

ONCE A GREEN CAPITAL

'I was looking for videos about Nijmegen as European Green Capital. I saw the election in Ljubljana and heard those typical voiced from Nijmegen saying they were ecstatic, so happy that it seemed that they never thought it was possible to be chosen - also typical for Nijmegen, a mild inferiority complex that really can't be based on facts, because Nijmegen is the European Green Capital after all. Not only because of the cycling paths that keep getting mentioned, not only because sustainability is applauded throughout the city, but mostly because of perhaps the most beautiful light in Europe, the light in Kronenburgerpark on an early summer morning, the light falling on the Valkhof, the light in the forests surrounding the city, the light shining across the river that makes the water look like it is made from white gold ... the gentle light that is home to Nijmegen. To play with what I've written before: The light of Nijmegen celebrates Nijmegen'

Thomas Verbogt, *Flames over the River (Vlammen boven de Rivier)*,
Uitgeverij Vantilt
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ALWAYS A GREEN CAPITAL

A Retrospective on the Green Capital year 2018

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ONCE A GREEN CAPITAL, ALWAYS A GREEN CAPITAL

Nijmegen, the oldest city in the Netherlands and currently with more than 170,000 inhabitants, was proclaimed the sustainable capital of Europe 2018. We were proud of this. And we still are. If we look at the results, we see that we have firmly positioned Nijmegen on the map as a sustainable city. Both domestically and internationally. There were numerous events and meetings ranging from neighbourhood initiatives to large international events. Together we created something admirable. The green movement, which was active in Nijmegen, has grown. And certainly thanks to all those people who voluntarily worked on this year. That movement is important because Nijmegen wants to be climate-neutral in 2045. We want to further improve our waste system. We want to make our city even more green. To achieve these sustainable goals, we will need even more cooperation. Within Nijmegen, but also regionally and internationally. So even after 2018 we are going to keep expanding our green network. We are going to continue Operation Steenbreek. We are going to further improve our waste separation system. And we are going to continue activities in all neighbourhoods of the city. The Green Capital Challenges and Kleurrijk Groen are working with neighbourhood residents to see what else can be done in the neighbourhoods. Together we can ensure that, as the oldest city in the Netherlands, we will retain a young heart. Continue to innovate. We can do this by learning from the past. By learning from experiences like Green Capital. And by sharing those lessons with everyone in Nijmegen as well as with other Dutch and foreign cities. This magazine illustrates the Green Capital in 2018. I would like to thank everyone who worked on its creation. The photos speak for themselves. Enjoy reading this publication.
Hubert Bruls

Mayor of Nijmegen, European Green Capital 2018

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By Michiel Hustinx, programme leader sustainable city and Nijmegen Green Capital 2018.

FLASHBACK

My first associations with the Green Capital phenomenon date from 2011, when the urban region of Arnhem-Nijmegen organised a study trip to Umwelt Hauptstadt Europas Hamburg. And, of course, the head of Nijmegen's Environmental Department was an expected guest. What I remember most are the enormous sustainability ambitions of this major German city; their energy plans in particular went far beyond ours in Nijmegen. But at that time small cities like ours weren't even allowed to enter the contest, which was only open to municipalities with more than 200,000 inhabitants.

In the spring of 2013 a colleague of mine reminded me of the existence of this European contest. It appeared that the required minimum number of inhabitants had been lowered to 100,000+. And thanks to Nijmegen's view of and approach to sustainability and the environment, we were able to meet the twelve technical criteria. Jan van der Meer, the alderman at the time, was equally enthusiastic. He immediately saw opportunities to strengthen Nijmegen's sustainability profile and to connect many more groups in the city to the sustainability agenda. No sooner said than done. Except, not really... Diverse colleagues, motivated by Ton Verhoeven and Han Derckx, ran up against the rigid format that the European Commission used for this contest. We quickly realized that perseverance was key and that you shouldn't trust organisations in Brussels to do your English translations for you...

Re-reading our first proposals for participation, I see how cautious we were. The tone was set by the adage that 'participating is more important than winning', and we also used the argument that we wanted to learn from a prestigious international benchmark. It is remarkable however, that, even then, we were very aware that the participation of residents and businesses was an essential prerequisite for winning.

Several months later we received word from Brussels that we were among the finalists. But we weren't completely prepared for that. In a short period of time, we had to make a presentation, produce a film and also formulate our ambitions just in case we were indeed crowned the European Green Capital 2016. That demanded a distinctive act intended to capture the hearts of the jury members. With the passionate help of a group of sports enthusiasts who used their muscle energy to bring a sustainable relay baton to Copenhagen and the sublime singing of Janne Schra, we made an ineffaceable impression on the jury. But unfortunately, this wasn't enough to win from our competitor Ljubljana.

Meanwhile, the university and a number of companies had begun to show significantly growing interest in this contest. They encouraged the city not to quit after just one try, which prompted our new alderman, Harriët Tiemens, to make another attempt. We were asked to update and sharpen our reports, and we became reasonably sure of securing another place in the finals.

And our relay-racing fans were also able to reach Bristol to support the official delegation. However, this time Essen was a stronger candidate. Had our neighbours to the east really done their homework better than we had? Was their story of transition stronger than ours? Or was their lobby more powerful? And was it even possible for a small city like Nijmegen to win this contest? Our third and final attempt was based primarily on the intuition of our mayor. After a general and informal inspection of diverse European environmental organisations, he decided to give it one more try. We thought we could win from Den Bosch, but it was hard to assess the chances of Umeå, also a finalist for the third time.

Off to the finals in Ljubljana. Only one solitary cyclist dared to make the journey from Nijmegen to the Slovenian capital, but a busload of enthusiastic supporters also came along to convince the jury that our city truly deserved the title and that it could set an example for other European cities with plans for sustainability.

'The smallest European Green Capital to date has done a great job'

The final verdict was reached a few days after our presentation: 'The winner of the EU Green Capital Award 2018 is... Nijmegen...' The deafening cheers from supporters in the power plant in Nijmegen sounded like it could be heard all the way to Ljubljana. And the sighs of relief from the mayor, alderman and this writer could probably be heard in Nijmegen. Years of efforts hadn't been in vain.

Preparations for 2018 began after the summer. Determining our ambitions, looking for partners and sponsors, organising ateliers, building project organisations, developing lines of communication, etc. But most importantly, would our limited finances allow us to inspire as many parties as possible in and around Nijmegen to join in making this a fantastic, sustainable year and to act as a role model for other cities throughout Europe?

Two years later, I can look back with pride at what the city achieved in so short a period. This magazine is full of those achievements. The smallest European Green Capital to date has done a great job and gained the reputation of a city that has green in its genes. Does this mean that we're done? Absolutely not. There are still enormous challenges ahead. However, I think that many people are increasingly willing to take part. That inspires hope!

- The relay-race baton.

- A warm welcome awaits the solitary cyclist Henk Horsten in Ljubljana in 2016.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 The official delegation of the municipality of Nijmegen wins in Ljubljana, 22 June 2016.
- 2 Journalist Rob Jaspers speaking to the public during the Spiegelwaal Concert, 20 June 2018.
- 3 Building willow huts in Neerbosch Oost on Green Friday, 14 December 2018.
- 4 Award ceremony in De Vereeniging with Navarone, 21 June 2018.
- 5 Opening festival Wondertuin, 19 to 21 January 2018.
- 6 22 European cities sign the Call for Action to improve sustainability in cities, 23 November 2018.
- 7 Neighbourhood heroes clean up Goffert Park on Green Friday, 14 December 2018.
- 8 Volunteers for the visitors' pavilion, 2018.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Mayor Bruls receives the Green Capital pop-up book from predecessor Essen and officially opens the Green Capital year, 20 January 2018.
- 2 Opening of centre for natural and cultural history De Bastei, 19 and 20 May 2018.
- 3 Bertrand Piccard, initiator of the Solar Impulse Foundation, at the international conference Eco Procura on sustainable purchasing, 3 to 5 October 2018.

4 During his visit to Nijmegen Green Capital, King Willem Alexander tests a circular bench, 4 July 2018.

5 The Waal Bridge is closed for the biggest sustainable picnic in the Netherlands, 16 September 2018.

6 In the theme of Waste, Green Capital Challenges embraces the art route 'Walk of Waste, February 2018.

7 National network day Operation Steenbreek, 13 June 2018.

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ALDERMAN HARRIËT TIEMENS:

'ONWARDS WITH OUR STRONG NETWORK'

Nijmegen was already well-known throughout the Netherlands as a city for walking and cycling. Let's be honest: who hasn't heard of the Four Days Marches? Or the Seven Hills Marathon? In 2017 w, together with Arnhem, were designated *VeloCity*. And now we will forever be the European Green Capital. In 2018 we put Nijmegen on the map as a green city. And we're continuing our initiatives. Once the sustainable capital of Europe, always the sustainable capital. In the short term, we have seen that the city's residents are becoming increasingly involved in sustainability. A general goal in the Green Capital was to expand the circle of parties involved in five themes of sustainability. And we succeeded.

In the long run, we can say that we have put Nijmegen on the map as a role model. We are on the list of European green cities worth visiting and we've received a lot of professional visitors. They see Nijmegen and the region as a frontrunner in areas such as green public transport, sustainable healthcare, the circular economy and green tourism. We have also closed a number of international deals, such as the covenant for sustainable inland navigation. It's very important for the city to work on this because it will greatly improve air quality.

Within the Netherlands we have worked on our relationship with the national government. In addition to the king, we have also had visits from cabinet members. The effects of this may not be immediately noticeable for the city, but they are important in the long run.

Onwards sustainably

In 2019 and beyond we will continue to work on the themes that we chose in 2018. And we will continue with our networks, which have resulted in many wonderful initiatives. We will strengthen these by focusing even more on realising substantive goals.

I think we can be satisfied with ourselves. If you see, for example, how many more visitors come to a sustainability café, then we have really achieved something. The Challenges reached large numbers of people and will continue to do so in 2019. We have made new people enthusiastic and involved. In the area of, for example, sports, health or the Operation Steenbreek campaign. All sorts of new groups were reached, especially among residents.

I am very proud of all those residents, entrepreneurs, knowledge institutes, clubs, schools and event organisers who rolled up their sleeves or contributed new ideas for making our city sustainable. Without their efforts and those of countless volunteers, the Green Capital year would not have been possible. On top of that all those people constitute a strong network that will continue to help us to create a green and

healthy Nijmegen, where future generations will also enjoy living and working.

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Transition in five themes
THE EXPERT

Pim de Ridder is the director of Wind Park Nijmegen-Betuwe, a citizen's initiative along the A15 highway. He has been involved in developing wind parks for a long time and is now working on his own sustainable energy supply for the city.

Project

'About six years ago we started to think about our own energy supply based on sustainable energy. This led to Wind Park Nijmegen-Betuwe. About a thousand people - 1,030 to be precise - own the four windmills that generate energy for more than 7,000 households.'

Support

'Developing a wind park is usually done in the offices of large energy companies or investors. But we didn't do that. Instead, we went to the city. We worked on all of the elements in a project like this together with the members of the cooperation. Participating in a project creates support. But also, a perspective of being able to do something about climate change, something you experience every day, but you usually can't do much about. And suddenly it's possible to join in on talks about projects and to stimulate projects and to exert pressure: this really has to happen now. That is what we have to offer to the city.'

The future

'Four windmills aren't the solution to Nijmegen's energy demands, so we have to continue to think. There are about 5 or 6 hectares of land near the windmills that could be used for a solar park. That's the first step in our expansion. We have already received permission. The holy grail of sustainable energy supply is storage. And because we have enough space and a connection to the net, this is a step that we want to take as well. Those are experiments for the future that we want to try. And we want to make it accessible, to show everyone who's interested how it could work.'
www.windparknijmegenbetuwe.nl

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Featured

The National Heat Congress

The National Heat Congress was created together with partners such as the province of Gelderland and Euroforum. About 350 professionals gathered in De Vereeniging to exchange knowledge and learn from each other's experience.

The central questions were as follows:

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The Climate Agreement; how will that be implemented and what does that mean for you?

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How are we going to deal with this social issue? How can we involve citizens in heat transition?

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What is your role in the heat transition? Are you in charge?

•

Laws and regulations as structure for the market; what do you have to take into consideration?

•

How can we bring the heat transition from the national to the regional to the local to the neighbourhood level?

•

Building without natural gas; new construction and existing buildings. An immense challenge. How can we do this with everyone?

•

How can you make sustainable heat truly sustainable?

•

The Large-Scale Testing Grounds for Neighbourhoods without Natural Gas; how are they going to realise this?

•

Industry and the heat transition; how can you do two things at once by making your energy supply sustainable and using your residual warmth?

•

From gas to no gas; what are the possible solutions, and which is the most ideal solution for your situation?

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How can you create a successful business case?

•

How can you finance your project?

www.warmtecongres.nl

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Column Wilma de Koning

Wilma de Koning is vice-chair of the Executive Board of Radboud University.

CONTINUE THE GREEN CAPITAL LEGACY

If anything became clear in the European Green Capital year 2018, it was that working on sustainability means working together.

