

URGENDA:

the Netherlands as experimental garden
for sustainable development



Drift
Dutch Research Institute for Transitions

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Why the Urgenda?

Netherlands on the eve of a sustainability transition

the future asks for an agenda of reform

but the urgency is still lacking



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Formidable societal challenge

- far-reaching changes will occur the coming decades in the fields of:
water, climate, mobility, construction, space
- transition processes will take place in the fields of:
governance, demography, social order, economy
- spatial and social transition processes are intertwined and will lead to a substantially different society
residing, working, moving, recreating, living

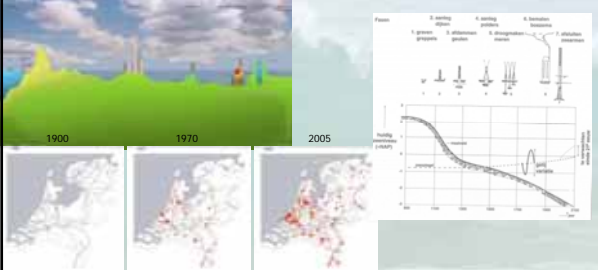

formidable sustainability challenge



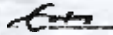
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Anticipate on climate change

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Netherlands 2050 - Enormous Challenge

the Netherlands will change in the coming 50 years
more than in the past 500 years

we will transform our physical landscape and
our social landscape in a substantive manner

comparable with impoldering 17th/18th century
requires radically different thinking and acting



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Transition to sustainable Netherlands

requires

inspiring vision concrete actions

big thinking, small acting

long-term challenge incremental steps

the linkage of

undercurrent regime



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What is the Urgenda?

agenda for reform from sense of urgency

strategic plan with list of steps and concrete actions
[40 targets] in the short and long term

goal is to make the Netherlands more sustainable

combination of bottom-up and top-down strategy



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Concrete targets and actions

in 5 years

1000 CO2-neutral streets in the Netherlands

in 10 years

all newly built houses are sustainable

in 15 years

intensive underground space use is widespread and common use

in 20 years

roofs of all houses are sustainable ("green roofs")

in 30 years

all construction companies are transformed to service companies

in 40 years

the Netherlands is climate- and water robust



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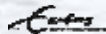
Strategy

Steps

- establishing a sustainability platform
- developing ambitious, inspiring vision sustainable Netherlands
- linking thousands of sustainability initiatives
- creating movement through linking undercurrent and regime
- starting five 'icon projects'



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Sustainability platform

Innovation strategy/action group

- 15 frontrunners [business people, intermediaries, scientists, NGO-ers]
- supported by the Dutch cabinet
- mid february 2008 first meeting
- part of the sustainability agenda of the cabinet

autonomous, link between the cabinet and society



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ICON-projects

- international allure
- innovative and adventurous
- big scale
- contains typical Dutch cultural elements
- visibly sustainable
- symbolic function



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ICON-projects

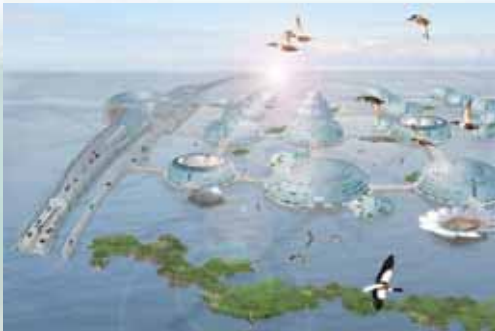
- the IJsselmeer dam
from ordinary dam to integral landmering '
- the floating island
living, working, recreating, moving on and round the water
- climate neutral city
Tilburg, Rotterdam, Almere
- experimental polder
innovative polder in sea
- sustainable Wadden Islands
Wadden as experiment for sustainable energy



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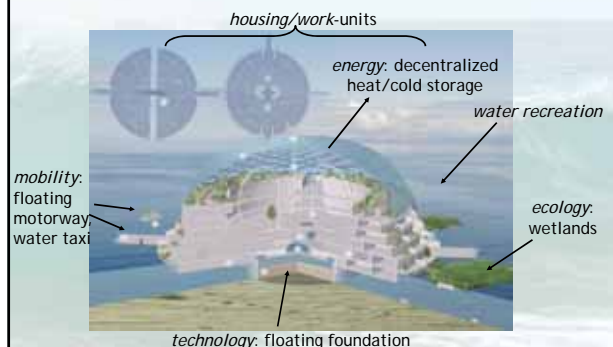
Floating City



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Floating City



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Regional Projects

- spatial regional plans under the umbrella of the Urgenda
- sustainable regional planning
- innovative process planning
- integration of mobility, environment, building, space use
Zeist, Amstelland, Zeeland



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What is the role of the Urgenda?

give direction

provide future orientation

*connect
accelerate*

provide action perspective

exert pressure



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Underground Space use

underground space is already under pressure and chaotic

a horizontal "sheet" of cables
vertical "strips" of cold and heat storage

no real systemic underground ordering

vision on integral underground space use is lacking



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Underground Space use

pressure on aboveground space will increase significantly

*Dutch Delta is one of the busiest areas in the world
but in 2038 the Dutch Delta will have:*

- 1 million people more
- 50% more cars
- 200% more airplanes
- 20% more houses
- 10-15% of aboveground space will be used for water
- 25% of people above 65
- 20% of people above 50
- 35% of people is allochthonous



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Future space use

many claims on limited space in the Dutch Delta

climate change *sea level* *soil settlement*

mobility *population*

housing *business area* *agriculture*

leisure *nature*

impossible to fulfill these claims in a sustainable

manner without using underground



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Recommendations

- include underground space in spatial planning from onset on
- develop integral cable tunnels [bundling of cables]
- integration of functions underground [housing, working, shopping]
- develop a long-term vision on underground space use



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Conclusions

the Netherlands is on the verge of a sustainability transition

formidable task to maintain the unique Delta

we cannot maintain the Delta in a sustainable manner if
we do not use the underground in an innovative manner

visionary underground planning should pave the way



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