

Press release - 16 June 2017

Nearly 40 parties set up Climate Campus in response to climate change

A total of 37 parties have said a resounding 'Yes' to founding a Climate Campus in Zwolle and the IJssel-Vecht Delta as a strong and innovative response to climate change. These parties include renowned institutes, such as KNMI and CBS Urban Data Center Zwolle, TU Delft ETD, the Netherlands Land Registry and Mapping Agency, and a number of consultancies, and they are joined by housing corporations and educational institutions.

In the Declaration of Intent, the parties commit to presenting a joint action programme by 1 December 2017 in order to make the city and the Delta resilient to climate change, now the consequences of climate change are becoming more noticeable all over the Netherlands and in the rest of the world. The ambition is to excel in applying new and existing knowledge and technology and to work on intense cooperation between government, residents, businesses and institutions.

Economic driver

There is an economic driver too, as the parties see opportunities to create new business and jobs by using innovation and implementation power. With the Climate Campus as the innovation workshop, they strive to drive excellent research, to share knowledge and to develop business, whilst attracting investors, talent, young talent and start-ups. This would enable the Climate Campus to be a national and international partner for climate-resilient development of Deltas.

Cities vulnerable to climate change

For many years, there has been cooperation in the IJssel-Vecht Delta between the Overijssel Provincial Executive, the water boards and the local authorities. The objective is to tackle the consequences of climate change intelligently and to make the cities in the region future-proof. Cities are attracting more and more people and businesses. They are economic hotspots that are vulnerable to extreme downpours, long-term heat and drought. Businesses can come to a standstill when their premises flood, as happened to the VUMC, causing major economic damage. Zwolle and the IJssel-Vecht Delta partners are looking to prevent that, but above all, to make the city more beautiful, greener and smarter. In terms of scale and water management, they are the perfect demonstration Delta for innovations in climate adaptation. The solutions that are developed here will be equally relevant to other Delta cities.

New Delta Works

Zwolle is situated at the lowest point of the IJssel-Vecht Delta. Rising sea levels and rising IJsselmeer levels and the increase in extreme downpours put water safety under pressure. Until recently it was enough to pump away the water and to strengthen the dykes; it made the Netherlands world famous! However, these measures are proving to be inadequate. The issue of climate change demands new Delta works. In addition to strengthening dykes, this includes solutions at all levels and scales - from a water butt in the back garden and green facades to a sound wall that is built as emergency flood defences, as in Stadshagen. These new Delta works are largely needed in the cities. Zwolle Council and its partners in the IJssel-Vecht Delta are seen as the vanguard in the Netherlands. Later today, Zwolle will be signing the Charter of Kampen on water safety and climate adaptation as one of 22 Hanseatic cities.

Note for the editors, not for publication

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APPENDIX

List of partners who signed the Declaration of Intent Climate Campus Zwolle IJssel-Vecht Delta

3Dimensies



Aeres University of Applied Sciences



Agri&Food Innovation cluster Zwolle region



Arcadis



BPD



Buro MA.AN



Statistics Netherlands



City Developers



Delinea



Deltawonen



Deltion College



Economic Board Zwolle Region



Esri Nederland



Future Insight



Kampen Council



Zwartewaterland Council



City of Zwolle



Groene Welle



Hydrologic



Land Registry and Mapping Agency



KNMI



Landstede Groep



Openbaar Belang



Overijssel Provincial Executive



RoyalHaskoning DHV



Stichting Natuur en Milieu Overijssel



Stichting Wateropleidingen



Sweco



SWZ



TAUW



TTE



TU Delft – ETD



VanWonen Vastgoed BV



VHG Branchevereniging



Vitens



Water board Drents Overijsselse Delta



Windesheim University of Applied Sciences