A lot was organised during Nijmegen European Green Capital 2018, ranging from a green walk over Heijendaal Campus to an augmented reality green tour on the twentieth storey of the Erasmus Building. From scientific congresses (Clean-Med) to scientific research by one of our professors focusing on how the city's less affluent residents got involved in Nijmegen European Green Capital. Participating in sustainability cafés, diverse Challenges and awarding an honorary doctorate to Professor Stephen Pacala (climate scientist) in the framework of Radboud University's 95th anniversary.

Nijmegen European Green Capital put sustainability higher on the regional agenda, also at Radboud University Medical Center and Radboud University. Together we established a Green Office, a hub for and by students focusing on sustainability issues on campus and beyond. In addition, the university appointed a sustainability programme director, and sustainability has a prominent place in the new strategic plan.

Together with the city and the University of Applied Sciences Arnhem-Nijmegen, we are working on the so-called logistic hub. By reducing the transport movements of lorries, we are limiting CO2 emission. We do this by collecting goods at one location just outside of the city and then using electric transport to bring them to the diverse locations.

I have noticed that the Green Capital year had a positive effect on embedding the university in the region. A good example of this is Sustainably Accessible Heijendaal. Sustainable cooperation aimed at safer transport between home and campus/work, but also raising awareness about green forms of transport. Not only did Nijmegen European Green Capital 2018 lead to various parties in the city being able to find one another more easily to discuss sustainability, but it also brought regional, national and international attention to the city and its organisations. I consider this an incentive to continue working together.

One thing is clear: sustainability means collaboration! Let's ensure that this collaboration continues and that together we expand the Green Capital legacy in the years ahead.

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Transition in five themes

HAPPY WITH WIND AND SUN
Saving energy together in Nijmegen

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With all its small initiatives, the Green Capital year created something large. We succeeded in reaching a lot of people. The sustainability themes were put on the map even at the neighbourhood level. That was last year's major achievement. Now we have to continue involving all of the residents, and definitely the entrepreneurs, in our region. That is our task but also the task of the entire city. The Rabobank explicitly invites all entrepreneurs to participate.

Working on the sustainable themes together

We at the Rabobank want to help improve the living environment of our customers. Our international motto is: 'Growing a better world together'. If we look at the problem of world hunger, we face the challenge of preventing famine and making food production more efficient. The food chain is responsible for 25% of all CO2 emissions. In the food chain stretching from production to consumption 40% of our food is wasted. In addition, there is the problem of being underfed and overfed. So, food has been a central theme for years, certainly for the Rabobank. 'It's an international theme that needs local attention as well. This is what we did during the European Green Capital year,' said Antoine Driessen, director of Rabobank Rijk van Nijmegen. 'Rabobank Rijk van Nijmegen and Rabobank Nederland contributed to many initiatives during European Green Capital. We'll continue doing that this year. The challenges are still visible every day and demand our attention.'

One activity that particularly impressed Antoine was the Circular Economy Festival, which was organised by Rabobank together with Euroforum, KPMG and the municipality of Nijmegen. 'We are going to repeat this in 2019. We'll also start with the Circular Kickstart for enterprises. We want to make it clear to all entrepreneurs what the circular economy is and what it could mean for them. That's important because we have to be more careful with the use of our raw materials and need to add value to our waste by turning it into new raw materials. The Netherlands wants to be 100% circular in 2050. That's a daunting goal.' With its Circular Kickstart, the Rabobank gives entrepreneurs insight into the possibility of operating circularly. They are supervised in their first steps towards a circular business model and they will receive help with further implementation. In the programme, the Rabobank works together with students from the HAN University of Applied Sciences.

Antoine also sees a role for Rabobank Rijk van Nijmegen in the energy transition. 'We're helping to reduce fossil fuels in the neighbourhoods of de Hengstdal and Dukenburg. Together with corporations, the Klok Group, the municipality and residents, we are studying ways to finance this. But aside from the financing, I think that the biggest task in this transition is creating support among residents. We can certainly solve technical and financial problems but, without support, it will be really difficult. We'll have to work hard at this.'

The profits from the Green Capital year
'Looking back on the year we can say that we booked good results with only a few resources. We found an unbelievable number of ambassadors in the city, all the way down to the neighbourhood level. Events like the opening, the picnic on the Waal Bridge, the Circular Economy Festival, the Spiegelwaal Concert and the visit from the king showed that, as a small city with smaller initiatives, we are able to book major results,' said Antoine.

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Wil Verheijen, volunteer at the visitors' pavilion:
'I WAS IN LOVE WITH THAT LITTLE HOUSE'

He's already searched the net: what happened to his beloved visitors' pavilion? He was crazy about that Green Capital wooden building, admitted

volunteer Wil Verheijen (74). 'I once said that I'll be heartbroken once it is gone.'

Wil knows it for sure: there was a special something about the little building at Kelfkensbos. 'It pulled you inside. You were captivated by it. I think that a lot of people felt that.' He was there almost every week from 12 to 5 to welcome visitors who wanted to know more about Green Capital. Why did he do it? 'I enjoy having contact with people.' But also, because he wants to talk about sustainability. As the son of a farmer, nature and the landscape are close to his heart. 'For years I was a volunteer with Das&Boom, which later merged with Vereniging Nederlands Cultuurlandschap. Furthermore, my wife and I try to live as green a life as possible.'

Green Tourist Office

This is why he signed up early last year when volunteers were recruited for a 'green tourist office. 'I was almost obsessed with it, it was such a great programme. And it became increasingly more fun. The material we worked with was so good.' He enthusiastically picks up one of the brochures and green routes, which he has all kept. Some of the visitors were also what Wil calls pessimists. 'They thought it was all nonsense. But with those brochures I could show them: green and sustainable are so near. The city bus driving on green gas, the water taps, the trees in the shopping streets for coolness.' And the criticism that it was a party for elites? 'That was more of a newspaper opinion, I think.'

Former Prime Minister

Which visitor made the biggest impression on him? He's silent for a moment and then softly answers, 'Well, I met Van Agt. I hardly told anyone about it. He came into the pavilion unannounced. I know him because of my age. Wil hesitated before approaching the former Prime Minister. 'I said, I think I know you. And then we chatted for a bit, also about Green Capital. That was truly a meeting.'

Wil still clearly remembers the day that the pavilion closed for good. 'It was really a moment to embrace one another.' Although his beloved building has moved to Antwerp, he's okay with it now. 'Green Capital and the pavilion have a large, green spot in my heart.'

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Mayor Hubert Bruls opens the Wondertuin together with some children.

KIDS SPEAKING

Kids and the climate. Both of these have been in the news together a lot recently. Children are extremely interested in the world around them, which is why Nijmegen immediately involved them in the Green Capital year. For example, during the opening festival of the Wondertuin with the Big Green Kids Club. But during the rest of the year, young residents of Nijmegen actively helped to make the city green.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HEROES IN ACTION

Who are those children in those brightly coloured vests? They're Neighbourhood Heroes in action, cleaning up litter in their neighbourhood. With a gripper and a bucket or a bag, they collect litter

from the streets, the pavements and the playground around the corner. That does not only result in cleaner and thus more enjoyable surroundings, but the children also learn from it. For example, how they can make a positive contribution to a nice neighbourhood. And to make it extra attractive: they can earn some pocket money, which they can save for a daytrip with other children from their team. They get the supplies, such as a safety vest, a gripper and special litter bags from the Dar. Neighbourhood Heroes first came into being in the neighbourhood of Dukenburg in Nijmegen in the 1990s. Last year, an impressive number of 2,000 Neighbourhood Heroes were active in 9 municipalities.

IN THE NEWS

In the Green Capital year children were constantly in the news with sustainable subjects. Mahlik van der Werf (front row, second from left) was awarded a Nijmegen kids' ribbon because he very often goes outside to collect litter with his great grandfather's antique gripper and a Plastic Heroes bag. In addition, children from De Sterredans primary school won the debating contest 'Nijmegen debates!' Pupils from six primary schools in Nijmegen debated the topic 'A sustainable Europe and you!'. They debated on issues such as 'The European Union needs a children's parliament' and 'Parents should only bring their children to school on foot or by bicycle' and 'If you care about the environment, you shouldn't shower for longer than 3 minutes a day'. Sterredans won the debating contest last year as well.

NEIGHBOURHOOD REPORTERS GO GREEN

Perhaps you've seen them: the Nijmegen Neighbourhood Reporters. Children from various neighbourhoods in the city who film stories from their neighbourhood to make short, enjoyable reports. Last year the Neighbourhood Reporters made six short films about green subjects especially for Green Capital. They investigated how you can make biogas from combustible waste, they visited the windmill park along the A15 highway and they interviewed pupils who participated in a debating contest about sustainability. They also learned how to make toothpaste yourself, did the 'How green are you' quiz with Mayor Bruls and interviewed an urban beekeeper. The films can be viewed online and on the Neighbourhood Reporters' Facebook page.

CLIMATE TOP FOR CHILDREN

The mayor and aldermen of Nijmegen take all sorts of decisions about the city. But there were subjects that children also joined in to think about during the Green Capital year. For example, what transport in Nijmegen should be like in the future. There was also a Children's Climate Top, where children from various primary schools discussed ways to prevent climate change. Children from primary schools in Nijmegen took part as well. Some of them were present at the Children's Climate Top in Arnhem on 16 March.

Kids' page

More information about the stories on these pages can be found on the kids' page of Green Capital. Here you can also find information about what children themselves can do for a sustainable world. And they can find information for their oral presentations at school and tips about books, games and museums.

www.greencapital2018.nl/green-capital-kids

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Life, living, working, relaxing, partying, experiencing. A vibrant city breathes, grows, is green and offers space. A city that is fun to stay in or to visit. A city with a young *green vibe*. Where you can live a safe and healthy life by yourself or together with your friends and family. We can now rightfully claim that Nijmegen is a stunning green destination, because last year we also won the Green Destinations Award 2018!

THE VIBRANT CITY

Green, healthy and exercising. It's the name of a network, but it is also the movement that's happening in Nijmegen. How delightful is it to go for a walk, bike-ride, run or swim to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Nijmegen and the region?

Healthiness is an increasingly recurring theme in the streets of inner-city Nijmegen. Organic, vegetarian or vegan: more and more restaurants in Nijmegen put it on the menu. We want to know what we're eating.

This is evident from all the initiatives concerning food in Nijmegen. Kleurrijk Groen, for example, takes care of a vegetable garden together with its members, *van Tuin Tot Bord* organises a neighbourhood meal twice per week with the vegetables from their own vegetable garden and in a few years, we'll be able to munch from the food-forests that were planted north of Nijmegen in the past year, while enjoying a walk in Neerbosch-Oost and Park West.

A green city is a pleasant and healthy city. Making the city greener is not just our task. We are also asking residents to remove paving stones from their gardens. And let's be real: don't we all enjoy those beautiful native flowers in Goffert Park and on the roof of De Bastei?

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ACBN: WE LOVE ORGANISING PARTIES

If you've organised the Four Days Marches celebrations for years, you know how to throw a party. When the city asked for pitches to give background support for a number of events in the Green Capital year, the project office ACBN didn't hesitate. In 2018 the organisation was involved in all of the major events of Green Capital, with highlights such as the official opening in Stevens Church, the Spiegelwaal concert, the picnic on the Waal Bridge and Green Friday.

The opening in Stevens Church was magnificent. The church was stunning and all of the events in the programme complemented one another, ranging from film to performances and from lighting to speakers. Even the members of the European Commission, who have already seen so much, were impressed. We had carefully programmed everything from one second to the next, and these efforts were rewarded.

Tickets for the Spiegelwaal concert on 20 June sold out in less than 20 minutes. It was a beautiful day on which nearly 3,000 people were able to

enjoy performances by singer/pianist Ruben Hein and top trumpeter Eric Vloeimans, accompanied by the Nijmegen Symphony Orchestra, which also played works by Dvorak, Stenhammar, Piazzola and Saint Saens. Angela Verkuijden, a former night mayor, hosted the evening. Thanks to the contributions from professional and skilled parties in the region, such as Showline's production and Yosser Dekker's enthusiastic direction, the evening was very special.

During the Mobility Week, the weather gods were benevolent once again. The Waal Bridge, which normally carries 50,000 vehicles a day, was closed to traffic for 24 hours on Sunday 16 September. Starting at 1 pm, 1,000 people were able to enjoy a vegetarian lunch made from regional produce. That meant that 250 litres of apple juice and 2,500 sandwiches were served. In the afternoon, the bridge formed the décor for various artists and activities, including the NK Slowbiking, bicycle games, demonstrations by skating centre Waalhalla, performances by the theatre group Abacus and music by the cycling Radio Barkas. The organisation of an event like this is complex. But it all went smoothly thanks to ACBN's team, creativity and network together with their perfect collaboration with professionals from the city. For example, the creative staff at the Schoenfabriek, who worked on the preparations late into the night.

During Green Friday, a lot of volunteers were spread throughout the city to make the city greener and cleaner. Everyone who helped during the day was invited to enjoy a performance that evening in the centre, which included a concert by Navarone in the St. Stevens Church or the premier of the film 'Green Tales of the City'. Here again, we worked together with all of the qualitative parties in the city. At the end of the year we felt a bit tired but were also very proud of all of the tremendous events.

In 2018 Teddy Vrijmoet left her job as director of the Four Days Marches celebrations/ACBN to become the director of the Lindenberg. But up through December she remained involved with the Green Capital activities. In January 2019 Leo Weterings became the new director of ACBN.

