

BEST PRACTICE



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Zeeland Local Climate Fund

Zeeland Province, The Netherlands - 380 735 inhabitants

Energy financing – CO2 compensation – Strategic planning

The Zeeland Climate Fund is financed through the CO2 compensations from major Zeeland companies, organizations and large event organisers. The fund seeks to offset CO2 emissions in the territory of Zeeland by supporting projects that have an added value for the community and the regional economy.



Project in a Nutshell

Participants can fully or partially compensate their own CO2 emissions through the fund by contributing € 25 per ton of CO2 emitted. Thanks to the fund, solar panels have been installed on roofs of municipal schools allowing cities to improve the sustainability of public buildings and local companies to go one step closer to climate neutrality. At national level, the Green Deal Carbon Market, of which the Zeeland Climate Fund is a partner, generally aims at reducing CO2 emissions by at least 500 000 tons per year.

Impact & Next steps

The Climate Fund has already received a record number of applications (on average 20 per year), including citizen-steered projects for energy sharing from solar installations. Some € 50 000 were already contributed from the fund for a total investment pipeline of some € 680 000. Together, the projects will help compensate some 3 500 tons of CO2 emissions in the coming years!

Replicability: Challenges & Success Factors

An important element to keep in mind for regions wishing to copy the model is to count on the contributions of committed stakeholders. In this case, on top of the financial support from the Zeeland province some 35 other partners joined the initiative, including the Zeeland port, several municipalities, companies and event organisers. This is all the more relevant knowing that, in the future, the fund might not be able to cover for the expenses already foreseen, threatening the funding of solar community energy projects which benefit from a 10% cut on initial investment thanks to support from the fund.

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