

Stad van de Zon - City of the Sun

Heerhugowaard, the Netherlands

Mayor: Han ter Heegde

'Stad van de Zon' (City of the Sun) is Heerhugowaard's carbon-neutral community. It plays an important role in Heerhugowaard's efforts to meet the Covenant of Mayors commitments. 'Stad van de Zon' is about the development of some 3000 houses in and around the city of Heerhugowaard. The project is part of the development covering the area between three cities. In order to achieve carbon-neutral status, 'Stad van de Zon' is fitted with 25,000 photovoltaic panels, three 2.3MW wind turbines and surrounded by 100 hectares of forest.

"City of the Sun is no longer a plan, it's today's reality! It demonstrates positive local change triggered by the Covenant of Mayors." Frank Schuitemaker, programme manager sustainability, city of Heerhugowaard



The community, which is also home to schools and businesses, is built on previously vacant land surrounded by a lake. It has been designed to help create a community feel. Indeed the layout of the development was carefully planned, with the majority of houses having a north-south orientation in order to maximise exposure to the sun. Residents also benefit from natural water filtration systems and retrieval tanks to collect and recycle rainwater.

The 25,000 photovoltaic panels produce 3.75MW of energy. The entire location would normally emit 9,092 tonnes of CO₂, however an annual reduction in carbon emissions of 2,500



tonnes of CO₂ has been achieved by using the locally generated solar and wind energy. The total of CO₂ emissions are therefore reduced to 6,592 tonnes per year, which are entirely compensated by the sustainable energy sources and the surrounding forest.

The project cost an estimated €140 million, jointly funded by the Dutch government, the province of North-Holland and the European Commission under the Fifth Framework Programme.

Heerhugowaard - key facts*:

- Approximate population 51,253
- Joined the Covenant of Mayors on 26 January 2010
- Has the ambition to be completely carbon-neutral by 2030
- Reducing the energy use and generating renewable energy are the main priorities to achieve carbon-neutrality
- Surface: 40 km²
- Buildings represent 30% of the total energy use in Heerhugowaard

*Figures from the website of Heerhugowaard municipality

As a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors, the city of Heerhugowaard voluntarily commits itself to reducing its CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by 2020.

Contacts & further information:

Frank Schuitemaker, Covenant coordinator - Heerhugowaard
f.schuitemaker@heerhugowaard.nl
www.heerhugowaardstadvandezon.nl

Covenant of Mayors contact point:

press@eumayors.eu