Short summary of the 26 proposals in the mini-citizen consultation report

November 2021, Amsterdam Citizens' Consultation answers to the question from the municipality: help us with CO_2 reduction

The listed ideas are in order of most support.

1 City forest
Before 2025, the municipality will plant a new 1,000 hectare, fast-growing, multifunctional forest, in which residents and companies can participate financially and in ownership. This forest has been landscaped in such a way that it makes a maximum contribution to CO_2 capture, biodiversity, water management and particulate matter reduction.
In addition, it can partly be used for food production (a food forest), for social initiatives and it offers opportunities for all kinds of recreation for Amsterdam residents. It thus promotes social cohesion between the inhabitants of Amsterdam.

2. Amsterdam turns deep green
Within the boundaries of the larger Amsterdam-area are many houses and other real estate. The older these buildings are, the more poorly insulated they are and the greater the challenge of making them more sustainable. Geothermal energy then offers the ideal solution: the energy source becomes more sustainable.
At a depth of 4 kilometers the earth has a heat of about 120-130 degrees. This can be pumped up from the depths via a doublet, two deep boreholes located close to each other; one to pump up hot water, the other to bring back cooled water. By means of this geothermal energy 7,000 houses can be heated per doublet without (noise) nuisance or landscape pollution for direct residents. A doublet is built in an area with one hectare, on which a beautiful park is subsequently laid out (see also proposal 1)

3. Fund for rental properties
The municipality is setting up a fund to stimulate the sustainability of houses and business premises in Amsterdam. The municipality pays all costs for making them more sustainable. This loan will be repaid with the savings in energy costs after the renovation. After the renovation, the house or building consumes less energy, resulting in a lower energy bill. Yet the resident pays the same costs as before the renovation for energy consumption. The difference goes back to the municipality to repay the loan. In this way, the capital injection from the municipality returns after some time. In short, the fund is not shrinking. Measures that can be paid from the fund are insulation, hybrid heat pumps, double or HR+++ glass, solar panels and other sustainability measures.

4. Accelerated sustainability of the built environment
Installing a heat network takes time. To accelerate sustainability, two tracks are being considered:

a) provide hybrid heat pumps and insulation per district and
b) accelerate the implementation of the heat network

a) Neighborhood approach hybrid heat pumps and insulation (40%)
In neighborhoods that can only switch to a heat network later or not at all, each resident will receive their own tailor-made sustainability plan within 2 years, consisting of a combination of appropriate insulation measures and a hybrid heat pump. In a district-oriented approach, the municipality visits all households (with a climate coach) for personal advice. Residents can indicate their interest and are then completely unburdened: the municipality arranges the implementation and realizes a cost advantage through collective purchasing (per district). Funding for this sustainability improvement comes partly from the heat-net fund and existing National subsidies. It is possible that by using PCM (Phase Change Materials) a cost saving on the investments can be realized.

b) Implementing the heat network in the short term (60%)
Potentially, approximately 300,000 Amsterdam households can be connected to the heat network. Until now, almost only association housing has been planned. For private homeowners, the investment is a bottleneck. We are setting up a heat-net fund to solve this problem and to significantly accelerate the transition to heat.

5. Go green
This initiative focuses on creating social energy for the energy transition among residents of the municipality and offering support for people who want to become more sustainable in their own environment. This will be done with the installation of a climate mayor, climate council and climate coaches/buddies.

6. Rapidly introduce and expand 30 km/h zones
The municipality is accelerating the introduction of 30 km/h in built-up areas where it is already in the pipeline, and is also extending these plans to new roads. This creates a safer cycling environment and makes it relatively more attractive for residents and visitors to travel by public transport.

7. Sustainable business coalition
The municipality is drawing up a sustainable business coalition together with large consumers of heat and companies with space on their site. The municipality is in the lead in calling parties together and coordinating. The business coalition consists of three parts: drawing up a transition plan together in the field of sustainable heat (heating plan), accelerating the generation of more sustainable energy (the carport coalition) and stimulating investments by market parties by setting up a guarantee fund.

8. Sustainable generation with solar panels
Residents without an owned house and roof can still participate and benefit from solar panels through a municipal solar panel cooperative. In this way it can be ensured that all suitable Amsterdam roofs are covered with solar panels and not just half, which is the current ambition of the municipality. The cooperative will attract capital from residents who have no control

over their roof and have spare savings. Residents thus receive a share in the portfolio of solar panels that are financed from the cooperative and receive a return on this, so that they also benefit financially.

9. City air condition

To counteract the heat-island-effect and stimulate biodiversity, the built environment will be greened (planted) by 25% until 2030. The measures are partly implemented directly by the municipality and partly indirectly by facilitating residents to contribute to the greening of the city. The financing for this is (partly) provided via an eco tax – which is not only paid (proportionally to financial capacity) by residents, but also by companies, the tourist industry, etc. because they too benefit from a healthier, attractive, green city.
7 immediate measures that the municipality must take are mentioned towards 3 indirect, facilitating measures.

10. Making public transport more attractive than owning a car

With a package of measures, the municipality encourages residents and visitors to use public transport more and to reduce car ownership with the aim of at least 15% reduction in car kilometers driven per year in Amsterdam. The municipality does this with 8 measures starting with 'more expensive parking permits, especially for 2nd cars' that can support and fund the other measures.

