

ClimateCafé

28 - 29 -30 October 2026

Groningen

Climate Adaptation Research Group

Research Centre for Built Environment – NoorderRuimte

Hanze University of Applied Sciences

Welcome to ClimateCafé

We are excited to welcome you to this edition of ClimateCafé, where partners from different projects join forces to explore resilient urban futures. Together, we share knowledge, test innovative solutions, and connect communities. The dialogue over the next few days will be about co-creating pathways for sustainable water management and green infrastructure that strengthen cities under climate change. We will also explore local Nature-based Solution (NbS) sites, strengthen connections across countries, projects, disciplines, and institutions; and define collective approaches to co-creation, communication, and evaluation.

This ClimateCafé has also been developed to include a practice-based learning and innovation format that is directly grounded in ongoing national and international research projects. These projects collectively provide the scientific foundation, field methods, stakeholder networks, and real-world case locations. They contribute expertise on nature-based solutions, urban water resilience, climate adaptation, community engagement, and transdisciplinary learning.



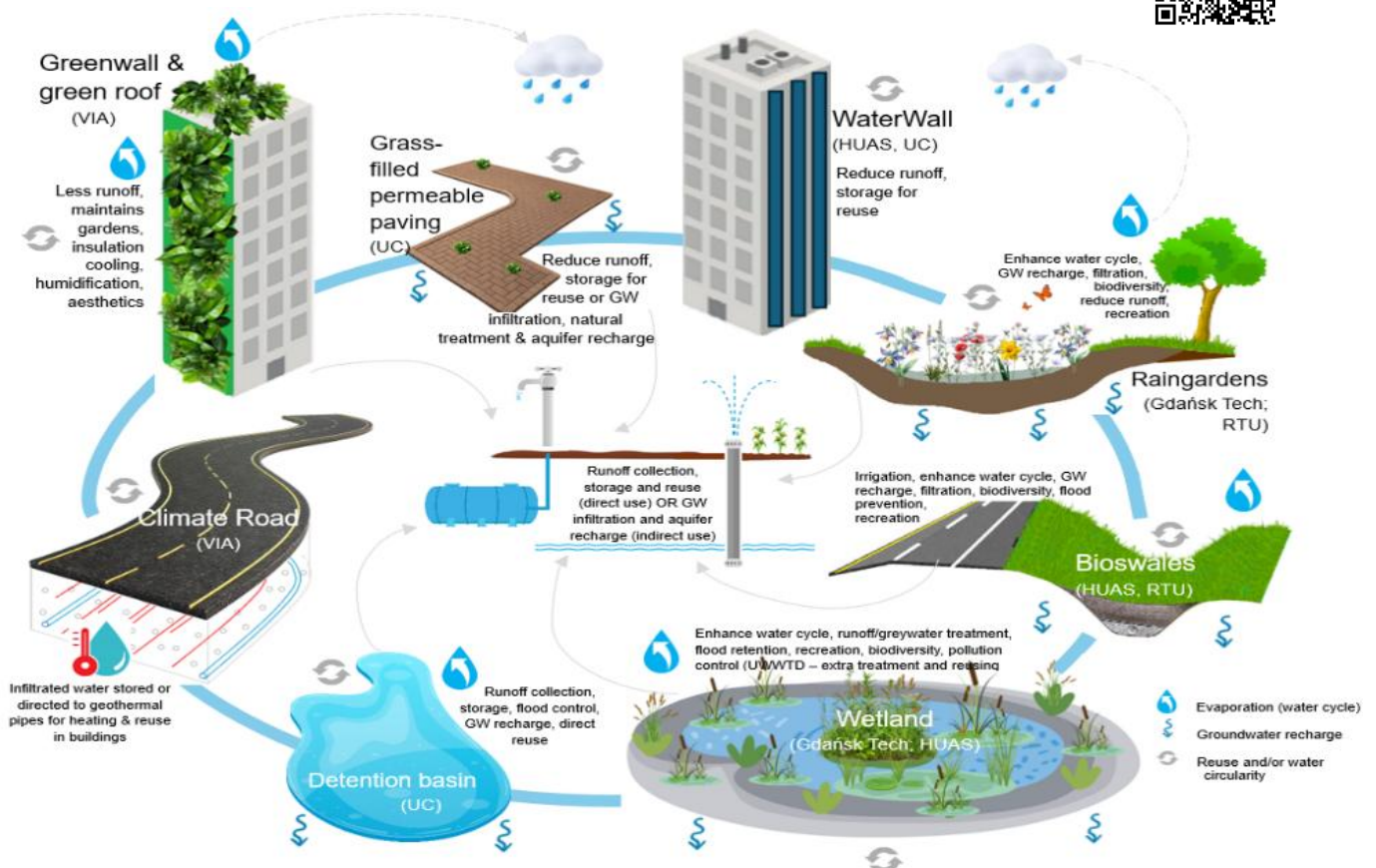
A short description of each project follows...



