

Rotterdam Climate Agreement

→ ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

KEYWORDS: PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE;
MOBILITY

DURATION: May–November 2019

WHO: City Council, citizens and other stakeholders

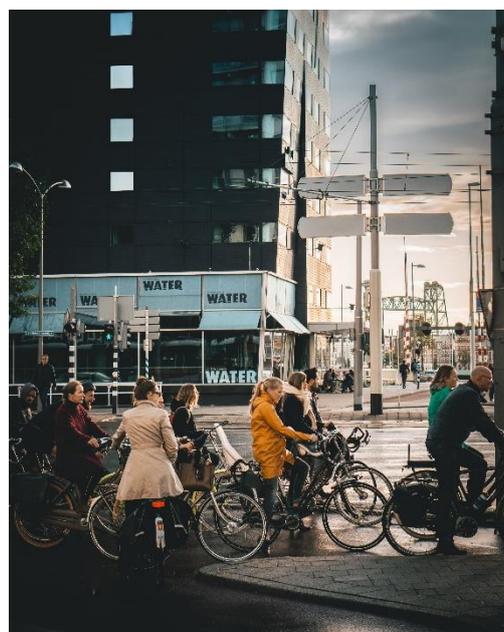
BUDGET: Unknown – Financed by the municipality

SUMMARY

Rotterdam has developed the **Rotterdam Climate Agreement**, resulting in **49 climate deals** with concrete measures towards 49% CO₂ emission reduction in the city by 2030 (compared to 2017). The climate deals have been developed in different sessions around **five themes**: port and industry; built environment; mobility; clean energy; and consumption. The ‘Climate Table Mobility’ proposes CO₂ neutral, healthy, inclusive and affordable mobility for Rotterdam, in which shared and slow mobility are the norm, as well as improve the liveability and inclusivity. The tables were chaired by external experts, and the mobility table specifically was chaired by Derk Loorbach, director of the Dutch Research Institute for Transitions (DRIFT).

GOALS

- Transform Rotterdam into an **accessible, healthy and inclusive city**;
- Implement an **experimental governance approach**;
- **Reduce CO₂ emissions** of the city;
- Build on existing dynamics and initiatives;
- Set up a platform to support the implementation of the proposed measures;
- Implement short-term interventions for **political engagement**.



HOW IT WORKS

More than **100 organisations** have participated in the processes generated by the five climate tables. Each table corresponds to one of the themes of the 'Rotterdam Climate Agreement'. All the tables shared a common goal: to develop concrete and feasible measures to reduce CO2 emissions of the city. A council member and an independent chair were assigned to each table. The chairs were asked to **consult societal actors** and develop a concrete proposal. A team made by a secretary, a dedicated civil servant and an expert on the topic supported the chairs. The five chairs would have regular meetings and a monthly meeting with the respective council members.

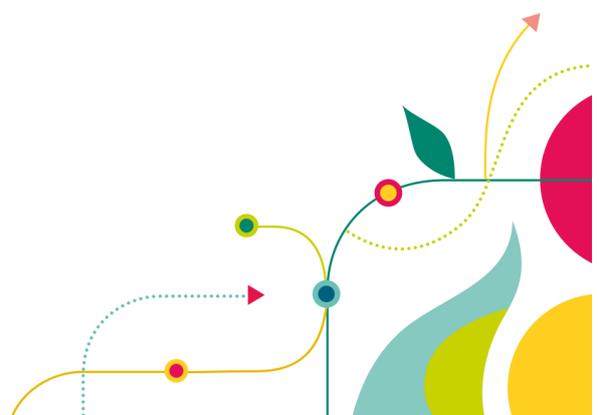
"I am proud of the results, and inspired by the entrepreneurial power, involvement and commitment of all parties and people in this process. But we are not done yet. That is also the energy which is needed: the transition to a sustainable inclusive economy is a road full of surprises, uncertainties and resistances"

→ **Derk Loorbach, DRIFT - Mobility Table Chair**

For example, the mobility table entailed six workgroups around different themes, assigning an expert civil servant to each one of them. The stakeholders involved were invited to share ideas and co-create interventions in the framework of four meetings. The process was supported and monitored by the **Dutch Environmental Agency**, who gave feedback on the feasibility of the measures. The result of the collaborative process resulted in **17 concrete measures**.

TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL

Several initiatives paved the way to the Climate Tables. Above all, the political programme by the government coalition "New Energy Rotterdam" put the issue of the achievement of the city's climate goals under the spotlight and pushed for more transformative interventions to mitigate the effects of climate change. Therefore, the municipality decided to fund the process of the climate tables. The process also encountered difficulties, including diverging agendas of the council members and stakeholders who did not agree with the process and withdrew their participation. Even now that the measures are published, the structure to ensure their implementation has not yet been created, while **support from the government will be essential** for the successful implementation of the measures designed.



MORE INFORMATION

[Utrecht Municipality's website](#) (in Dutch)

[Website Rotterdam Climate Agreement](#) (in Dutch)

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