

Good afternoon and nice meeting you! My name is Pim van den Berg and I am a town planner by profession and spent many years working in the public housing sector. In the 1990s, I worked for the housing and environment ministry and led teams responsible for housing benefits and for direct project subsidies. I spent 10 years as an interim manager, mainly for local water boards, where I implemented reorganisations, developed strategy and led dozens of projects involving complicated processes and multiple stakeholders.

In 2006, I was elected to Amersfoort city council and I have chaired the local branch of the Liberal democratic party D66 since 2010. Between October 2011 and May 2015, I was an alderman in Amersfoort, with responsibility for inner city development, listed buildings, the economy, property and land management, and sustainability.

Since 2015 I am vice governor of the Province of Utrecht and manage the portfolio for housing and urban development, spatial development, economy and energy transition.

And you as a representation of Denmark, you are one of the renewable energy leaders in Europe. The Netherlands is dangling at the bottom of the list, so some modesty suits us.

What is characteristic of the Dutch approach is that the central government has set up the task of generating sustainable energy and that of energy savings in the built environment at the level of the municipalities. The ambition is that the plans really come from society. In addition, all Dutch households must use natural gas. Here too, plans are made at the level of the municipalities in so-called heat visions. The establishment of the so-called regional energy strategy more or less coincides with the drafting of the new environmental law, which lays down spatial planning. This is also a bottom-up process. The energy transition therefore coincides with a control transition. Extra exciting, but it fits in with transitions that are, after all, system changes.

The Netherlands have translated the Paris climate agreements into a national climate agreement that has 5 chapters (consultation tables).

These are

- Sustainable electricity
- Built environment (including natural gas-free neighborhoods) This is also a major system change because stopping natural gas has a major impact on the finances of the Dutch government.
- Mobility
- Agriculture
- Industry

The first 2 topics are mainly worked out in the regional strategies. Mobility, agriculture and industry are mainly tackled nationally.

The province of Utrecht has relatively little Industry, is relatively densely populated, has a highly compacted mobility network with major traffic arteries and public transport hubs, but also a fast-growing network of fast cycle routes.

The approximately 1.3 million inhabitants are probably largely dependent on (ultra-deep) geothermal energy for their heat supply in the future. Utrecht is blessed with a great quality groundwater that is a source of drinking water. Our soil is also full of networks and cultural history, which limits the detection and exploitation of heat sources.

The province of Utrecht has different roles in all these developments.

Sometimes we manage, sometimes we support, then again we are the connectors and finally we are also prepared to enforce. The energy transition does not stand on its own but is linked to numerous spatial tasks in the areas of living, working, mobility, recreation, cultural history and that in a province. This makes the energy transition a major challenge and a hot topic for the provincial elections. In addition, the inhabitants make themselves heard, from climate truants to yellow vests and the debate is conducted where that belongs: In society.

Because everyone experiences the changes in his or her environment. Where do bottlenecks arise due to heavy rainfall? What happens during long periods of drought or extreme heat? How deep does the water get in the event of a flood from the river? Province of Utrecht, Water Authority De Stichtse Rijnlanden, Safety region Utrecht and municipalities are jointly carrying out a climate stress test to identify the consequences of climate change for our province

The stress test is an important step in the cooperation needed to make the Utrecht region climate-proof. The aim is to raise awareness of the urgency and joint task creation and to determine regional spearheads for climate

adaptation. In addition, we make the link between climate stress maps and functions such as nature, agriculture, recreation, vulnerable objects and infrastructure and urban areas and a healthy living environment. The province of Utrecht has a very diverse landscape: peat, clay and sandy soil, in a mixture of city, country and nature. This variation requires a variety of solution directions.

The changing climate requires measures at all levels to limit the impact on health, safety, productivity and nature. Exercises that are urgent for the whole of the Netherlands. The province of Utrecht, together with its partners, will start to develop and share experiments, new insights, ideas and practical knowledge. In order to adapt to the changing climate in this way.