DECLARATION OF INTENT

CLIMATE CAMPUS

Zwolle - IJssel-Vecht delta

***Final 16 June 2017***

**DECLARATION OF INTENT CLIMATE CAMPUS**

**Zwolle - IJssel-Vecht Delta**

**The parties**

* **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**
* **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**

**Plan to work together on developing a Climate Campus in Zwolle and shall prepare a joint action programme to that effect by 1 December 2017. The Climate Campus aims to strengthen the existing innovation and implementation power in respect of climate adaptation (water safety, water nuisance, drought, and heat stress) in the IJssel-Vecht Delta and to capitalise on its economic value.**

**The parties endorse the importance of climate-resilient development of Deltas. The parties identify opportunities to excel in the IJssel-Vecht Delta and to become a national and international partner for climate-resilient development of Deltas.**

**The Parties are jointly focused on:**

* **Building a powerful innovation network with a shared knowledge and innovation agenda and the IJssel-Vecht Delta as a pilot region;**
* **A physical location as the centre for cooperation with the demonstration Delta as its setting;**
* **Excelling in applying new and existing knowledge and technology and working on effective cooperation between government, residents, businesses and institutions.**
* **Attracting talent, young talent, start-ups and business**
* **Recruiting funds and investors**
* **Branding the Climate Campus, including a joint proposition, trademark and pictorial mark.**

**Each party contributes to developing the Climate Campus on the basis of its own role, capacity and powers.**

BACKGROUND

Our Delta

Zwolle, Kampen and Zwartewaterland are situated in the Delta of the rivers IJssel and Vecht, which are the northern branch of the Dutch Delta. Life has always been played out on and along the water. It started by building housing on high, dry parts (sand ridges). Then the first polders were created, drainage channels were dug, watercourses were diverted and dykes were built. Even today we continue to work on water safety with projects, such as Room for the River, the IJssel Vecht Delta and the High tide protection programme.

Water is an important aspect of our identity. Together we have battled to keep our feet dry and water has brought us welfare, by means of the Hanseatic League amongst other things. Living with water has been in our genes since time immemorial.

The old Hanseatic cities are attractive places to live, to do business, to relax. The population is growing, the regional economy is strong and access is excellent. Within the IJssel-Vecht Delta there is intensive cooperation on water. We, as the Netherlands, have come to excel in water management and we now dare to build new neighbourhoods and businesses below NAP, because we feel protected by dykes and in the polders.

Climate change makes us vulnerable

Climate change makes sea levels rise and we have more extreme weather with more downpours and heat waves. Our IJssel-Vecht Delta is vulnerable to climate change, because water comes from 5 different directions:

1. The city centre of Zwolle lies outside the dykes and the canals are connected to the IJsselmeer;

2. More water will be discharged via the international rivers (IJssel, Vecht) in the future;

3. The Salland hinterland drains through the city centre of Zwolle;

4. Groundwater from the Veluwe comes to the surface in the Delta;

5. In the future we expect more extreme weather, including downpours,

which produces a major range of water issues.

Our answer to climate change

The traditional, large-scale approach to “build dykes and pump” on its own no longer provides adequate protection in the long run. For example, dykes do not help against downpours, dyke reinforcement becomes more difficult from a spatial planning point of view, pumping dry the polders causes subsidence, which leads to even more pumping. Our view needs to be beyond building dykes and pumping.

Apart from reducing the chance of flooding as much as possible, we design the city and the surrounding area intelligently, to ensure we can capture downpours, limit the consequences of flooding, combat heat stress, etc. We do so by making businesses and residents aware of their water safety and by giving them advice on the small-scale measures they can take to develop and build in a climate-resilient way. Designing the Delta more intelligently together requires a new way of observing, thinking and acting. Declaration of Intent Climate Campus 16 June 2017

The demonstration Delta

In Zwolle and the IJssel-Vecht Delta we demonstrate this new way of observing, thinking and acting. Here you can see innovation at all scale levels - from inflatable rubber dams and using sound barriers and natural heights as additional flood defences to using groundwater as a river. From turning dykes into houses to developing climate-resilient buildings and outside spaces. From physical innovation to social innovation.

This is the result of our culture of cooperation and our practical attitude; if you're smart, you do it together. We do this each on our own, but also in various alliances - IJssel-Vecht Delta, Climate Active City, City Deal Climate Adaptation and Living Lab Overijssel. The Climate Campus is the logical next step.

The diversity of water issues on the scale of the IJssel-Vecht Delta means this area has developed into a demonstration Delta for this new way of observing, thinking and acting. This is a firm foundation for strengthening and capitalising on the innovative power of our Delta.

DEVELOPING THE CLIMATE CAMPUS

Planned objectives

The main objective of the Climate Campus is:

**To strengthen the innovation and implementation power of the IJssel-Vecht Delta in such a manner that the IJssel-Vecht Delta excels in climate-resilient development, is a national and international partner for climate-resilient development of Deltas and capitalises on the economic value of this position.**

The Climate Campus:

* Generates innovations, start-ups and other business, placements and employment, new products and services, training programmes and implementation power in the area of climate adaptation;
* Is primarily focused on climate adaptation and uses that for intelligent cross-overs to other themes, including energy transition, agri/food, data, circular economy, nature and green, transport/infra and governance, etc;
* Strengthens the regional innovation and implementation power of the IJssel-Vecht Delta and connects it to international networks, knowledge exchange and business.

Development directions

The parties see the following development directions for the Climate Campus:

* To build a powerful innovation network with a shared knowledge and innovation agenda and the IJssel-Vecht Delta as a pilot region;
* A physical location as the centre for cooperation with the demonstration Delta as its setting;
* To excel in applying new and existing knowledge and technology and to work on effective cooperation between government, residents, businesses and institutions;
* To attract talent, young talent, start-ups and business;
* To recruit funds and investors;
* To brand the Climate Campus, including a joint proposition, trademark, pictorial mark and international profiling.

The parties shall prepare a joint action programme to this end by 1 December 2017. Declaration of Intent Climate Campus 16 June 2017

The objectives the Climate Campus contributes to

With the planned objectives of the Climate Campus, the IJssel-Vecht Delta can also detail and/or be a pilot region for:

* UN Global Goals (2015): take urgent measures to combat climate change and its effects;
* National Delta decisions (2014), including:
* Water safety: everyone behind a dyke or dune has a basic protection level.
* (Deltaplan) Spatial Adaptation: in 2020, climate-resilient and water-robust design is part of the policy and actions of national, regional and local authorities. The shared ambition is that the Netherlands will have the best possible climate-resilient and water-robust design by 2050.
* International Water Ambition (State, 2016): to increase the water safety and water security of urban Deltas and the Dutch share therein.
* City Deal Climate Adaptation (2016): the state, a number of water boards and local authorities and their alliance partners have expressed the ambition to excel at national and international level in their approach to creating and managing a climate-resilient urban environment with the greatest possible social added value for society.
* Long-term perspective IJssel-Vecht Delta (2013): the cooperation alliance IJssel-Vecht Delta (Overijssel Provincial Executive, Water board Drents-Overijsselse Delta, Safety Region IJsselland, Kampen, Zwartewaterland and Zwolle Councils) in cooperation with partners has defined 8 leading principles for the development of the IJssel-Vecht Delta, including: “water safety and climate-resilient as basis” and “Innovation as motor and showcase”.
* Climate Active City IJssel-Vecht Delta (2014): approx. 30 parties have expressed the shared ambition to increase the climate-resilience of the IJssel-Vecht Delta in such a manner that it contributes to a sustainable spatial, social and economic development of the region.