Change

Democracy and participation | Financing and funding | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities

## Description of the Pilot Activity

Dutch cities face a specific maths problem: municipal investments cover only 10–20% of what climate neutrality requires. This pilot introduced district-level investment platforms to solve it—bringing together governments, companies, residents, and institutional investors to co-create joint investment plans. Using the energy transition as an accelerator, seven cities tested whether aligning resources at the district level could mobilise the large-scale investment needed to phase out natural gas.

## Impact & Results

Seven action plans now target over 60,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e reduction per year through addressing thermal energy in buildings. Approximately 9,500 citizens and stakeholders were engaged across seven cities through workshops, face-to-face activities, and district-level planning.

- Groningen advanced furthest, demonstrating what's possible when governance, finance, and participation align: national government funding secured, heat grid combined with insulation measures delivered, comprehensive engagement involving every household. The model required a strong public heat company, adequate national funding, and energy coaches combined with social support teams addressing both technical and social challenges.
- Utrecht developed a visual interactive model facilitating district investment dialogues—making complex financial scenarios accessible.
- The Hague tested innovative building-related finance models, initiating a 24-apartment pilot using leasehold models with social impact investors and pension funds.
- Other cities explored social co-benefit valuation methods and developed business cases for collective heat pumps.

A National Support Structure now strengthens collaboration between Dutch mission cities, national ministries, and financial partners. Digital grid models make the impact of financial tools visible to the public.

## Innovation Highlights

The District Investment Platform Model brings multiple stakeholders together at district scale — not building-by-building or citywide, but at the level where infrastructure decisions actually get made. Multi-benefit business cases capture social and environmental co-benefits alongside financial returns, making projects attractive to unusual investors like pension funds and insurers.

Groningen's success model showed that financially viable, systemic solutions are possible — but the process is resource- and time-intensive, only replicable at scale with dedicated funding.