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column Michiel Scheffer

Michiel Scheffer is a member of the Provincial Executive for Economy, Innovation and Europe.

» GELDERLAND BUILDS ON GREEN CAPITAL

Thanks to Green Capital in 2018, Nijmegen learned to look at itself through European eyes. A magazine voiced amazement at the fact that, at 't Meertje, you can easily cross a pedestrian bridge to the Ooij Polder. And policymakers from meridional countries looked at our bike paths with shiny eyes. But we felt encouraged to do more about the circular economy. We learned to use our city differently thanks to the Spiegelwaal Concert and the picknick on the Waal Bridge.

Green Capital also provided the opportunity to expand the movement throughout Gelderland. The relay race baton that first went to Copenhagen, then to Bristol and finally to Ljubljana, spent a year going

from initiative to initiative in the province. It was at Saveplastics in Arnhem, the Fruitmotor in Culemborg, the water authorities, Kaak en Kramp in the Oude IJssel region, a circular bicycle path in Zevenaar, Lagemaat Demolition Works in Heerde and many more locations.

This Green Capital year was an encouragement to continue our work on the circular economy. On behalf of many regions and organisations, KIEMT, VNO-NCW offered a plan to the politicians in Gelderland that would hasten and enlarge the circular economy. Following Green Capital for Nijmegen in 2018, the European Union designated Gelderland as the most Entrepreneurial Region in Europe 2019 (the EER Award). Gelderland received this title because its economic policy is in keeping with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The circular economy is a task that can appeal to all consumers and producers (agriculture and industry). It is becoming increasingly clear that Gelderland (and Nijmegen too) can play a role in the task of sustainably feeding the world. The initiative OnePlanet for health and food, which the Provincial Council decided upon in February 2019, also builds on Green Capital. In OnePlanet WUR, Radboud University and Radboud University Medical Center are going to work together to develop new technologies for this challenge. With Green Capital, Nijmegen has opened new doors for Gelderland and made new connections possible.

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Transition in five themes

THE EXPERT

Arjan Vernhout studied business management. He has written several books and is co-founder of Stichting NL Bloeit! Together with NL Bloeit! and many schools and volunteers, he planted more than 8,550 trees and bushes in Nijmegen in 2018.

Collaboration

'In Nijmegen I'm working to create a vital city. Healthy and green together. It's important that we work together in our neighbourhoods in Nijmegen to get more trees, bushes and plants so that we can create a green city with more health for flora, fauna and people.'

Insect hotel

'We've planted a wadi filled with herbs and loads of flowers for the insects. We did this together with a group of children from a primary school. They also built an insect hotel, which is being put to good use. And on Tree Day we replaced some of the concrete tiles in the schoolyard with biological fruit trees and a huge beautiful small-leaved lime tree, this in the framework of Operation Steenbreek.

Thinking and participating

It's very important that the residents of Nijmegen join in thinking about and participate in making the city green. So that we invest in a vital and attractive living environment together. The city wants to work with us by helping with introducing more native flowers or more trees and planting bushes in neighbourhoods and public green areas. Goffert Park is a good example of this.'

www.nlbloeit.nl

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Featured
EURAF

The European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF) held its fourth biannual congress from 28 to 31 May 2018. Agroforestry stands for a well-considered plan for integrating trees and bushes, crops and/or livestock production systems. Agroforestry leads to sustainable land-use.

The central question at this EURAF congress was how to realise the transition to an agrarian sector that uses the agrarian and environmental advantages offered by agroforestry. Nijmegen was attractive because of its title as European Green Capital and because, in Northern Europe, agroforestry is not as developed as in Southern Europe. In addition, Nijmegen is fairly close to Brussels. The congress was organised by Stichting Van Akker naar Bos together with Louis Bolkstichting, Stichting Duinboeren and the municipality of Nijmegen in close cooperation with diverse commissions and the EURAF board.

www.agroforestry.eu

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Message from Brussels

Two-thirds of all Europeans live in cities – about 500 million people. Their health and well-being depend on how well the city governments handle challenges in the area of the environment. With the prestigious Green Capital of Europe Prize, the European Commission recognises the efforts of cities that are seriously trying to become better and greener locations. The prize draws attention to the achievements of these sustainable cities, forms a source of inspiration and shows that challenges in the area of the urban environment can be approached in a way that benefits both residents and the environment.

Nijmegen, the first Dutch city to win the Green Capital of Europe Prize, has earned this title by years of hard work with all interested parties in the city and the surrounding region to create a better and healthier living environment. A central point in the year of Nijmegen Green Capital of Europe was ‘collaboration in order to achieve results’. In that framework the city organised projects with its residents, conferences and a very ambitious programme of events.

Nijmegen is part of the Network of Green Capitals of Europe - a strong network of all of the winners and finalists of the prize. The members of the network have committed themselves to making sustainability a central point in their local political policies, which makes them strong proponents of effective and sustainable urban development in Europe. The members of the network don't just exchange their best practices, challenges and possible solutions, but they also encourage other European cities to follow their example by means of supervision and support. I am very impressed by Nijmegen's initiative to go to the 24th Conference of the Parties, together with the entire Network of Green Capitals of Europe, in order to collectively show the world what it means to be a pioneer in the area of sustainability and why this is necessary. This is exactly the meaning of the Green Capital of Europe Prize: to inspire others to stimulate the transition to sustainability.

Together, we can make our urban living environment greener and make cities more enjoyable places to live, work, play and grow old. Nijmegen and its residents can be proud of their achievements. They have shown the world what it means to be a Green Capital of Europe! I hope that potential participants will want to follow in Nijmegen's footsteps and show that there are many ways of becoming a modern, green city.

Karmenu Vella

EU commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fishing

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Transition in five themes

HEALTHY AND GREEN TOGETHER

Minister Bruno Bruins of Public Health, Welfare and Sports gave a speech at CleanMed 2018, which was attended by hundreds of people. In Radboud University Medical Center he also signed the Green Deal Sustainable Care 2018.

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- You can go to Het Goed for all your second-hand clothes.

We live together on this planet with increasingly more people. And all those people use a lot of stuff. This means that we are using increasingly more raw materials. In doing so, we're depleting the Earth further and further. So much, that in order to uphold the standard of living in the Netherlands, we need 3.2 Earths.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

To combat this, we should try to reuse resources as much as we can. This is possible in a circular economy: products are designed and produced in such a way that we can reuse the resources and parts again.

A lot of activities and initiatives relating to the circular economy emerged in Nijmegen in the Green Capital year. In January Mayor Bruls fashioned a chain of office from the gold and silver in old smartphones and the model home Circular Economy was opened. In May, the Circular Economy Festival took place at the Honig-terrein. At the end of 2018, Nijmegen, together with the region, received the BT-Award for the most circular region of the Netherlands.

We can stimulate a circular economy by asking producers to manufacture their products as circular as possible when we purchase products and services. It is also important that they register which raw materials were used and where these were purchased. Entire new revenue models can come into being through collaboration with other vendors in the chain.

The circular Economy provides surprising examples. The past year Nijmegen put up circular railings in the river forelands. These are made from used clothes and recycled plastics. Additionally, bus stops were placed throughout the entire city. Some have a green roof, they are equipped with LED lighting and were all built with reusable materials. Blue eco lounges made from the plastic in smartphones and computers were placed in Goffert Park, Brakkenstein and other parks.

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Transition in five themes

THE EXPERT

Harriette Laurijssen is the coordinator of sustainable policy in Radboud University Medical Center. Since 2017 the hospital has had new uniforms, which are not just comfortable but also sustainable and a calling card for Radboud University Medical Center.

Eucalyptus tree

'We are active in the area of sustainability. When we bought our new uniforms, we followed a new purchasing trajectory that was as sustainable as possible. Instead of cotton, we used Tencel, a material made from the eucalyptus tree. Compared to the production of the old, cotton clothing, the production of the new uniforms used 97% less water. That's about 100 million fewer litres of water. And much less energy was used in the production of the new outfits as well: 47% less when compared with the old clothing.'

Second life

'We also wanted to give the old clothes a second life. This is also in line with the idea of the circular economy. We decided to have bags made from the clothing. We also had chairs made that are used here in the hospital. And we made insulation material made from the clothes. We can use this in our new construction, which means it will have an additional lifetime of at least 30 years.'

Innovative

Our order for sustainable clothing gave an impetus to the market. When we started our search, it wasn't at all common for suppliers to make an offer for sustainable clothing. It was, in fact, really innovative. And now, more than two years later, I notice that it's much more common. Other healthcare organisations are also ordering sustainable clothing now. And almost all suppliers can make a sustainable offer.'

www.radboudumc.nl

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Featured
EcoProcura

EcoProcura was a three-day international congress on sustainable purchasing. Over 400 visitors - including buyers, policymakers,

companies, researchers and international organisations - shared their experiences in the areas of clever buying, effective work methods, processes, research and projects. Cities and other public organisations shared their stories and activities in the area of sustainable purchasing.

EcoProcura was organised on 3, 4 and 5 October 2018 in collaboration with ICLEI, a global network of more than 1750 local and regional governments that are working on more sustainable city development.

The congress on Socially Responsible Purchasing was held during the morning of the first day. This congress was partly organised by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. Vegetarian food was served in De Vereeniging during all three days of the congresses.
www.ecoprocura.eu

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The sustainable capital of Europe in the work region of Alliander, the network company that advocates sustainability. What a great match! Nijmegen is filled with great initiatives in the area of sustainability.

Green Capital and Alliander: a great match!

As a network company, Alliander installs electricity cables and gas lines and it manages the energy network. Gelderland is one of the provinces where Alliander works. Sustainability can be found in every capillary of the company. Alliander plays an important facilitating role in the transition to sustainable energy supplies. As a company, it strives for sustainable business operations. And this ambition is being realised: circular offices, giving returned material a second life and reducing CO2 emissions.

Nijmegen-Noord

Nijmegen is living up to its name as the sustainable capital of Europe. Just look at the initiatives on which Alliander is working. One of them is the flexibility market that the network manager in Nijmegen-Noord organises. In this neighbourhood a lot of houses, an industrial park and a wind energy and a solar energy park are being built in a short period of time. To prevent an overload on the electricity network - and with that the need for costly cables - supply and demand are being regulated.

Wind park and testing ground

Other noteworthy initiatives are the Wind Park Nijmegen-Betuwe and the testing ground in Dukenburg. Residents themselves took the initiative for four windmills that provide energy to 7,000 households. And Dukenburg is one of the testing grounds of neighbourhoods that have switched from natural gas to sustainable energy. The know-how gained from this is shared with other neighbourhoods in the Netherlands.

Collaboration

'We can look back on a great year,' said Mascha van Vuuren, director of Customer Relations and the Market at Alliander. 'With all of our partners we are preparing for a future in which everyone can use and share

sustainable energy. Collaboration is essential in this. So we're very proud that we could be the partner of European Green Capital for a year.'

Symbolic

Alliander was able to experience many of the activities in frame of European Green Capital from up close. For example, the five green routes that passed their circular offices in Arnhem and Duiven. And the ceremony for handing out the alternative chain of office to Mayor Bruls. A chain consisting of recycled (precious) metals, embedded with the copper from gas pipelines. How symbolic, because Nijmegen is transitioning from natural gas to sustainable heating and cooking.

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Transition in five themes

EVERYTHING IS OF VALUE

Cathy van Beek (1), strategic advisor sustainability for Radboud University Medical Center and Quartermaster sustainable care Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sports.

Jan Jonker, Professor Sustainable Entrepreneurship at Radboud University Nijmegen.

Jan Luijten, project leader Circular Economy Municipality of Nijmegen.

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column Pieter van Ree

Pieter van Ree is the former project director of Nijmegen European Green Capital 2018 and now works as a consultant at Royal HaskoningDHV.

ABOUT ALLOTMENT GARDENS AND TOP TEAMS

Nijmegen prefers green to concrete. In 2018 about 190,000 stones tiles were removed from the city and replaced by more than 10,000 trees and bushes. Residents, companies, schools, churches and the city itself participated in Operation Steenbreek, a direct result of Green Capital that we can be proud of. We're also proud of the 'local natural pearls': green areas created by residents, like in Hees. And we love allotment gardens. Residents with an immigrant background are champions at sustainable gardening: Kleurrijk Groen. Allotment gardens - wonderful - but in management terms this concept stands for narrow organisations where people are friendly, lend one another a wheelbarrow or a rake, but seldom move mountains.

In early 20127 when I was asked to build an organisation for Green Capital 2018, I was a little wary of the phenomenon of allotment gardens. Would we get all of the parties in the 'do-mode' and is the sum more than

the parts? From the first general meeting in the Honig complex it was clear: in Nijmegen sustainability is a way of life, there's a tremendous willingness to work together and to make sustainability something special. The way in which the environmental movement worked together with the cultural sector, groups of residents who thought up projects together with the University of Applied Sciences HAN and Radboud University, the ROC that made films day in and day out, the restaurant branch that put vegan food on the menu, banks and companies that made a Circular Economy Festival and the Spiegelwaal Concert possible: that living network carried Green Capital and made an impression in Europe.

'In Nijmegen sustainability is a way of life'

There are undoubtedly other cities with more green, more bicycle paths or more solar panels. But Nijmegen is unique in the way in which the government and society bring out the best in each other.

