

Factsheet Rotterdam Climate Agreement

Context

The energy supply in the Netherlands is based for 93% on fossil fuels, which are the main cause of CO² emissions. Rotterdam is responsible for at least 20% of the greenhouse gas emissions in the Netherlands. In addition, the city is situated in one of the lowest-lying river deltas in the world and is therefore vulnerable to effects of climate change. Reducing CO² emissions will contribute to the problem worldwide but is also in our own interest. By reducing CO², we also improve air quality, health and living environment of our citizens, the Rotterdammers.

Goals

In order to reach the objective of the COP21 Paris Agreement (keeping a global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius this century), Rotterdam formulated its own objectives;

- The first objective is to change the upward trend from an annual CO² increase to a sharp decrease within four years.
- The second objective is to reduce CO² emissions by 49% in 2030 compared to 2017.
- The third objective aims at Rotterdam being 100% energy neutral by 2050.

Process

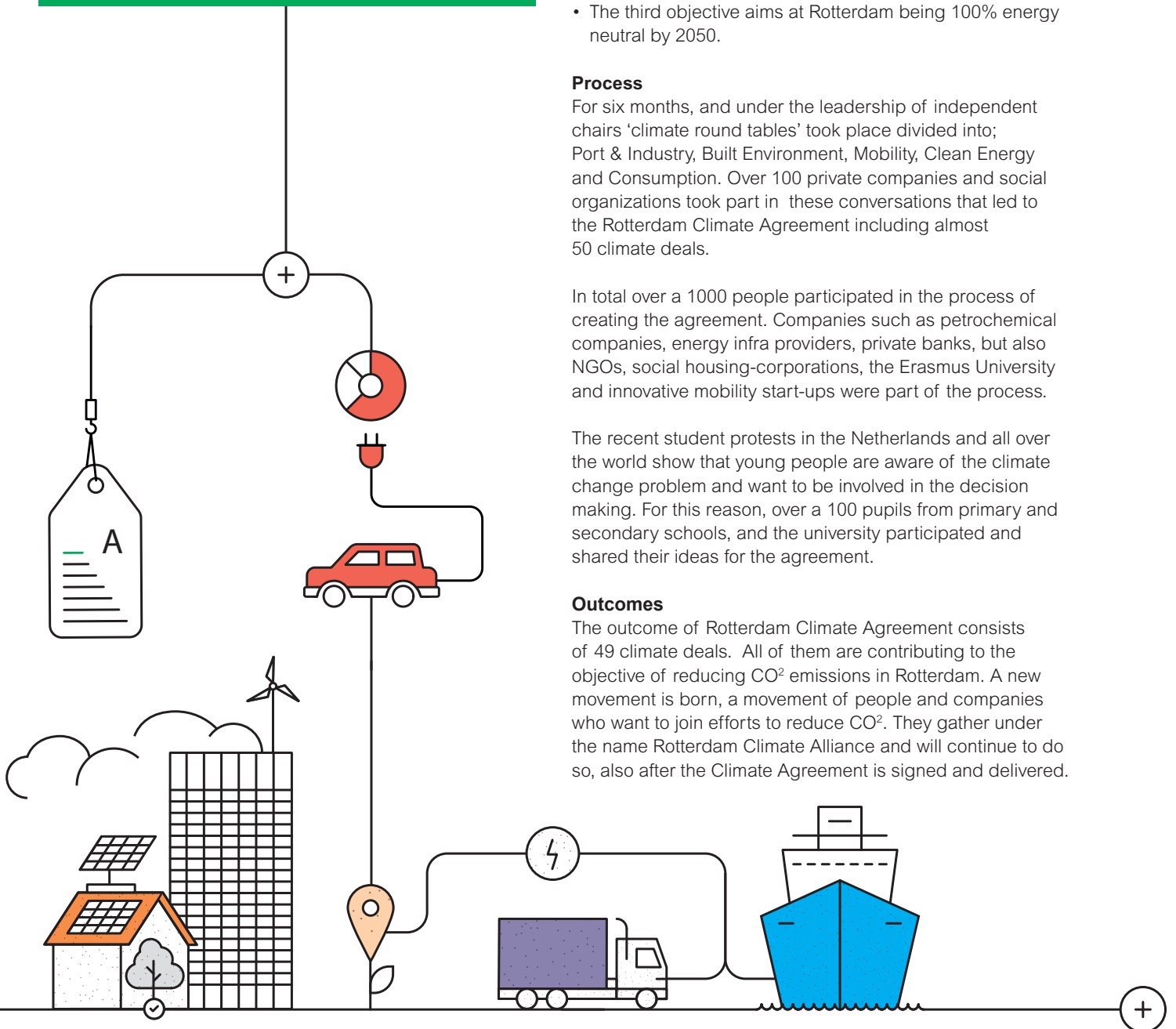
For six months, and under the leadership of independent chairs 'climate round tables' took place divided into; Port & Industry, Built Environment, Mobility, Clean Energy and Consumption. Over 100 private companies and social organizations took part in these conversations that led to the Rotterdam Climate Agreement including almost 50 climate deals.

