Buurtwarmte in Paddepoel

Citizens participate in decarbing their district
Paddepoel – city of Groningen (Netherlands)

* Typical postwar district, built between 1968 -1974

* 6.000 inhabitants Paddepoel-North

* Over 20% students
Ambitious cities

- Groningen planning to be CO² neutral in 2035
Local concerns:
Student residents in family houses
Induced earthquakes in Groningen, due to natural gas extraction
7 February 2017 earthquakes protest

- 7 February 2017:
  Over 5000 protesters against gas extraction and earthquakes. Mayor and vice-mayors joining in the torchlight procession.
2016: Energy community
Paddepoel Energiek kicks off
Building partnerships: with the cities energy cooperative Grunneger Power
Building partnerships: with other local heat initiatives united in Energie Samen / Buurtwarmte

- Sharing knowledge and best practices with other citizen heat initiatives

- Setting up a national and European lobby for more opportunities for citizen engagement under the new heat law

- Organising trainings and webinars for citizen heat professionals
The Buurtwarmte Paddepoel team

- Cooperation between Grunneger Power and Paddepoel Energiek
- Goal: sustainable heat for 500 households
- Paddepoel as a pilot project for other districts
Survey: How about heating your home without gas

- 25% of the residents in the project area participated in the survey
- Face-to-face
- More than half know little about heat networks
- Sun, wind and residual heat are viewed positive
- Empowerment options increase acceptance
- A commercial heat supplier is viewed negative
- A citizen cooperative is seen positive but people fear a lack of professionalism
Infographic in the local newspaper: concept of design for 500 houses
Buurtwarmte magazine

Want to know more?
Download the magazine Buurtwarmte:
www.050buurtwarmte.nl
Buurtwarmte Paddepoel: Our seven core values

- Local and sustainable heat source
- Reliable and scalable
- Affordable (not more expensive than natural gas)
- Profit for purpose
- Heat cooperative run by local citizens
- Connecting to the heat grid on a voluntary basis
- No loss of thermal comfort & no hassle switching to renewable heat
November 2019 concept of design event
What will be the next step
WarmteStad, the cities own heat company
Biggest challenges yet to come!

- Governance
- Scalability
- From 500 to 3,200 connections?
- Financing
- National and local regulations
- Keeping commitment
- Big ambitions vs small scale opportunities
- Working with the municipality
Bringing ambitions to a local scale: What’s in it for them?