That brings me to the role of the municipality. In the shadow of democracy, our project team was given the space (literally) and means to spend a year working towards an event with impact. The clever mix of entrepreneurial civil servants, professionals from Royal HaskoningDHV and USG MarCom, staff from social partners, the purchase of the creativity and organisational strength of the Four Days Marches (ACBN) and lots and lots of motivated volunteers did the rest. We had a team with a flow in which everyone did their utmost, from secretary to director, from runner to advisor, from event manager to alderman. With a mayor as patron, who seemed greener every week. In professional jargon this is called a 'high-performance team', a top team. Blind trust in one another, letting go while remaining in control. Work didn't feel like work, and every day was like a celebration. It was very special to be able to experience that.

I enjoyed the anticipation in 2017 and all of the great events in 2018. Together as Nijmegen, we created something special in Europe. And I'm convinced that the Green Capital year also contributed to awareness among a large number of Nijmegen's residents. Becoming sustainable can be, must be and is fun.

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GREEN ROUTES ALONG SUSTAINABLE HOTSPOTS

Where in Nijmegen can you find companies and organisations who are frontrunners in the area of sustainability? Your quest is made easy by the special bicycle and walking routes that Nijmegen set out in the Green Capital year. These green routes tell you exactly where you should be. You can even create your own route on your cell phone. Those who prefer to explore the city and the region with a paper map can find one at Museum De Bastei and the tourist office in Nijmegen.

Three of the six routes are especially for walkers. There is a 5km Green Walking Route, which takes you along 11 sustainable spots such as the Walk of Waste, the 24 art waste bins along the Waalkade. Another green walking route is A Dike of a Walk (7.5 km). This route brings you to 12 sustainable hotspots, including the neighbourhood of Iewan in Lent. There's also a special route across the campus of Radboud University

Medical Center and Radboud University: the 5km Campus Route with sustainable buildings and green areas.

Those who prefer to bike can choose from the 20km Green Bicycle Route or the 40km Green Bicycle Route XL. The shorter route takes you to 8 sustainable spots, such as River Park and the Dutch Bicycle Centre in the Honig complex. The XL version brings you to 11 green hotspots, including the Wind Park Nijmegen-Betuwe and the ARN waste processing plant with one of the cleanest incinerators in the world.

Projects in the area of sustainability don't stop at the borders of the municipality. That's why there's a Regional Route with innovative sustainable solutions in and around Arnhem, Wijchen and Wageningen. Curious about green projects in the area beyond Nijmegen? Then take your electric car, public transport, your (racing) bike or your e-bike. You'll see a large floating solar park in Bommel and the circular new building of the power network company Alliander in Arnhem.

routes.greencapital2018.nl

In the Green Capital year Nijmegen was also visited by the three Grollen brothers. They explored the green routes and could be found at all sorts of sustainable hotspots during their visit. They were in a different location each time, but the locations remained a secret. Whoever used the hints to discover where the Grollens were and then took a selfie with them could win a trip to Oslo, which is the European Green Capital 2019. The winner, Jan Gerritsen, was announced on Green Friday, which marked the end of the Green Capital year in Nijmegen. He can discover the European Green Capital 2019 during a 7-day train trip.

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Many companies, organisations, residents and the municipal government are making Nijmegen greener step by step. Thanks to these collective efforts our great city was crowned European Green Capital 2018. This makes ARN BV proud. This company, which produces energy and raw materials from waste products, contributed with projects that make Nijmegen more sustainable. A short overview.

The green value of ARN
ARN accepts 600,000 tons of waste annually from residents and companies, some of which comes from the MARN municipalities (ten municipalities in the Nijmegen area). We burn a large amount of this waste in a very advanced flue gas cleaning system. Thanks to this equipment, the smoke from the ARN chimneys can be called clean. Each year the incineration of waste yields about 160,000 MWh of electricity and 750 terajoules of heat for the newly constructed neighbourhoods Waalfront and Waalsprong with possibilities of expanding to other neighbourhoods, such as Dukenburg.

ARN makes maximum use of raw materials from the waste collected, further adding to the greening of Nijmegen. This is done in a number of projects (more are now in preparation or are being studied for feasibility). Together with Elsinga Beleidsplanning en Innovatie, ARN is now developing equipment to recycle used diapers. Four products can be made from this: biogas, biofuel, fertiliser and plastics. This leads to a major reduction in CO2 emissions: a ton of diapers is the equivalent of 480 fewer kilos.

The choice of Nijmegen as European Green Capital was an excellent platform to highlight the green value of ARN and the importance of Nijmegen. ARN actively did this as a sponsor, speaker and sometimes as a host during 15 large and small activities, such as sustainability cafés, the Spiegelwaal Concert, the Sustainability exposition: *Oog voor toekomst*, the Circular Economy Festival, the Four Days Marches Extra Sustainable Celebrations and the visit from King Willem-Alexander.

ARN processes 58,000 tons of vegetables, fruit and garden cuttings (organic waste) as well as biological business waste in its fermentation installation. This yields 2.6 cubic meters of green gas for public transport, including that in Nijmegen. The CO2 released during this process is delivered to the greenhouse horticulture sector. The material that remains as compost is used for agriculture. The fermentation capacity can be increased to 70,000 tons a year.

- Koning Willem-Alexander listens to a number of parties who are making Nijmegen increasingly greener. Bottom left Gerard van Gorkum, director of ARN.

#####

interview

Music at Tango Festival on solar energy

'GREAT BY VIRTUE OF SIMPLICITY'

For 17 years Rietje Wijns (68) has been organising the Tango Festival in Thieme Park. Because of Green Capital the festival was extra sustainable last year by means of mobile solar panels and a battery. 'For a couple of hundred euros I organise this festival, which is enjoyed by people from all across Europe. It really doesn't have to be complicated. Its strength lies in its simplicity.'

Rietje loves the Argentinian tango, the dance that is on the UNESCO list. 'This dance is about the equality of leaders and followers. With each dance partner you get a different dance.' She enjoyed the tango evenings on Saturdays in the Open-Air Theatre in Goffert Park. Fans from all over Europe showed up. I especially enjoyed dancing outside. At that time, the tango was primarily danced in stately buildings behind closed doors. By bringing the dance outside, it became accessible to everyone.'

'I enjoy making connections'

While walking along Thieme Park, she got the idea of organising something herself. 'Together with Wim Wolters, I organised the first Tango Festival 17 years ago. The Residents' Association Bottendaal, the BOB, contributed to the costs. In the afternoon there's a class from 2-3 pm, afterwards everyone can dance with each other until 10 pm. We do it on a wooden floor of boards placed on top of the grass. It doesn't have to be that complicated.'

Connecting and sharing

Because of the Green Capital year Rietje decided to make the festival even more sustainable. 'Each year I clean the park on the day of the

festival. The participants bring their own picnicks and we share the food. After the festival, the park is still spotless. I thought that that was already quite sustainable. And because Nijmegen was the Green Capital, I started looking for what else we could be done.'

It was difficult to find the right information at first. 'It was really hard to find out who you should meet with,' said Rietje. Lots of things were being organised, but as a resident I couldn't really take my story anywhere. Even the volunteers at the visitors' pavilion couldn't help me. Eventually I found the right person (Colet Falke of the municipal government of Nijmegen; ed.). She provided me with mobile solar panels and a battery, so we made the festival even more sustainable.'

IT CAN BE SO SIMPLE

'Success can often be found in small events like this,' said Rietje. 'I enjoy making connections and that's been going well for years. I think it's important that we continue this in the neighbourhoods. For children or seniors as well. It can be so simple. That way, something of Nijmegen Green Capital will remain behind too.'

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GREEN LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

VIDEOS

ROC Nijmegen wasn't just active with its own programme, but it also offered Nijmegen European Green Capital man-hours in the form of interns in the Media programme. Sam Kleisterlee (l) and Stijn Verstralen and later Joep Schlangen and Matthew Campfens recorded many, many moments of last year in photos and videos.

- Left to right: ROC interns Joep and Matthew with supervisor Bas Govaarts.

Young people aren't interested in sustainability? Well, if you look at the number of students who participated in the Green Capital year, nothing could be further from the truth. The University, HAN and ROC Nijmegen all had an active programme throughout the year. And the primary schools wouldn't be left behind either.

You can't simply decide to call yourself an Eco-School. The programme consists of ten sustainability themes, including waste, energy and green. For each theme clear criteria have been drawn up that have to be met by a sustainable school. A school works towards its certificate in seven steps. Nijmegen now has six Eco-Schools, including Radboud University. An Eco-team leads the programme. The team usually consists of students and teachers, supplemented by other involved parties like the maintenance staff, the board and parents. The team 'scans' the current situation, develops a plan of action, creates support among fellow students and teachers and starts the implementation. In Nijmegen, De Bastei supervises schools and their Eco-teams.

Biodiversity and energy

On the campus of Radboud University and at Radboud University Medical Center, students would have had to actively avoid noticing that Nijmegen was European Green Capital 2018. The programme was filled with

activities. Not only were two green routes set out across campus, but there was also an extensive programme of lectures and the Ark with the ten sustainable commandments was brought to the university as well. Students from the sustainability organisation Agreeen helped all year.

Diverse themes played a central role throughout the year. All sorts of (international) parties were taken to the twentieth storey of the Erasmus Building on tours. There they had a magnificent view of the Green Capital, and the 100 points of interest in Nijmegen were made visible in a modern, augmented-reality panorama.

Throughout the year both Radboud University and Radboud University Medical Center were undergoing major construction. Here too sustainability was a prominent theme. For example, in reusing the old buildings as much as possible and paying attention to green spaces.

Radboud, HAN and ROC also developed mobility programmes in which avoiding the rush hour was an important theme. Nijmegen got front-page coverage because the class schedules had been adjusted. In addition, the educational institutions introduced the carpool app TwoGo.

In the Green Capital year HAN devoted extra attention to sustainability with a focus on Sustainable Energy & Environment (SEE), Smart Region and Health. An enthusiastic team of supervisors and students is going to continue this in 2019. Just like Radboud University, HAN also has a Green Office (to anchor a sustainable future in education and research), and the first TEDxYouth@nijmegen was held. In May 2019 all this will be followed by the European Green Week.

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NIJMEGEN EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

200 large and small congresses, lectures and festivals
14,000 professional receptions
71,000 visitors at green capital events
16,000 visitors at the pavilion
20,000 mentions in posts on social media

5 large public events in the inner city and activities in all parts of the city

THE BILL

Amounts x € 1,000

EXPENSES

Organisation	774	
Execution and production	690	
Hospitability and pavilion	434	
Means of communication	397	
Own productions	531	3,890
Contributions to others	675	
Challenges 2018 and neighbourhood initiatives	389	

COVERAGE

Municipality of Nijmegen	
Extra budget	1,300
From regular budget sustainability	640

Other		
Province of Gelderland	1,360	
European Commission	95	3,890
Sponsoring and external contributions (cash)	495	

CONCRETE

243 circular bus stops and benches
 10,000 trees planted
 7 certified eco-schools, among which a campus
 >10% increase in principal bicycle routes
 1,000 visitors discover sustainable model home
 5,000 beers made from rainwater
 2,000 visitors inspired at sustainability cafes

GREEN TOGETHER

200 signatories support the green capital manifest
 23 sponsors
 21 official partners
 >100 initiators through the green challenges and Kleurrijk Groen
 THOUSANDS pupils, students and volunteers participate
 190,000 paving stones removed

RESULTS CITY PANEL

Research awareness and appreciation
 42% positive 38% neutral 20% negative

AWARENESS

Grows from 38% to 86%

APPRECIATION

80% of Nijmegen resident is neutral/positive
 24% is sustainably inspired

SUSTAINABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

22 European cities signed call for action
 4,8 Million euros for gas-free neighbourhoods
 Nijmegen presents call for action at Katowice Climate Change Conference
 3 covenants signed: sustainable inland navigation, Green Deal Sustainable
 Care and Agroforestry
 Initiatives Transition Lab economy and energy, diaper recycling, ring-
 ring for the food bank, network biodiversity, circular procurement
 maldenburchstraat i.a.

IN THE NEWS

6,5 million euros PR value
 90% of countries worldwide visited the website
 >100 international websites posted messages about Nijmegen Green Capital
 15 different countries devoted attention to Nijmegen on television
 WIDELY REPORTED From national daily newspapers to neighbourhood
 newspapers

VISITS

25 visits from the King, Ministers, members of Parliament and state
 secretaries
 >100 visits from groups and working visits from all over the world
 40% of the visitors' pavilion were international

ENTERPRENEURSHIP, TOURISM AND CONGRESSES

174,000 visit partner events

GOLD AWARD green destinations and BT Award circular region

65 restaurants have vegetarian dishes on the menu

>4,000 extra hotel bookings

26 events sign sustainability manifest

#####

GREEN VIBE

In the Green Capital year there also was a side programme with cultural activities: Green Vibe. Think of a green festival programme, art routes or special land art projects. Part of the programme was organized especially for Green Capital, but existing events got a green flavour as well. Consider, for example, the opening festival Wondertuin, the Go Short Film Festival, the Sustainable FashionWeek, the Dutch championship Water Biking, GreenWeek, the Afrikafestival, the Four Days Marches festival, The Big Draw, InScience Film Festival or the monthly debates at Architectuurcentrum Nijmegen.

