

Sustainability in integrated development

Municipality of Zuidhorn [Netherlands]

Context & Rationale

The municipality of Zuidhorn applies an integrated development model for the redevelopment of the Zuidhorn railway station area, along with the development of a new park-and-ride facility. Sustainable technologies are integrated, and in cooperation with consultants and research institutes, as much as possible new innovative technologies are implemented and tested in the area.

Description

The municipality of Zuidhorn considers the redevelopment of the railway station area as an integrated programme, consisting of several projects including the overhaul of both the railway station and the bus terminal, the development of a park-and-ride facility, and additional bicycle parking.

In the past, for this type of project often a project approach was used. A project team or consortium was formed. Now it is managed as a programme consisting of several subprojects. This makes the organisation more flexible and dynamic, while simultaneously allowing for 'adding' subprojects on sustainability.

The focus within the programme is not only on direct results (such as the development of the park-and-ride facility), but also on the development and testing of new approaches and technologies. By collaborating with knowledge institutes, and facilitating this testing in a public place, innovations can be brought forward.

In other fields, including the field of healthcare, the municipality of Zuidhorn employed similar approaches before, involving knowledge institutes. In the field of sustainability and energy, the railway station programme is the first in which knowledge institutes are involved as much as possible in order to enable innovations.

The project aims to integrate several innovative technologies in the programme. One of the key aspects is 'piëzo' (piezoelectricity), as part of a research project with Tauw consultancy and the University of Groningen. In this technology, movements (vibrations) of pedestrians and vehicles are transformed into energy, used for instance for street lighting.

It is crucial that there is political support, both by the responsible alderman, and by the local council. It was made easier to integrate sustainability in the project, because there was budget surplus. In times of a budget deficit, integrating sustainability might be much more difficult.



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Main Objectives

Energy savings and renewable energy generation are only long-term goals. The key short to medium-term goals are the development of the local/regional knowledge-based economy, and the application of innovative technologies in public.

Implementing Structure & Partners - Governance

The project started in 2014, and will probably be completed by 2018

Next the municipality, key partners include the provincial government, ProRail (the railway track manager), Arriva (the train operator), NS Stations (railway stations manager) and Qbuzz (regional bus operator). For the focus on sustainability, there is specific involvement of Tauw (consultancy) and the University of Groningen.

Although 'Stationspark Zuidhorn' is a project, it has been implemented using programme management techniques, consisting of several subprojects, including project on the railway-related aspects, a project by the municipality on the public space around it (such as parking spaces), and a project on innovative sustainable options.

Within the municipal organisation of Zuidhorn, three people work on sustainability, but all of them not full time. Together about 1 FTE.

Financing and Costs / Time Frame

The total costs of the project are € 3.3 million. About € 200,000 to 300,000 has been specifically reserved for innovation and sustainability.

For the general project, financing is carried out by the municipality of Zuidhorn, province of Groningen, and Groningen-Assen metropolitan area. Specifically for some sustainable options, additional subsidies, such as SDE+ subsidy (from national government) for renewable energy generated.

Contacts & Links

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http://www.zuidhorn.nl/bestuur-en-organisatie/transferium-zuidhorn_3529/



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