

Report and Outcomes – Citizens' consultation Statenkwartier phase 1

In the report below, the two meetings have been summarized in the most possible accessible way, but this summary is not exhaustive. Therefore, an overview of the (anonymized) completed forms is included among others, so that you can read the input of all participants.

Context

The first two meetings of the citizens' consultation Statenkwartier on climate change took place on 10 and 12 May. Together, these two meetings represent phase 1 of the citizens' consultation where participants define together which topics the citizens' consultation shall discuss in phase 2.

A total of 56 inhabitants of the Statenkwartier took part in the citizens' consultation phase 1. 90 inhabitants were selected for the citizens' consultation phase 1 by weighted selection based on gender, age and living situation (private/social rental or owner-occupied house). [You can visit the website to find more information on the citizens' consultation context.](#)

Both meetings took place from 5 PM to 9 PM at the Marriott Hotel in The Hague. The program started with a short welcome speech, followed by dinner in smaller groups. The dinner allowed the participants to get to know each other better.

Presentations

The program continued with a speech by the host Bram Heijkers about the citizens' consultation process. He also explained that an online survey intended for the inhabitants of the Statenkwartier who had not been selected was available to provide input for the citizens' consultation. [You can find the results of this survey here on the website.](#) The citizens' consultation can decide if it takes these inputs into account in its advice.

Then Henry Terlouw (strategy and energy transition policy manager of the municipality of the Hague) gave a presentation about climate change in general and what the municipality does to counter it. [You can find the presentation concerning the process as well as climate change here on the website.](#)

Questions from the public

After the presentation, the audience asked several questions and formulated remarks. You can find an overview of these questions, as well as of the questions answered by the participants in the forms [on the website](#).*

There was a number of questions and remarks:

Question: What about the municipality's budgets for energy transition?

Answer: Billions must be invested in order to realise the transition. The municipality cannot finance this alone. Companies and the national government also contribute. At the moment, 20 to 40 million per year is earmarked for energy transition. This also includes subsidies and civic servants' salaries. The citizens' consultation could, for instance, ask the council to look at these budgets and to expand them for the energy transition.

Question: What are the “Eneco funds”?

Answer: The municipality was co-owner of Eneco. These shares have been sold. This has resulted in 600-700 million Euros for the municipality, including 180 million intended for the energy transition. The 20 to 40 million partly come from these 180 million.

Question: Should the advice of the citizen’s consultation be about the short or the long term?

Answer: During phase 1, the participants jointly determine the exact topics on which the citizens' council will advise. The citizens' council is free to decide on the type of advice it will give. These can be short term advices, but also long term advices. The scope of the advice is therefore not fixed.

Question: Are only CO2 emissions included in the figures from the presentation or also other greenhouse gases?

Answer: Only CO2 emissions are included. For the municipality of The Hague, other greenhouse gases such as methane are negligible, as there is little industry and agriculture within the municipality.

Question: Will the Municipal Executive of The Hague take heed of the European Union's decision to label natural gas as sustainable?

Answer: Not for the moment. In the Netherlands, we have already made this transition from coal to natural gas decades ago. In that sense, we in the Netherlands are a step ahead of many other countries. Natural gas is less polluting than coal, but still emits CO2.

Question: What do we mean by combating climate change? What is your definition of climate change? Sweeping the pavement does nothing to combat climate change, does it?

Answer: We do not use a single definition. It is up to the participants of the citizens’ consultation to determine this definition.

Question: What shall be done with the advice of the citizen’s consultation?

Answer: The advice goes directly to the municipality council. The college shall not change the advice of the citizen’s consultation.

Groups in discussion

After the presentations and the questions from the audience, the participants were divided in groups of 5 to 6 people to discuss the following questions with each other:

- As you see and hear these measures, where do you see the opportunities?
- Where do you feel opposition? What are you worried about?
- What could you be able to do yourself?
- What do you expect from the authorities?
- On which topics must the citizens’ consultation advise the municipality council?

The group gathered the most important topics on a flipchart. After the discussions, each participant filled in an own form with answers to the following questions:

- What are you concerned about?
- What questions do you have?
- Do you have any ideas you want to share?
- On which topics must the citizens’ consultation advise the municipality?
- What else do you want to say?
- Do you want to participate in phase 2?