11. Climate chambers

The municipality creates and facilitates 15 climate chambers, which are not at the expense of the existing neighborhood centers, in the various neighborhoods where initiatives that combat waste are created and bundled. Think about lending desks for tools, give-away shops where food and products can be brought that are no longer used, and repair cafes. The aim is to make reduce, reuse, recycle accessible and also to provide information about the climate crisis and associated measures through the use of climate coaches and an information center. The climate chambers also function as a means of guaranteeing social involvement and early identification of concerns or problems of residents within the theme.

12. Capture CO_2 emissions Waste and Energy Company

The municipality is committed to form a consortium of parties that - as an alternative to the earlier plan that has been drawn up for this (called Athos) - realizes a solution for the capture and storage/use of the CO_2 emissions from the incineration of waste by the Amsterdam Waste and Energy Company (AEB). The CO_2 captured using this Carbon Capture and Storage technique (CCS) is transported through a CO_2 pipeline to an empty gas field near the city of Den Helder via HVC Alkmaar (where CO_2 can also be introduced). This CO_2 can be used for an Urban Farming building or when cultivating algae. Algae in particular can convert a lot of CO_2 into oxygen, which also releases energy, and algae can be used to make various products in the field of fuels and proteins. CO_2 can be captured in various ways, from filtering CO_2 from factory chimneys to extracting CO_2 from the air with a special installation that can be placed in many different places.

13. Increase tourist tax

The municipality is increasing the tourist tax, linked to the transport with which tourists come to Amsterdam, so that environmentally harmful transport becomes less attractive. For example, the municipality sets the following prices:
• Tourist tax for train tourists: € 3 per night
• Tourist tax Cruise tourists: € 17.55 per night
• Tourist tax for airplane tourists: €25 per night

14. Property tax discount
Companies that emit less CO_2 than the average company in their sector receive a discount on their property tax from a property tax compensation fund. In this way they are encouraged to become more sustainable. The benchmark of CO_2 emissions is getting lower every year. The municipality will have to lobby in The Hague to adapt the property tax with a CO_2 component.

15. Returning a car in exchange for a credit for an electric shared car
The municipality encourages residents to hand in polluting cars for a credit for an electric shared car. Before the municipality actively starts with this, the municipality will first expand the range of shared cars. In addition to CO_2 savings, this also creates more space in the city.

16. Good public transport connection with 'Nieuw West' area
By creating a new metro connection to Nieuw-West, the use of taxis, Uber and buses to this part of the city will be reduced. In addition, this part of the city has the highest share of car ownership and parking spaces, which is also reduced due to a better connection. A nice social side effect is that Amsterdam Nieuw-West will thus become more part of the city of Amsterdam.

17. Sustainable cooperatives
In this initiative (initiated and facilitated by the municipality) for public collective cooperation, participants who make/have made roofs available are linked to participants who want to invest in a green roof, windmills on the roof or solar panels. The proceeds will be divided among the participants.

18. Amsterdam Green
This idea includes a marketing plan to put Amsterdam on the map as a green city through a tourist attraction ("I bike Amsterdam") and a platform app to stimulate/reward positive awareness and save energy. With the app CO_2 points can be achieved and residents and neighborhoods can compare their CO_2 points total, stimulating competition between neighborhoods and rewarding sustainable behavior. The CO_2 points can, for example, offer discounts on various products or services in Amsterdam. This plan can be put into effect before the next municipal elections in March 2022.

19. All cruise ships on green shore power
From 2025, only cruise ships that use green shore power will be allowed to dock in Amsterdam.

20. Green location policy

Amsterdam is a clean city focusing on sustainable working and production. Every company that wants to establish itself in Amsterdam is obliged to submit a plan on how they work on sustainability. This plan focuses on, among other things, energy saving, sustainable generation and the reduction of fossil energy consumption (Trias Energetica). In addition, companies must also include how they will reduce CO_2-intensive waste flows. Even when companies want to expand and the (environmental) permit has to be extended, this sustainability plan can be required by the municipality.

21. Maximum surface of roofs

Launch an incentive scheme for private house owners to use the maximum roof surface for solar panels, instead of only installing the number of solar panels that are sufficient to cover their own consumption. This is possible through a higher amount for netting, a municipal subsidy on extra panels and/or a discount on 'valuation of real estate' (WOZ).

22. 50% working from home

The municipality encourages working from home by means of a homeworking subsidy, (where possible) a homeworking quota and by realizing flex-hubs in every district. The municipality aims to have 50% of people work from home. Due to the COVID pandemic, people are already used to this.

23. Accelerating the promotion of electric driving

The municipality encourages electric driving to achieve the 2030 target (almost all traffic electric) earlier. It does this by making electric driving more attractive for both owning an electric car and the use of an electric shared car for residents. The package consists of discounts on parking for electric cars, cheaper charging and a subsidy on the purchase of a charging station and by making it easier to use an electric shared car (larger service area and more types of cars). The use of shared cars can also be encouraged with a 'city pass' that should give a discount on the use of shared cars.

24. Sustainable travel lobby

The municipality adopts a much more activist attitude in its lobbying activities, focusing on welfare rather than economic growth. The municipality does this by positioning itself as an activist shareholder of airport Schiphol. In addition, the municipality is starting a lobby towards the central government to put welfare above growth at Schiphol and a lobby and collaboration with the four major municipalities (G4) and the central government for a tax on kerosene.

25. Three wind turbines supply sustainable electricity for 8,000 households

The municipality maximizes support from the surrounding community for the realization of 3 extra wind turbines (on top of the 17 already planned) by means of financial benefits for local residents and makes social investments in the area directly from the revenues of the wind turbines.

26. Subsidy for exchanging old solar panels

A municipal subsidy for exchanging old solar panels for more efficient new ones with a yield that is 50% higher.