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A VISIT TO NIJMEGEN

In 2018 Nijmegen welcomed an enormous number of extra visitors. They weren't all attending the many (international) conferences that took place in our city, but many of them came on their own initiative. They wanted to discover how and why Nijmegen had been chosen as a Green Capital. Preparations for and the supervision of these working visits took more work than had been anticipated.

Groups of visitors and journalists from the Netherlands and abroad came to visit throughout the entire 6year. They ranged from royal visitors, ministers and members of parliament to students and pupils from other European cities: they all hoped to learn something from how Nijmegen is making the city greener and more sustainable.

Tours

Most of the groups received an official welcome and a tour. That often included the Spiegelwaal, where guides enthusiastically talked about climate adaption. The Wind Park, Honig, ARN and DAR were visited frequently as well. Almost everyone admired the quality of our urban bicycle transport system. Vice versa, Nijmegen was invited to present itself at diverse international platforms. The city was unable to honour all of those many requests. But it's now clear that Nijmegen has taken a frontrunner position in sustainability on the international map. And it seems that the visits will continue even after 2018 with delegations from the US, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Poland, Belarus and young people who are participating in the EU Discover programme. The most important goal is to exchange knowledge. Simultaneously, this helps us to create an international network that allows Nijmegen to learn from other sustainable cities in Europe.

Green tourism

Tourism flourished during Nijmegen Green Capital. An estimated 4,000 extra overnight stays were booked. And, of course, all those visitors ate somewhere and enjoyed the city and its surroundings. In addition,

Nijmegen further highlighted its attracted as a tourist destination because the city won the Green Destinations Gold Award 2018.

WHO CAME TO THE GREEN CAPITAL?

The city of Essen, Benelux Parliament, European Parliament, Denizli Metropolitan Municipality, Lisbon, Committee of the regions, Provincial Executive, state secretaries, Parliamentary Committee for Economic Affairs, Oslo, municipal governments (Arnhem, Amersfoort, Amsterdam, Den Bosch, Eindhoven), Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality members of Euregio, European Parliament members, region of Twente, ENVE Commission, students from Amsterdam, Belgium, Denmark and France, King Willem-Alexander, Province of Gelderland, Region Arnhem Nijmegen, Cleantech Regio, AER and ERRIN, Green Party Provincial Council Flanders-Brabant, International Staff Training Week (ISTW) Radboud University, Climate Alliance, alumni network for students of Geography, Spatial Planning and the Environment at Radboud University, Circe meeting, European Commission bikers, Troika meeting Green Capital, Regional Circle City Works Arnhem-Nijmegen, working visit by state secretary Brussels region, Euregio Mayors Summit, Euregio Rijn-Waal Excursion, CROW-managers network, RegioSafari, alderman from Lille, international academic week trip at ITESM, working visit by board of Nature and Biodiversity (Ministry of Economic Affairs), Arbeitskreis Umwelt und Bau der Fraktion Bündnis 90/Die Grünen in der Landschaftsversammlung Rheinland, AER Board meeting, European Investment Bank, Italian cities, international visitors Radboud University; Green bikers from Brussels; region of Twente Oost, delegation from Belgium, Danish students, French students, delegation from Oslo, Group Brugge, AEER (Association of European Border Regions).

Ministers and state secretaries:

Kajsa Ollongren, Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations; Carola Schouten, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; Hugo de Jonge, Minister van Public Health, Welfare and Sports; Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management; Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation; Mona Keijzer, state secretary Economic Affairs and Climate and Stientje van Veldhoven, state secretary of Infrastructure and Water Management.

Excursion Rewilding Europe in the Stadswaard with administrators and civil servants from Oslo, Gent, Horst aan de Maas, Nijmegen, Lisbon/Guimaraes, Umea and Leuven, 21 June 2018.

On 19 September 2018 an EU delegation visited Wind Park Nijmegen-Betuwe

Project assistant Lineke Sieben talks about climate adaptation at the Spiegelwaal during a working visit from the Committee of the Regions on 18 May 2018.

29 August 2018, The Provincial Executive at BCTN.

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Climate change, nature and sustainability are topics that are getting increasingly more attention and ones that people should be involved in to create a sustainable society. But it isn't always easy for people in difficult social-economic positions to join in. With its Kleurrijk Groen project, Bureau Wijland wanted to create a wider connection between sustainability and people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

We at Bureau Wijland we believe that a sustainable world can only be achieved if everyone participates. We also want to put this subject on the agenda of policymakers in an attempt to contribute to more inclusive policy. In the past year Bureau Wijland supported various activities aimed at realising this connection between diversity and sustainability. A very diverse public was involved in, for example, nature excursions, bicycle routes and education sessions about sustainable energy and waste. It was enjoyable to see those who participated in the nature excursion express their wonder and recognition of nature and to hear their memories of the countries they came from. These nature excursions brought the nature in and around Nijmegen closer to the world of these Nijmegen residents.

Sara Schoch, the author of this article, is programme coordinator Sustainability at Bureau Wijland, a consultation and project firm that stands for sustainable connections between people and organisation with one another and with society.

'I've become aware of my personal influence on the Environment and the surroundings in which I live'

Ambassadors

In addition to these activities, eleven Kleurrijk Groen ambassadors were trained during the Kleurrijk Groen programme. The participants were trained to serve as a bridge between their migrant networks and the themes of nature and sustainability. In addition, the members of the network are also willing to give advice to partners on how to involve the diversity in society. The backgrounds of the participants varied greatly, not only in a cultural sense but also in how they were involved with the themes of the environment and sustainability. Some were very involved already, while others wanted to do something but didn't really know how. The diverse levels of knowledge in this area led to a lot of interaction and exchange of knowledge among the participants. The open-mindedness of some of the participants facilitated creative thinking. In that sense, the participants were a good reflection of the constituencies that we hoped to reach via Kleurrijk Groen. It was interesting and inspiring to see how the participants directly channelled their new knowledge and awareness to their constituencies, each in his or her own way.

Own surroundings

What we noticed when selecting and recruiting for the programme was that people prefer to stay on familiar ground. When participants are given information about, for example, waste processing in their own municipality, the subject is more relevant and closer to the participants. This stimulates the development of a network that is self-sustaining and that can still be used after the programme has ended.

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We can notice climate change on a daily basis. In 2018 this resulted in a very special year, with a cold spring and a long, dry and hot summer.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

We will have to work hard to minimize the consequences of climate change in the years to come. We will have to adapt to the changing environment.

The Spiegelwaal is a beautiful example of how a city can adapt to the climate by making space for the water.

Last year, the Waal highlighted for us what climate change looks like: in January, the water rose all the way up to the quay and the river forelands were flooded. In November, we could almost touch the bottom of the Waal due to the long-lasting drought. This is a pattern that we'll see more often and more extreme in the years to come.

Through Operation Steenbreek, Nijmegen together with its residents replaced 190,000 paving stones with green spaces in 2018. Making our city more green is important for combatting heat. A city with all its concrete and paved areas can get up to 7 degrees Celsius warmer than its surroundings. In addition, it's harder for excess rainwater to flow into the soil in a paved garden. The rainwater will then flow into the sewer instead, which can cause it to overflow.

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Transition in five themes

THE EXPERT

'TOGETHER WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT OUR CITY BECOMES CLIMATE-RESISTANT'

Margot Ribberink, ambassador of Green Capital 2018, studied biology in Nijmegen and worked for years as a meteorologist at RTL4. She is actively involved in the sustainable initiatives in Nijmegen, such as Operation Steenbreek.

Heavy rainfall

'My favourite spot in Nijmegen is the Spiegelwaal. When the rivers were so full in January last year, the Spiegelwaal was able to prove how necessary it's existence was. But what we really have to do is to arm ourselves against heavy rainfall. Against the extreme precipitation that rains down on Nijmegen now and again especially in the summer and can't really drain off. In addition, we have to make sure that, when it's very hot as it was last summer, we can make our city as cool as possible.'

Operation Steenbreek

'We have to work together of course to create a climate-resistant city. This means that rainfall, even during extreme precipitation, can drain off. And we can accomplish this by removing paving stones. Operation Steenbreek is a good example of this. Together with the municipal government and de Dar, Nijmegen residents removed paving stones from their gardens so that water could sink into the ground rather than running into the sewers.'

Make it green

'What that also allows you to do, is to plant as much green as possible in your garden. On top of that you can make the roofs and facades green. Because that green will help our city to remain cool in the summer, making Nijmegen liveable again for everyone.'

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Featured
Regional meeting climate adaptation

Water boards, province and regional municipalities are working on a regional climate adaptation strategy. On 16 May they presented their preliminary plans at Intratuin in Malden. There were about 70 participants at the meeting, ranging from project developers and Veiligheidsregio to IVN and the Directorate General for Public Works and Water Management.

The symposium was an opportunity to meet other managers and staff of municipal governments, water boards, the province, companies, the safety region, the municipal health department, terrain managers, Gelders Genootschap, project developers, housing corporations and the ministry and involved parties in the Rijk van Nijmegen and Land van Maas en Waal. Arjen Koekoek van Climate Adaptation Services (CAS) launched the climate portal on the effects of climate change in this region. The portal, made with and for the region, gives insight into what is already happening with regard to climate change and what is expected in 2050. The goal is to create a live platform that everyone can use to contribute to improving or updating information. One of the projects discussed was the new Waalkade, which will be completed in 2019. The area will have decreased traffic flows and a large green area where people can picknick and play. There will also be a pond and, in the corner near Lindenberghaven, the quay will be lowered towards the Waal so that people can actually experience the water.

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Rutger Jan Pessers, director of sustainable energy at ENGIE, and Kees Baijens, location manager Centrale Gelderland, reflect on the Green Capital year and look ahead.

Sustainable redesign of central terrain

When Nijmegen was in de race for Green Capital 2018, there was no doubt in the mind of Rutger Jan Pessers that energy and technology company ENGIE would fully support the municipality in this ambition. ENGIE wants to be a leader in the energy transition, and that begins by being locally active and involved.

Since 1936 the power plant in Nijmegen has played an important role: not just because of the large number of employees from Nijmegen and its surroundings, but its power generation that began in the city lead to the first electric lights and the first electric means of transport (tram). ENGIE has a close relationship with Nijmegen. Green Capital 2018 put Nijmegen's sustainable activities and ambitions in the spotlight for a year. For ENGIE this was the chance to support the municipality with concrete activities in its transition towards a sustainable future. The

terrain of Centrale Gelderland was also regularly visited by diverse delegations. This location is the true face of the energy transition!

The old power plant on the Waal was demolished and the terrain is going to be used for other purposes. Kees Baijens: 'ENGIE drew up a plan for the area in which the terrain would have a sustainable energy purpose combined with water-related activities. Developments at the ENGIE grounds influence the living environment, which is why the municipality of Nijmegen, the province of Gelderland and the neighbouring municipality of Beuningen were involved in the planning as well.'

During the Green Capital year, ENGIE expanded the solar park on the terrain by 1.1 Mw peak. Rutger Jan: 'There is a lot of discussion about the space needed for solar parks, which is why we are testing innovations here to make optimum use of the available space.' See insert below.

ENGIE also took the initiative in realising two wind turbines on the grounds. Not everyone is happy about this, but ENGIE has agreed to take measures to limit the noise and is trying to prevent casting shadow. Those were important concerns voiced by people living around the grounds. 'We think it is important to give as much consideration as possible to the living environment and sharing the positive and negative aspects. This is why we are making it possible to participate financially and why we have set up a fund for the surrounding area.'

'Nijmegen Green Capital was a year in which we expanded the awareness about the transition to a sustainable society. We're proud that, together with Nijmegen, ENGIE has taken concrete steps and that the sustainable redesign of the terrain is on its way!' said Kees.

Innovations

- . 90 bifacial solar panels to study what extra return is offered by double-sided panels on various bases.
- . Solar panels on moveable scaffolds so the ground that cannot be permanently built on can still be used efficiently.
- . Double land use by growing sun-sensitive crops under scaffolds with solar panels.

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Transition in five themes

LIVING WITH WATER

Ton Verhoeven, consultant Water & Groen, at a wadi in Lent.

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GREEN CAPITAL CHALLENGES:

A LIVING LAB

In January 2018 the Challenges themes started after more than a year of preparation. The group of enthusiastic residents who travelled by bus to Ljubljana in 2016 felt that this involvement should lead to something bigger for Nijmegen European Green Capital. The Green Capital

Challenges were born.

- The initiators of the Challenges, back row (from left to right): Ingrid Kerkvliet (Biodiversity), Yvonne Keijzers (Circular economy and Care and exercise), Dirk-Wim in 't Hof (Social sustainability), Birgit Hendriks (Mobility and Green money), Ton van Lieshout (chair), Jan van Well (Relay-race baton), Bert Lagerweij (director), Harriëtte Laurijssen (Care and exercise). Front row (from left to right): Koos van Dael (Waste); Marco Wolkenveld (Generating power), Margot Ribberink (Water), Caroline de Greeff (Honest trade and food) and Elma Vriezepakolk (Communication). Absent from the photo: Jan van der Meer (Saving energy). He was replaced as an initiator by Bert Lagerweij when he became alderman in Eindhoven.

