

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and
Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION – A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

Rotterdam, The Netherlands Surging ahead with electric vehicles

STORY IN SHORT: Within five years, at least one thousand electric vehicles will be on the streets of Rotterdam. This is the aim of Project Power Surge. To accomplish this goal the city will install charging points in the city and provide funding for individuals, organizations and companies. Electric transport will significantly contribute to achieving the objective of reducing CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2025, in comparison to 1990 levels.

Rotterdam sets the trend

Rotterdam has the ambition to become a leading city in electric transport. This will improve air quality and reduce traffic noise, significantly improving the quality of life of Rotterdam's citizens.

The city aims to ensure that at least one thousand electric vehicles will be on the road within five years. By 2025, this number should rise to as many as 200,000. 15% of all electric vehicles in the Netherlands will then be cruising around the Rotterdam region.

During the last years, there has been a significant increase in the number of electric bikes, scooters, cars, and even delivery vans and refuse collection vehicles in Rotterdam. Project Power Surge will boost these numbers, creating the right conditions to dramatically accelerate the introduction of electric transport.

Electric vehicles are clean, quiet and energy efficient. This means: no pollution from exhaust gases, no noise, and low energy consumption. Furthermore, electric transport will significantly contribute to achieving the objective of reducing CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2025, in comparison to 1990 levels.



Energy-efficient electric refill
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The Rotterdam Climate Initiative (RCI)

The RCI is Rotterdam's response to the challenges the Rijnmond region will face in the coming decades, and the economic opportunities this offers. RCI is a public-private partnership and serves as executive climate committee. It is an initiative of the city of Rotterdam, The Port of Rotterdam, Deltalinqs (as representative of the industrial companies in Rotterdam) and DCMR Environmental Protection Agency Rijnmond. The partners join forces with their associates to create a unique movement in which government, companies, knowledge institutes, other organizations, and citizens collaborate.

For Project Power Surge, RCI works together with different Dutch organizations and companies such as the postal service TNT, energy company ENECO, financial parties and ministries.



One of Rotterdam's electric cars
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1,000 charging points and parking permits

Project Power Surge is part of the city's plan to dedicate resources to the installation of sufficient charging points in the city. In addition, Rotterdam provides funding for the installation of the first 1,000 charging points for the benefit of private individuals, organizations, and companies that will purchase an electric vehicle. In order to make electric driving even more attractive, the city will offer an extra 1,000 free parking permits to store these vehicles for one year.

Space for innovation

Project Power Surge boosts further development of electric transport. Initiators of innovative projects are encouraged and supported in many ways, for instance through support for experiments, the set-up of regulation-free zones, and the moral support of knowing that the municipal government itself actively participates in innovations and experiments.

Working together to combat climate change and boost economic growth

Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of Rotterdam, states: "Reducing CO₂ emissions by 50% in 2025, making sure that we are prepared for climate change, and boosting economic growth – together we can achieve these goals if we, as market parties, citizens and government authorities, pool resources and join forces."

Involvement in international initiatives

The RCI participates in the C40 Climate Leadership Group, an alliance of 40 large cities from all over the world which collaborate on climate change issues. The group cooperates closely with the Clinton Climate Initiative, which was founded by former President of the United States, Bill Clinton. In this respect, Rotterdam plays a leading role in the climate change approach of port cities.

Furthermore, as part of the Rotterdam Climate Proof initiative, the adaptation programme of the RCI, the cities of New York, Tokyo, London, Jakarta, Shanghai, Hong Kong and others have united in Connecting Delta Cities. The Delta Cities aim to cooperate to find innovative solutions for floods, extreme downpours and long hot summers, which occur as a result of climate change.



Rotterdam is a city and municipality, situated in the west of the Netherlands.

City profile & contacts

Rotterdam is a young and dynamic city and the second largest city of The Netherlands with around 590.000 inhabitants. The Municipality covers 319 m². Rotterdam lies on the Nieuwe Maas (New Meuse) and the port of Rotterdam is one of the largest and most important ports in the world.

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