You can read the collected results of the summarised forms [here on the website](#). * You will find the themes, subjects, concerns and ideas that the participants found most important after the first meeting here. This overview is a summary of the provided answers. In order to sum up and avoid repetitions, not all the answers have been literally copied. We hope that this summary will be recognisable to you as a participant. [You can find the raw, uncategorized outcomes here.](#)

One participant of each group explained to the rest of the public what the red thread of the discussions was at his or her table and what they agreed or disagreed about. Then they put their group's forms in the suggestion box. Some of the themes that emerged from the various groups:

- A large group of expats lives in the Statenviertel. They must also be involved in the process. Most of them are tenants. They have therefore the feeling of not being able to make their house more sustainable.
- Affordability: How do we guarantee that everyone keeps on being able to pay his or her energy bill?
- A greener neighbourhood: use more green spaces and less cars in the neighbourhood.
- It is difficult to choose between long- and short-term priorities.
- The authorities must be an example. Think about embassies, civic enforcement officers, etc.
- People with bigger wallets can contribute more. Provide subsidies according to ability to pay. And also available to everyone, the pot cannot suddenly be empty when you are too late.
- More information about the energy transition: how does it work exactly? What does it mean for me? Short, concise and accessible for inhabitants.
- There are many possibilities to engage in sustainability. But how do you make the right choice? Where can I get relevant advice? It is difficult to find.
- Make sure schools offer education about sustainability. Start with kids and young people in order to inform them well, so that they can start from childhood.
- Sustainable neighbourhood initiatives are not known among residents. Mutual communication is not good enough.
- Better public transport: there are many trams and buses in the area, but the connections are not fast. If it were faster, people would be less likely to take the car.
- Opinions differ as to how much the government should or should not impose and how much freedom people should retain: incentives versus coercion.
- Show each other what you are already doing in the field of sustainability and speak to each other about it. The government also has a role to play in inspiring people and making them enthusiastic.
- What do we mean by sustainable? Does it only concern combatting the causes of climate change or also how we deal with the impact?

Defining the themes for phase 2

As mentioned earlier, all participants filled in a form with themes, concerns, questions and ideas. A lot of input was given on these forms. The organisation has clustered this input into four themes. Subsequently, all participants received a short questionnaire by e-mail in which they could indicate which of these themes they found most important to take to phase 2. They could also indicate on which subjects they would like to hear an expert during the next meeting. Based on the responses to the questionnaire, the final themes have now been chosen, and we are inviting experts for the next meeting

Below you will find an overview of the four themes and the topics you have mentioned that the citizens' council will deal with.

<p>Public space and mobility</p> <p>How is the public space organised in the Statenkwartier? For which means of transport is the public space made? Mentioned topics (in random order):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A greener neighbourhood 2. Space for cars and parking lots 3. Space for bicycles and pedestrians 4. Improving and sustaining public transport connections 5. Car-sharing 6. Climate adaptation: draining rainwater and taking measures against heat stress 7. Facilitating electrical transport 	<p>Communication and participation</p> <p>How does the municipality communicate about climate change? Which information and support are available to the inhabitants who want to engage in sustainability? Mentioned topics (in random order):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Availability of information 2. Personal energy coaches 3. Support for personal initiatives in the neighbourhood 4. Information and awareness 5. The municipality as an example 6. Behavioural change of residents 7. Support among residents
<p>Financing and regulation</p> <p>Who pays for energy transition and sustainability? What (financial) arrangements are there to support residents? How much budget does the municipality have available for this subject? Can the municipality impose measures on residents? Mentioned topics (in random order):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affordability for residents 2. Subsidy regulations 3. Financial incentives for behavioural changes by residents, tenants, companies 4. Municipality budget to combat climate change 5. Attitude of the municipality towards the state. 6. Enticement vs. coercion 	<p>Energy and living</p> <p>Can the Statenkwartier save more energy? Are there alternative energy sources available which can replace natural gas and electricity from coal-fired power stations? Mentioned topics (in random order):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geothermal energy 2. Solar panels 3. Collective batteries 4. Insulate 5. Save energy 6. Ambition level and speed of heat transition 7. Collective power generation 8. Collective energy storage and subsystems 9. Green roofs 10. Sustainable rental properties

Moving to phase 2 with 30 participants

Everyone could mention in the form if he or she wished to go to phase 2 of the citizens' consultation. Finally, 38 participants answered positively. In order to come to a group of 30 participants, an additional selection has been made based on gender, age and living situation. These 30 participants are invited to participate in phase 2 of the citizens' consultation. They will eventually come to a joint opinion that will be submitted to the municipal council.

The rest of the participants of phase 1 will be kept informed during the process about the developments of phase 2 of the citizens' consultation.

**As mentioned in an e-mail to you before, we have not translated all background documents. We hope using Google translate will be sufficient for you to understand these documents. If you still have any questions, please contact us.*