

Natural Gas-Free Neighbourhoods Workshop

Approaches for the heat transition in the built environment

Rotterdam, October 13-14

Site visits

Bospolder-Tussendijken

Bospolder-Tussendijken is a district in the western part of Rotterdam that is participating in the Natural Gas Free Neighbourhoods Programme (PAW). Construction of the neighbourhood started in the year 1910. A substantial part was destroyed in a bombardment during WWII and rebuilt shortly after. Today it is a well-integrated part of the city that hosts around 14.500 inhabitants. The majority of these have a migration background, hailing predominantly from Suriname, Morocco and Turkey.



Because of the densely built homes in this district and the fact that a majority of the dwellings are part of social housing schemes, the gas free transition plan involves the construction of a district heating network, which transports excess heat from the nearby industry complex in the Rotterdam Harbor. During the excursion, you will learn more about the specific challenges and successes that have come to pass in this vibrant, multicultural part of Rotterdam!

Pendrecht

With around 12.000 inhabitants, Pendrecht is a district in the southern quarters of Rotterdam that saw a major population increase after the Second World War, when there was a great demand for housing. This led to the construction of many apartment buildings that were meant to facilitate the housing of both young and older generations. Over the years, however, younger people moved away from Pendrecht to settle down in Rotterdam's suburb towns, leaving room for lower income families.



Pendrecht is part of the Natural Gas Free Neighbourhoods Programme (PAW) and prepares itself for the construction of a district heating network that is fed by excess heat from Rotterdam's industry complex. A particular feature of the Pendrecht pilot project is citizen engagement. The project had to find innovative ways to cooperate with inhabitants on the local heat transition, i.a. by creating a special meeting point in the middle of the district, which is fashioned like a living room and provides local residents comfort and homeliness. This investment created a basis to also engage them on what the energy transition means for them.

Prinsenland – Het Lage Land (tbc)

Prinsenland and neighboring Lage Land are both city districts on the eastern flank of Rotterdam, together hosting around 20.000 inhabitants. As part of the effort towards a gas free future, the municipality is collaborating with different parties on a district heating system. You will find many remarkable initiatives, such as the PowerNest, a solar and wind rooftop extension, a solar energy storage facility PowerCube, and recently a group of residents started a pilot to make the transition from natural gas to all-electric.



The excursion will take you for a tour through both districts and find out about the challenges and opportunities that the local authorities, technical partners and residents are dealing with.

RDM

The RDM campus is the innovation hub of the Rotterdam Harbour. It is here where business, research and academia meet to come up with new ideas to make and keep the harbour future-proof.

We will visit the Woonwijzerwinkel (i.e. “Smart Home Shop”) & Innovation Centre for Sustainable Construction on the RDM premises. This is a large product and technologies showroom and innovations center. Supporting 23 municipalities, individual citizens, building associations, small businesses, public utilities, such as schools, receive advice and support in renovating their homes / buildings towards a natural gas free future. Different programs promote insulation, electric car use and more. Beneficiaries are supported in finding sustainable solutions and connected to expertise and suppliers.