In total over a 1000 people participated in the process of creating the agreement. Companies such as petrochemical companies, energy infra providers, private banks, but also NGOs, social housing-corporations, the Erasmus University and innovative mobility start-ups were part of the process.

The recent student protests in the Netherlands and all over the world show that young people are aware of the climate change problem and want to be involved in the decision making. For this reason, over a 100 pupils from primary and secondary schools, and the university participated and shared their ideas for the agreement.

Outcomes

The outcome of Rotterdam Climate Agreement consists of 49 climate deals. All of them are contributing to the objective of reducing CO² emissions in Rotterdam. A new movement is born, a movement of people and companies who want to join efforts to reduce CO². They gather under the name Rotterdam Climate Alliance and will continue to do so, also after the Climate Agreement is signed and delivered.



+ Showcases of climate agreement deals

Port and Industry

Large-scale production, import and application of hydrogen

Producing blue hydrogen from natural and refinery gas through a project called H-vision. Thanks to large-scale production of blue hydrogen the industry will be more sustainable and will trigger the hydrogen economy. Also, increasing the production of green hydrogen for which larger electrolyzers are needed. Integration of electricity produced by offshore wind is a crucial part of the plan.

(re)Use of residual flows, biomass, CO² in the Port area

In time, the industry in the port of Rotterdam will be based on circular and renewable carbon, sustainable biomass and hydrogen. We aim the port to become an (inter) national hub for import, export, distribution and valorisation of residual flows, CO² and sustainable biomass.

Built Environment

Change of homes, offices and shops to renewable energy

Bouwinvest is a Dutch company and a real estate investor with around 1200 residences, 2 office buildings and 2 shopping centres in Rotterdam (70,000 m² of commercial property). In 2045, they will make sure that the entire property is connected to renewable energy. In collaboration with the municipality they also develop new mobility solutions.

Mobility

Going to school

Several schools in Rotterdam start a pilot project that creates different traffic flows for a period of four months. This also means less or no cars around the school area and lower speed limits. The aim is to improve road safety. Children will be taught to participate in traffic independently as pedestrians or cyclists.

Renewable Energy

Solar panels on industrial roofs in the urban and port area

All suitable roofs in business and industrial areas will be equipped with solar panels and if possible, with an application of wind energy. In order to reach this objective, managers and business associations must be advised on grant application by independent specialists.

Consumption

Climate neutral University

The Erasmus University aims to be a CO² neutral university by 2024. This process includes mapping the ecological footprint of the University, a roadmap to a sustainable campus, and a working group that focuses on the sustainability of education and uses the campus as a living lab for applied research.

Also, food packages from residual flows and left overs will be offered to students in order to decrease food waste. Every week students get a package with vegetables and fruit in exchange for 3 hours of volunteering.