- Bert Lagerweij was not only the director of the Challenges, but he also organised 12 sustainability cafés in 2018.

Each month of the Green Capital year was devoted to a Challenge: the circular economy, waste, biodiversity, mobility, sustainable events, sustainable power generation, health and exercise, water, saving energy, food, fair trade and social sustainability. In 2019 green money was added as an extra theme.

Each theme was filled in by an initiator who was helped by volunteers. The board of the foundation that was established for this purpose supervised and directed the whole. And as director of all of the initiators, Bert Lagerweij ensured that the group of initiators met regularly and shared their knowledge. It was very special that each month closed with a sustainability café. And every month saw new visitors in attendance. Great, because that meant the network around the Challenges continued to grow.

Point on the horizon

Being an initiator is a challenge in itself. How do you succeed in organising one or more projects with volunteers? The answer was by giving all of the initiators room to manoeuvre while keeping a common eye on the point on the horizon. Sometimes that worked really well and sometimes it didn't. It was a living lab in which everyone learned a lot about the contents of the theme, but also about the process involved. The results of the Challenges were a success. Enormous amounts of publicity were generated, and local and national media reported on a number of projects.

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THE RESULTS OF THE GREEN CAPITAL CHALLENGES

Circular economy

- About 1,000 visitors to the circular model home.
- Circular official chain that switched owners at each sustainability café.
- 10 benches made from discarded electronic equipment spread across the city.

Waste

- Walk of Waste: walking art route with attention to the global plastic soup.
- 450 participants in Nijmegen Waste Challenge.
- 60 zwerfies shared via #zwerfienijmegen during the annually recurring litter collection day.

Biodiversity

- Operation Steenbreek: more than 190,000 paving stones replaced by green.
- Dozens of insect hotels.
- Combatting harmful invasive exotics.
- Five requests for nesting houses for swifts after a specific activity in the neighbourhood of Koningsdaal.

Mobility

- 'Bike for each other': 800,000 bicycle kilometres via Ring-Ring app for the Voedselbank.
- Goods without emissions (4 days, 3 streets downtown): 1 day realisation, willingness of companies.
- Four new car-sharers electric cars thanks to 'Share your e-car' campaign.
- Information market Meet electric bicycle and car: more familiarity among various suppliers (28 stand holders).

Sustainable events

- 26 events signed covenant Sustainable Events;
- 21 of them have formulated goals;
- 5 meetings, events well-attended.

Sustainable power generation

- From a grey to a green energy contract: special offer for residents, a lot of attention at events.

- As many solar panels as possible on roofs (2 large-scale solar roofs, possibilities for renters).

Care and exercise

- Cleaner drinking water thanks to collecting medicine: 25 pharmacists involved, collection week, media attention including Brandpunt+ KRO/NCRV.

- Flowlands: more than 200 participants in diverse sports activities, about 750 visitors to festival, €2,000 profit donated to Marikenhuis.

- 'Bike for each other': see Mobility.

Water

- Walking for water: €12,000 collected for charities.

- Tapart: 8 water taps decorated with paintings and an interactive map was created.

- Flowlands: see Care and Exercise.

- Keep rainwater out of the sewer: together with Operation Steenbreek, see Biodiversity.

- Parapluvius, beer made with rainwater (together with Brewery de Hemel): > 2000 litres tapped.

Saving energy

- You're sitting on it: > 21 terraces with Sit & Heat cushions, sometimes with terrace heaters as well, 120 voucher booklets sold.

- Apple pie discussions: 23 discussions, 100-150 participants.

- LED's do it now: led lights in public spaces and the common rooms in flats in Neerbosch-Oost, the remaining 1,000 led lights were distributed.

- Gas(t)vrij Nijmegen: visits to 500 cafes and restaurants and 0-measurement taken: do visitors stay away if the doors are closed? The answer seems to be 'no'.

Food

- Eating Healthily Together in Nijmegen: about 100 people participated in workshops and subscribed to a newsletter.

- Nijmegen Eats Sustainably. 100 quickly reached via social media.

- School vegetable gardens. Arrangements made with various organisations. About 10 schools worked on a vegetable garden; at school or on an excursion.

- The Food Caravan from Voedsel Anders. Strong network set up for the future. About 100 visitors to the event. Hundreds reached, especially professionals. And especially those from the conventional food chain.

- Restaurants asked to serve a more sustainable menu in October. About 60 restaurants participated. Liked thousands of times on Instagram.

Fair trade

- Dare2befair: a lot of (local and national) attention to wearing second-hand clothes by Margot Ribberink; a lot of extra attention via FairTrade Nijmegen.

- Fair shopping route: from 40 to 80 shops. Goal is 100.

- Fair products in the spotlight. Results: map created, supermarkets asked to collaborate.

Social sustainability

- Green Prize Quiz. Results: low-threshold information about and involvement in all sorts of sustainability themes. More than 2,000 unique participants, > 20 local sponsors.

- Waste separation in tall flats in Dukenburg: three meetings for residents, cleaned twice with everyone. Great side effect: flat residence got to know one another.

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NUON

As the European Green Capital Nijmegen showed how you can start a green wave. We are happy that we were able to contribute, thus giving substance to our mission of 'fossil-free in one generation' at the local level.

BECOMING SUSTAINABLE TOGETHER

An impression of our activities:

- During the opening event in the Valkenhof Museum we explained to children where the heat in the city neighbourhoods of Waalsprong and Waalfront comes from. They could play a game to create a heating grid themselves.

- The Nuon Solar Team and its solar car NUNA7 were present at the historical rally event. With this car, they won the World Solar Challenge.

- The electricity for the food trucks at the NK Water Biking came from the GreenBattery. This is a large container that stores sustainably generated power from windmills. The power can then be used at events, for example.

- If you no longer use gas, then you have to cook with electricity. You quickly get used to that. To offer this experience we organised workshops in induction cooking at the VanGasLos Festival.

Becoming sustainable is done together, and that is precisely what the strength of Nijmegen European Green Capital was. We want to walk the road to a climate-neutral city together with you, also in the future as Vattenfall!

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Researcher Nanda Kurstjens after the hand-over ceremony at the start of the Green Capital year.

WAT DOEN DIE MENSEN TOCH DUURZAAM?

Sustainability, what is that exactly? And what do people do when they say they're choosing sustainability? These were the two questions that we kept in mind during the year that we were involved in the activities relating to Nijmegen as European Green Capital. We observed for a whole year: sustainability moves people, inspires them and sets them in action. Young and old, white and coloured, residents and professionals, entrepreneur and policy tourist: all of them have been mobilised, although to different degrees. They have given a wide range of different meanings to sustainability and supported these themes in their own neighbourhoods, in the city and for planet Earth. Our observations led to a book based on research by Radboud University.

More than 200 activities were organised during the year of the European Green Capital, ranging from slightly formal to completely posh conferences with important visitors from the Netherlands and abroad, through all sorts of events, some annual and now green, many focusing on sustainability for a change, to reasonably spontaneous meetings in

neighbourhoods. Many of these were bottom-up initiatives with the Green Capital Challenges as the beating heart. All of this was welcomed by the project team and the municipality. Even before it was chosen as European Green Capital, Nijmegen had many sustainable trumps in its hand, many of which were started by residents and entrepreneurs. The year 2018 continued to build on those participatory experiences.

Sustainability had a lot of different meanings in Nijmegen in 2018. With an emphasis on the local, on what you as an individual can contribute and on sustainability for pleasure. Our book *Wat doen die mensen toch duurzaam?* is a collection of stories. About the European prize, Nijmegen's trumps to win the prize, innumerable activities, about who was called upon to do what, who participated and who didn't, about the results of that year as European Green Capital and about how sustainability will continue in the future.

Wat doen die mensen toch duurzaam? presents the informed observations of two castaways who accidentally washed up on the Waalkade and who experienced sustainable Nijmegen for a year. And who enjoy telling about it.

The authors of this article, Nanda Kurstjens and Pieter Leroy, work at the Environment and Policy Group of Radboud University. They recorded their experiences in the book *Wat doen die mensen toch duurzaam?*

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Distinguished visitor

How often does it happen that the king drops by? On 4 July King Willem-Alexander visited Nijmegen European Green Capital. He began his visit in the visitors' pavilion at Kelfkensbos, tried out an eco-lounge in Valkhof Park and in De Bastei he spoke with pupils from Eco Schools and representatives from all sorts of sustainable initiatives in the city. He ended his visit by walking along the Walk of Waste to the Stadswaard, where he talked about biodiversity with Hans de Kroon, Professor of Plant Ecology, and got acquainted with nature BSO Struin.

#####

WORLD FAMOUS

The flags of the Green Capital year flew all year. At Keizer Karelplein, at the station, at roundabouts and at partners' locations. It was a way to be visible as a sustainable capital. This was sometimes difficult because, as a sustainable city, you have to try to prevent wasting too many resources as well. But to show everyone that Nijmegen was the Green Capital, a banner or a podium backdrop were needed regularly. Fortunately, there was Atelier Meer2, a social enterprise that makes bags from flags and banners.

In 2018 about 48,000 people from more than 100 countries visited the website of Nijmegen Green Capital. In addition to the homepage, the green routes and the agenda were heavily visited. The website, like social media channels, was a way of creating visibility. The website, which allows you to create your own green route (see page 37), will remain live for the time being because there are many activities in the city that

arose from the Green Capital year. And there's still a lot of interest from abroad in the activities of a Green Capital city. The website still contains the annual overview for 2018. A digital document with photos and video clips. You can find this overview at:
jaaroverzicht.greencapital2018.nl

International attention given to Nijmegen Green Capital, for example in the magazine Sustain Europe.

In the press

Nijmegen Green Capital generated a lot of publicity throughout the year. International, in the national press, but especially in the local press such as de Gelderlander and De Brug Nijmegen. The local broadcasting station RN7 dedicated a lot of attention to all of the green themes of the Challenges in the programme 'Green', which was presented by Margot Ribberink. More than 20,000 articles were published in newspapers and on social media. What are the results of all that publicity? It's primarily about visibility. Nijmegen as Green Capital has put itself on the (inter)national map. The public relations value of Nijmegen Green Capital is estimated at millions of euros. The results of the city panel showed that increasingly more residents learned about Nijmegen Green Capital in the course of 2018. A large number of activities started in 2018 will continue in 2019, such as the neighbourhood activities of the Challenges, Kleurrijk Groen and Operation Steenbreek.

TANER TABAK

More than 200 events were held in 2018. Large and small. From Radboud University to Technovium, from neighbourhood centres to neighbourhood parties. There is one person who was involved in all of these events during the whole year and that is Taner Tabak. He made sure that banners and beach flags were visible at all those events. And picked them up afterwards. There's probably no one in Nijmegen who biked as much as he did in 2018.

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Director Mark van der Drift

THE STRENGTH OF ADVANCED LOGISTICS

The logistics sector is literally and figuratively always on the move. That's why there are only few other sectors where innovation is as important. On the one hand, innovation offers increasingly more chances in the areas of efficiency, sustainability and safety while, on the other hand, there are increasingly more requirements and regulations. These developments have a big influence on how the parties in the logistics sector work together and do business.

The Cornelissen Groep, a family-owned company since 1930, is well aware of the importance of innovative entrepreneurship. The company works with various parties in the area of new technology and infrastructure aimed at protecting the environment and increasing safety. The company has years of experience with electric vehicles and electric trailers. In 2011 a green city hub for the region of Nijmegen was built; this logistic uncoupling point made it possible to drive to the city efficiently

without traffic jams and to then take deliveries further into the city centre with a sustainable and silent vehicle.

The company is also a frontrunner in the introduction of both alternative fuels such as LNG and Eco-combis. This helped them to earn one of the first Lean & Green Star Awards in 2013 for an externally certified CO2 reduction of 24% in 5 years.

Actively helping Nijmegen put sustainable entrepreneurship on the map in a sustainable city, where you can also live and work with pleasure, was a logical step that we are very proud of.

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interview

Helmut Brockmeyer, dedicated neighbourhood resident:

'REWARDING WORKS BETTER THAN INFORMING'

Sitting still is something that the 78-year-old Helmut Brockmeyer can't seem to do. Every week he goes walking twice, running three times and salsa dancing twice. And between all that he's quite active with regard to sustainability. 'Mainly because of the savings. And a little bit because of idealism.'

Helmut Brockmeyer's house has floor heating and a heat pump. There are 18 solar panels on the roof, which Helmut himself installed in two phases. And while he was at it, he decided to help his neighbours as well. He was able to convince two of them. But when he tried to involve his neighbourhood in the Green Capital last year, he was disappointed. 'They'd never even heard of European Green Capital,' he said

'I know from experience that it's hard to get people involved'

Action

During various events in his neighbourhood last year, such as the Staddijkloop and het Ommetje, he helped to make Green Capital flyers and green routes available. For many participants and visitors, this was the first time they'd heard about Green Capital. 'I know from experience that it's hard to get people involved,' said the dedicated Dukenburg resident. And he understands that some people refer to it as a party for elites. 'You constantly saw the same people.' But he thought that the picknick on the Waal Bridge and certainly Operation Steenbreek were successful components of Green Capital. 'It's a way of activating residents, which I think is very positive. Rewarding people works better than informing.'

Clarity

With regard to the solar panels, he's angry that the so-called set-off regulation is going to be terminated soon. You can currently set off your excess of generated power against the annual bill from your power company, but that is going to change. 'There's no certainty. The set-off regulation will stop, but what will replace it? The government has to give us clarity about this,' he said fiercely. And someone who ran the New York Marathon when he was 70 and the Seven Hills Marathon last year

is someone you should take seriously. And, by the way, did he also mention that he paints? Last March he had an exhibition in De Mariënburg library. Like we said, he doesn't enjoy sitting still.

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Classic Dutch Granny bikes, electric bikes, recumbent bikes or delivery bicycles. Nijmegen is a true bicycle city. It's not surprising we were the bicycle city of the Netherlands in 2016 and Velo-city in 2017. New bike paths were added as well in the Green Capital year.

SMART MOBILITY

At the start of last year for example, Nijmegen opened the fast bicycle path Nijmegen-Cuijk. The city currently has over 70 kilometers of fast bicycle paths. Many people, around 65 percent, come to the city by bike. In 2018 use of the fast bicycle paths increased by over 10 percent. And that wasn't only because of the nice weather!

The public transport has been sustainable for years. In the entire region Nijmegen-Arnhem, the city buses run on biogas. This gas is produced from organic waste in the vicinity of Nijmegen.

Electric transport is on the rise, more and more drivers consider purchasing an electric car. In 2018, residents of Nijmegen could familiarise themselves with a test drive during actions of Green Capital Challenges and the Mobility week. This week was packed with activities: from sustainable inland navigation to racking up kilometers during the Hydrogen challenge. The highlight was a picnic on a car-free Waal Bridge for a thousand people and a mobility theater on that same bridge later that day. 30 e-hubs were recently opened as well. These are places in the neighbourhoods where shared electric vehicles and charging infrastructure are brought together.

Nijmegen is located on the banks of the Waal river, one of the busiest shipping waterways in the Netherlands. It's important for the air quality that inland shipping becomes more sustainable. That's why the Agreement of Nijmegen, the covenant for sustainable inland navigation, is so important. There is green shore power available for inland navigation and cruise ships as well.

#####

Transition in five themes

THE EXPERT

'SINCE 2002 VELOCITY HAS MADE MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION EMISSION-FREE KILOMETRES'

Jesse van Hulst studies social geography in Nijmegen, works as a bicycle courier at Velocity and is a real bicycle adventurer. But he also takes unique trips on his longboard, like climbing the Alp d'Huez.

Emission-free kilometres

'I work as a bicycle courier at Velocity and, since 2002, my colleagues and I have made more than 1.5 million emission-free kilometres in

Nijmegen. We do that for dozens of different companies, the municipality, the three largest hospitals and, on a daily basis, for more than 150 residents to deliver the packages that they ordered online.'

Fast bicycle paths

'I wish everyone in Nijmegen would get on their bike. We have such great bicycle highways in Nijmegen - we should use these instead of the motorways. And if you order something online, you can immediately see if the company works with fietskoerier.nl. If so, we'll deliver your package to your door instead of a big diesel bus in the city.'

Green gear

'Together with many companies in Nijmegen, we have shifted into green gear. Green Capital has made all of us aware of the sustainable revolution. Let's continue this in the years ahead!'

www.velocity.nl

Featured

Ports and the City

How can inland harbours be healthy, liveable, sustainable and clever? This was the main question during the Ports and the City conference on 12 and 13 April 2018. The use of, for example, a healthier and more sustainable design, renewable energy and sustainable power facilities on the quay can result in transport on the inland waterways being zero-emission and climate neutral by 2050.

The conference was organised by the municipality of Nijmegen, CLean INland SHipping (CLINSH), Dutch Federation of Inland Ports (Nederlandse Vereniging van Binnenhavens - NVB), Smart and Healthy City programme, EU Urban Air Quality Partnership programme and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.

The highlight of the congress was the signing of the Declaration of Nijmegen by, among other parties, the inland navigation sector and Minister Cora van Nieuwenhuizen (Infrastructure and Water Management, photo). In the Declaration, the sector stated that it would do everything possible in the years ahead to become greener faster. The goal is to remain competitive with road and train transport and 20% less CO2 emission in 2030. Other signers of the Declaration of Nijmegen included BCTN, Heineken, Friesland Campina, North Sea Port, NedCargo, Danser Group, Port-Liner and the municipalities of Rotterdam and Nijmegen.

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Royal HaskoningDHV
Enhancing Society Together

Energy transition, climate adaptation and a more sustainable economy demand collaboration. Collaboration that extends and goes beyond the borders of interests, knowledge disciplines, competences, organisations and countries.

OUR SOCIETY DEMANDS COLLABORATION

Shared ownership

We can only be effective if we act together. We call this shared ownership. As Strategy and Management Consultants at Royal HaskoningDHV, we create and supervise collaborations in programmes, processes and projects in which shared ownership is created. Our consultants Pieter van Ree and Maike de Lange greatly enjoyed their involvement in the Nijmegen European Green Capital year. An important part of our assignment was to expand the partner network; the shared ownership of municipality and social parties was the key concept. The municipality wanted to give an impulse to the green movement in the city so that it would take sustainability to a higher level even after 2018. And this was a success. We can proudly look back on everything that the municipality achieved with all of its partners and will continue to achieve in the future.

Event as catalyser

The heart of the Green Capital year was formed by the two hundred large and small congresses, lectures and festivals that took place in the green capital. If we learned one thing it's that events can be a catalyser for social change. Events give new meaning and quicken innovations. They create a deadline, compel collaboration, celebrate results and give energy for innovation. A successful event has impact: the world won't be the same afterwards. New initiatives have been started and new social networks have developed. The image of a city or region has been given a boost. Perhaps the event was even good for the economy or the living environment. But sometimes you're left with apparent losses in the exploitation. At least in the short run. This is all referred to as the *legacy*: that which remains, the profit and the loss.

Collaboration is our profession. Working on social tasks our motivation!

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Top photo: Maike de Lange interviews Pieter van den Hoogenband during the knowledge festival Creating Legacy about the extra social value of events.

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Bottom photo: Pieter van Ree (r) speaking with Jan Terlouw during the Green Capital opening weekend Wondertuin.

Share lessons learned

We want to share with you the lessons learned in the Green Capital year. We're working on a publication about the use of events as a policy instrument to stimulate social movement. This will be published as a new issue in our Strategy series. Keep an eye on our website (www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/smc) in order to download this publication for free.

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Transitions in five themes

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Klaas-Jan Gräfe, senior policy worker Mobility for the municipality of Nijmegen.

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PICKNICK

The Waal Bridge closed to traffic, sun, good company and a delicious lunch. What more could you ask for? The picnic with a thousand residents on the Waal Bridge was an iconic moment in 2018. Enjoyment!

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SPONSOR PROMISE BASED ON EXPERTISE

The sponsorship of Nijmegen European Green Capital 2018 by USG Marketing & Communications was successful for both sides, a true win-win situation. The municipality of Nijmegen was looking for sponsors. USG Marketing & Communications had just developed a new service that they wanted to test in a real situation: The Content Lab. The step to a sponsor promise based on expertise was quickly taken. During the year the project office of European Green Capital could call on a variety of online and content experts. USG Marketing & Communications had the chance to further develop and refine its Content Lab.

The results: an agreeable collaboration in which an inspired group of content makers, storytellers and social media specialists put the city - the European Green Capital 2018 - in the spotlights that it deserved. The project proved that the Content Lab can be of lots of additional value for clients who don't have enough capacity or the right expertise to create high-grade content. During the pilot the focus was on flexibility, continuity and always the right specialist for the right question.

In the area of sustainability, the collaboration was a good match as well. Where the title of European Green Capital stands for making the living environment greener and more sustainable, USG Marketing & Communications has been focusing for years on making its services more sustainable. For example, by consciously choosing sustainable solutions with regard to its fleet of cars and mobility issues and by developing hybrid services such as the Content Lab. In addition, the organisation's employers model provides an important social-society contribution with its stability and balance on the labour market.

The shared attention to sustainability created a sense of solidarity and mutual understanding. It was self-evident, for example, that people could work from home when possible to limit the effects of commuter traffic on the environment. This solidarity led to the idea of organising a collective knowledge session for communication professional and project leaders who are confronted daily with the communication challenges arising from making our society more sustainable. Knowledge and experiences were widely shared during this session.

- Together with Royal HaskoningDHV and European Green Capital, USG Marketing & Communications organised a knowledge session on

sustainability and participation for communication professionals and project leaders with the portfolios of sustainability and energy transition

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interview

'The atmosphere was fantastic'

NEIGHBOURS DAY WITH A GREEN FLAVOUR

Lia Gieling has been living in Nijmegen for more than forty years. Five years ago, she and a number of other neighbourhood residents initiated the first neighbours day in the neighbourhood of Hatertse Hei. The theme last year, in the Green Capital year, was sustainability. That theme was more visible than ever. 'Partly thanks to the folders and flags received from Green Capital.'

'Neighbours day is a day when about 35 to 40 people here in the neighbourhood get together. It's always fun because you see one another again in a different setting. We have good food, a game and an activity,' said resident Lia Gieling. 'Last year we thought about how we could make our neighbourhood greener. We organise neighbour day each year with a number of enthusiastic volunteers. And, of course, everyone has a task, such as putting up and taking down the tent, arranging the tables and the table decorations and even placing waste bins. Everyone brings something to eat, and no one goes home until everything has been cleaned up again.'

Green neighbourhood

'We all exchanged ideas, like adopting a tree dripline, replacing paving stones with plants, collecting rainwater, solar panels and compost barrels. We now have a lot of tiles with sunflowers around the tree dripline. This shows that the trees are being cared for by the neighbours.'

Unfortunately, the weather during last year's neighbours day on 22 September wasn't so great. 'But luckily we had a tent thanks to the Oranjefonds. And the atmosphere was fantastic. We'll definitely organise this again next year. The plans are already on the table.' If the municipality wants to continue with green actions, Lia advises them to communicate via neighbourhood publications. 'I've noticed that these are well read. That way, everyone has a better idea of what's being organised.'

GREEN CAPITAL BAG

When Lia Gieling saw the Green Capital flags still hanging at the Keizer Kareplein last January, she got the idea of reusing the material to make handy shopping bags. No sooner said than done. She sent an e-mail to the organisation and was given six flags. She's already made more than ten bags from these flags. And, of course, the volunteers at the neighbours day were the first to get one.

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PUBLIC EVENTS

THE EFFECTS

So very many things happened in the Green Capital year. But what did it result in other than inspiration? Quite a lot, actually. Take a look!

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER	Workshop 'Zet je dromen in de Steiger' (Iewan) Walk of Waste game about the theme of plastic soup IVN tree course Inspiration market Sustainable Renovation Sustainability cafes (e.g. sustainable energy generation) Summer school Climate Change FLORON Day: study and protection of wild plants
NETWORKING	Open house green initiatives Noord (Tour in Noord) Africa Festival goes Kleurrijk Groen, various target groups Sustainability cafes Gas-Free Festival: homes Nijmegen-Oost Residents Energy Symposium: together with renters- representatives, housing associations and municipalities InScience Festival: inspiration from science
STRONGER RELATION WITH DIRECT LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Opening garden café in Warmoes historical garden in Lent; local food, local history Food caravan at Grootstal estate, eetbaarnijmegen.nl Expedition garden fruit and Harvest Festival; mix of new sorts and embracing old, green, local sorts of fruit
REACHING NEW TARGET GROUPS	Recruiting and employing a specific framework, e.g. world chefs, ethnic bands at Wondertuin Festival Kleurrijk Groen Project NL Championship Water Bikes Opening of SlowCafe (attracts young people) in relation to Waste Walk
REALISING CONCRETE MEASURES	Walking for water. Pupils collected money for drinking water projects in developing countries. On average each participating child provided enough funding for 3 children to have clean drinking water or sanitary facilities Sensors on the Waal quay (measure air quality, e.g. in relation to shipping) Circular home as push factor for insulating homes in Spoorbuurt
BUZZ, SOCIAL MEDIA,	Wondertuin Festival, parents tip one another about Kidsclup

NATIONAL PRESS	Supplement in <i>De Telegraaf</i> on circular home
CONCRETE MEASURES OR PROJECT RESULTS	<p>A good living environment for flora and fauna thanks to insect hotels, nests for swifts, planting trees, replacing paving stones with plants, control invasive non-native species</p> <p>A climate-resistant city because 190,000 paving stones were replaced by plants or trees</p> <p>Eco-adjustments at lewan such as local water purification, heat pump, straw insulation, small footprint</p> <p>Planting of food forest 'Eet Meer Bosch'. And a green buffer in Nijmegen-West</p> <p>Tree Day; 6,000 trees and shrubs planted at schoolyards</p> <p>Operation Steenbreek; campaign, neighbourhood caravan, schoolyards</p> <p>Opening of food forest Noord/neighbourhood green de Eik</p>
AWARENESS	<p>Sustainability cafes (i.e. biodiversity, mobility)</p> <p>Fashion Events. Visitors made aware of the ways in which fashion can and cannot contribute to a more sustainable society. The awareness can lead to more aware and thus more people- and environment-friendly purchasing behaviour</p> <p>Circular house</p> <p>Nijmegen Children's Council (insight into ecological footprint)</p> <p>Lecture 'Alle keine beestje helpen'</p> <p>Sustainable mobility market (focus on alternatives)</p> <p>Housing Fair Nijmegen (including information about low-energy houses)</p> <p>Diverse festivals (e.g. Music Meeting, Four Days Marches Festival) with sustainable organisation, also sustainability café</p> <p>European Mobility Week (e.g. alternative means of transport, challenges, playful elements)</p> <p>Gas-Free Festival Nijmegen-Oost</p> <p>The harvest fair, debate evening on nature, the city, landscape and biodiversity</p>
INSPIRATION	<p>Wondertuin Festival, sustainability and lifestyle</p> <p>Circular home, visiting days, inspiring sustainability, realistic examples, push factor home insulation Spoorbuurt</p> <p>Children's Climate Top</p> <p>Sustainability cafes (e.g. waste: producing less waste is the key)</p> <p>Art exhibition 'Oog voor de toekomst' Ontmoetingskerk</p> <p>IVN tree course, green course members' day</p> <p>Festival Art Laboratory, Green Blue Festival</p> <p>Open house green initiatives Noord (Tour in Noord)</p> <p>Spiegelwaal concert (speeches, proud of Nijmegen)</p> <p>Green Capital Week</p>

Blowlands, festival as start of 'residents give energy'
Bloemerstraat park(ing) day: temporary mini-parks at parking lots
Flowlands Festival, moving on and around water, information on a healthy lifestyle
Heart for the earth, sustainability in practice, examples by regular, inspiring people
Placing Ark and 10 green commandments (RUN)
Night of the night, more aware of sounds and smells in nature
DIY workshop cleaning products
Lecture 'Dweilen met de kraan dicht'

INTRINSIC MOTIVATION,
LIFESTYLE

Wondertuin Festival, sustainability and lifestyle: 'the world is beautiful' and 'old economy is earning money at the expense of everything else;
Nijmegen Children's Council (insight into ecological footprint, aware that they can make an impact)
Go Green during Go Short film festival
Green Challenges, e.g. 'by bike instead of by car', 'living without waste'
Netherlands Championship Water Bikes (example, fun, function of Spiegelwaal)
Water quality campaign (Water Board also wants to be more visible)
Nijmegen picks it up
Introduction week Radboud University and HAN
Sustainable restaurant challenge, delicious vegan food
Green Friday, modest closing manifestation GC, volunteers in the spotlight

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CORPORATE EVENTS
THE EFFECTS

ALIGNING AND
ACCELERATING

Annual Congress Gelders Energy Agreement, Alliander,
Province of Gelderland, Municipality of Nijmegen
Meeting of Urban Partnership Karlsruhe (mobility)
Towards better harbour fees and facilities
(Port and the City Conference)
Sustainable restaurant challenge, 65 restaurants add
vegan dishes to their menu
Call for Action & Mayors Conference

NETWORKING

Network breakfast top women Arnhem-Nijmegen
Port and the City Conference
Work conference green, healthy and exercising
Congress Growing Green City routes (city distribution)
Vrede van Nijmegen award (meeting and networking for
500 decision-makers)
Regional meeting climate adaptation (managers, staff,
municipalities, water boards, provinces, companies, safety
regions, terrain managers, etc.)
King Willem 1 award (sustainable entrepreneurship)
Day of City and region (sustainability projects from municipal
perspective)
'Fete de la nature' festival
(De Bastei brought together regional green network)
De Bastei wants to play connective role between groups and
initiatives
Sustainability symposium Radboud University
(emphasis on collaboration municipality and RU)
European Green Week – Green cities for a green future
CSR Award
Green Schoolyards Conference (including starting
subsidies from province of Gelderland)
NIS meets NEC; relation between sports and social-societal
developments
Network event Energy X Change
World Soil Day
Congress 'Collaborating on a green and healthy Nijmegen'

NIJMEGEN IN THE
PICTURE
(INTERNATIONAL
CITY MARKETING)

Formal Green Capital events
Vrede van Nijmegen award ceremony
Global Green Destination day, 28 field visits
Nijmegen among the top Global Green Destinations

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column Rob Jaspers

Journalist Rob Jaspers was a member of the advisory board of Green Capital.

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

I recently signed up for an informative evening on insulation and saving energy in your own, old house. An initiative of Jan van de Veerdonk, owner of a construction company in Bottendaal for 35 years. He wanted to share his knowledge about useful insulation with everyone for free. Home owners flocked to the evening.

For me this was one of the many examples of what arose from that extra attention in Nijmegen to living green and sustainable. The Green Capital year gave an impulse to awareness about climate change, demonstrated the need for a better environment and stimulated more attention to saving energy and cleverly reusing waste. Green Capital was a tremendous source of inspiration for residents and companies, something I still notice daily.

When I go for a walk, I see the growth in the number of vegetable gardens, I hear people talking about reducing waste. The number of neighbourhood meetings to discuss disconnecting from the gas network has grown rapidly. Every week I see the number of solar roofs increasing. The battle against plastic has become playful, leading to more public support.

The election of Nijmegen as Green Capital caused many of the city's companies to organise sessions to think about how they could operate more sustainably, planet-friendly and greener. ARN, for example, which is now recycling diapers, Hyster, which is making the first electric forklifts, the container terminal BCTN, which has ordered the first electrically powered ships, Hotel Van der Valk in Lent, which proudly claims to be the most sustainable building in Nijmegen and Radboud University Medical Center, which has become a frontrunner in reducing the amount of medicine in waste water and setting up green operation rooms. That knowledge is also being shared with other hospitals.

'Don't haughtily close yourself off out of a sense of your own rightness'

Yes, I'm happy about the Green Capital year. But I'd like to voice a warning for future green activities: don't haughtily close yourself off out of a sense of your own rightness. Not everyone understands the need of dealing with the climate. And not everyone has the ready cash for the green approach or can afford it.

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NIJMEGEN REMAINS SUSTAINABLE FRONTRUNNER

Nijmegen European Green Capital extends beyond Nijmegen. Two sustainable entrepreneurs gave their input. What are their thoughts on the Green Capital year?

Anne-Marie Rakhorst is an entrepreneur, investor and publicist in the area of sustainability. She is the founder and owner of the platform 'Duurzaamheid.nl', which wants to work with professionals, dedicated companies, social organisations and government agencies to make the Netherlands more sustainable. She also helped to create the initiative '17 doelen die je deelt' [17 goals you share], which introduces the Netherlands to the Sustainable Development Goals, the global goals of the United Nations. She previously founded the successful company Search Ingenieurs and was its director for twenty years.

Rakhorst has published a number of books in the past few years. Books about (circular) entrepreneurship, the Sustainable Development Goals, energy transition, innovation and sustainable money; she also regularly speaks in the media and at congresses. Rakhorst is a member of diverse boards, commissionerships and initiatives such as SDG Charter, Slum Dwellers International, Transitieagenda Consumptiegoederen, Milieu Centraal, CBS and the Koning Willem I Prize. As a member of the SDG Charter, she is also the coordinator of SDG 11: The city.

'The honorary title of Green Capital 2018 for Nijmegen is more than a reward for hard work. It also creates new energy to find more solutions to problems of sustainability, liveability and health! Together with everyone who lives, works, learns, lives and does business in the city. The Challenges in the city's neighbourhoods are a good example of this. I'm curious to see what will happen!' - Anne-Marie Rakhorst

As a student of political science, Maurits Groen became interested in the environmental and development issues. For more than four years he was editor-in-chief of the magazine *Milieudefensie* and in 1982 he founded the environmental communication and advisory office MGMC. He (often together with others) later founded several other sustainable companies, such as WakaWaka, manufacturer of solar energy equipment, and Kipster, 'the most animal/environmental/people-friendly chicken farm in the world, which is additionally the first climate neutral farm of its sort.'

Groen is often a speaker at or chair of meetings on sustainability and entrepreneurship. In addition, he is the chair of several boards: Stichting Milieubende, Pakhuis De Zwijger, One World, Stuurgroep and Jury Duurzame Dinsdag. He is also a member of Platform Urgenda and the editorial team of the journal *Milieu*. From the very beginning, Groen held a high ranking in the Sustainable 100 compiled by the daily newspaper *Trouw*; he was number 1 in 2015 and later became a member of the jury.

'In 2018 Nijmegen earned the title of European Green Capital on the basis of what the city had actually done, not on its plans for the future. That 'harvest year' stimulated Nijmegen to show the rest of Europe its versatile and integral approach and to further strengthen the basis of its sustainability policy. Nijmegen is not resting on its laurels but has chosen to remain a frontrunner and a source of inspiration.' - Maurits Groen

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column Ûltsje van Gorkum

Ûltsje van Gorkum, coordinator project bureau Nijmegen European Green Capital 2018.

THE FOLLOW-UP TO GREEN CAPITAL

It's the spring of 2019 and Nijmegen's year as European Green Capital 2018 is now behind us. What a year it was. Having first taken a moment to catch our breath, it's now time to evaluate what we did and to look ahead. All of that green, sustainable bustle of the Green Capital year (and mine as well) is wasted energy if we don't continue to expand this in the years ahead. So, which issues are we going to choose? Who's going to do what? What do we want to achieve? The follow-up to Green Capital will at any rate concern themes, transitions, involvement and networks.

The five themes of Nijmegen EGC 2018 ran more or less parallel to five major developments needed to keep cities attractive and liveable. Five sustainable transitions: clean mobility, fossil-free energy, sustainable food, a city that can withstand climate problems (severe rain, heat, drought) and a city without waste. The transitions to clean mobility and fossil-free energy are well on their way. Examples are electric cars and bikes, more bikes, environmental zones, windmills, solar panels, a heat network and Nijmegen gas-free. There is also - justifiably so! - increasingly more attention to the transitions relating to biodiversity, food, climate adjustments and a city without waste. It's important for us to work quicker and with more coordination so that everyone can contribute to Nijmegen's positive future. The follow-up to Green Capital will focus on these three transitions.

Last year it seemed as if everyone in Nijmegen who was even remotely connected to sustainability was asked to organise or participate in Green Capital activities. My knowledge of the city has been multiplied in many respects! Nijmegen's strength is that so many people and organisations are active in ensuring the city's well-being. Not just in 2018 but (far) before that as well. This dedication is the fundament of the follow-up to Green Capital. A 'follow-up to Green Capital' programme board consisting of various members will use the input from professional and practical experts to create a strong network, goals to work towards in the next ten years and a city-wide work programme of initiatives and activities.

Networks

Nijmegen expressly set itself in the international spotlights last year. As a result, the city now has broader and easier access to international networks and organisations, such as the global network of sustainable cities ICLEI. We want to use and expand this international position in the follow-up to Green Capital, for example with the e-hubs. And it helps if we know what we want and can do in those sustainable transitions. We will further develop this in the city-wide work programme. There's enough to be done in the years ahead!

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MY GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND KLEURRIJK GROEN TO CONTINUE!

Kleurrijk Groen and the Green Capital Challenges will continue in 2019. In their own way, each will try to reach neighbourhood residents so that the ideas behind Green Capital will be spread across Nijmegen.

In 2019 the Green Capital Challenges will continue activities under the name of *Mijn Groene Wijk* (My GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD). In nine neighbourhoods in Nijmegen nine Challenges will be started in nine months' time. These Challenges will be devised and executed by the residents themselves. This implementation of this project is in the hands of Lentekracht.

Selection criteria

- The project is related to sustainability, for example making something greener, energy, storing and using rain, litter, etc.
- It is an initiative or idea of the neighbourhood residents.
- Idea can be started and realised in a short period (if a multiannual plan, it should be divided into short periods).
- The necessary expenses do not exceed €5,000. For example, the purchase of material, etc. This cannot be used to pay hourly wages.
- The support of *Mijn Groene Wijk* is needed to support the initiative, which would be impossible without this support.

Examples are a common vegetable gardens, getting rid of paving stones in a street, preventing food waste with one another, etc. Always together with other neighbourhood residents. That gives energy and makes people happy, so taking a sustainable step becomes something fun to do. Another example is a project in Weezenhof, where residents are enlarging the biodiversity in their neighbourhood.

- Inspirational day sustainable gardening, Kleurrijk Groen, 13 July 2018.

KLEURRIJK GROEN

At the beginning of 2019, the Kleurrijk Groen Network was expanded to include the participants in the course. This Network initiates and organises meetings to generate more attention to sustainability.

With their activities they focus on target groups who don't come into contact with institutes working on issues of nature and the environment. For example, activities that are in line with specific cultural backgrounds, activities focused on a neighbourhood and activities that a nature and environmental organisation wants to reach.

Kleurrijk Groen can help with advice for environmental organisations, with cycling activities for children, a clothes exchange, outdoor excursions, sustainable vegetable gardens in neighbourhoods and creating a park to celebrate diversity in nature and in people.

Bureau Wijland supports the ideas of the members of the Kleurrijk Groen Network with its knowledge and by helping them look for a relevant network and financing.

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Sponsors of the visitors' pavilion

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- The core team of Nijmegen European Green Capital.

More information?

www.jaaroverzicht.greencapital2018.nl/nl

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Everyone who volunteered this year for Nijmegen European Green Capital.

Parties who signed the manifest

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