CURE-NbS

Circular Water Solutions for Urban Resilience with Nature-based Solutions

CURE-NbS is an international research project focused on improving urban water management through innovative Nature-based Solutions (NbS). The project addresses growing challenges caused by climate change, urbanisation, flooding, water pollution, and increasing pressure on freshwater resources. By promoting solutions such as rain gardens, green roofs, constructed wetlands, and other blue-green infrastructure, CURE-NbS aims to enhance water circularity, increase urban resilience, improve biodiversity, and create more sustainable cities. Funded through the Water4All Partnership, the three-year initiative brings together leading universities from the Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, Latvia, and Portugal. The project develops and studies Urban Living Labs, where nature-based solutions are tested and monitored under real-world conditions. By combining scientific research, practical implementation, and stakeholder engagement, CURE-NbS seeks to generate evidence-based strategies that support the wider adoption of sustainable water solutions and accelerate the transition toward climate-resilient, water-sensitive European cities.



Thirsty Cities

Action-perspectives for a climate-proof, drought-resilient, and water-sensitive built environment

Thirsty Cities is a large-scale Dutch research project focused on understanding and addressing the growing challenge of urban drought. As climate change increases the frequency and severity of dry periods, cities face risks such as water shortages, damage to green spaces, impacts on infrastructure, declining biodiversity, and reduced quality of life. The project brings together universities, municipalities, water authorities, research institutes, and industry partners to develop practical solutions for creating drought-resilient and water-sensitive urban environments. Running from 2025 to 2030, Thirsty Cities aims to improve knowledge of urban water balances, identify vulnerabilities in water-dependent systems, clarify stakeholder roles and responsibilities, and provide evidence-based tools for decision-making. Researchers are conducting real-world case studies across multiple Dutch cities to test innovative approaches and interventions. The project will deliver models, design principles, guidelines, and action perspectives that help governments, businesses, and communities adapt to drought and build climate-proof cities for the future.



GINA

Green infrastructure in urban areas – Innovative educational course

GINA addresses the global challenge of urban water management under climate change. As floods and droughts intensify, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) such as rain gardens and green infrastructure offer effective tools for stormwater management, groundwater restoration, and climate adaptation. Yet practical implementation barriers limit their full potential. The project responds by creating a blended-learning course that equips higher-education (HE) students, local authorities, and educators with the skills to design, implement, and manage NbS. Its objectives remain multifaceted: providing comprehensive NbS education to local governments through e-learning and social media outreach; preparing HE students for NbS-related careers via international schools, practical training, and blended-learning methods; and empowering HE teachers with innovative techniques that support cross-border collaboration and research. This ensures cutting-edge knowledge reaches future professionals and strengthens local government capacity to integrate NbS into planning and investment strategies. The project's innovative approach combines advanced engineering methods with ecosystem-service principles and circular-economy strategies. Its emphasis on practical NbS design, monitoring, and social engagement fills a gap in current educational offerings, aligns with labor-market needs, and supports climate-neutral urban development. By enhancing collaboration among European cities, GINA contributes to more sustainable and resilient urban futures.



ProFundGI

Proactive Foundation Protection with Green Infrastructure

ProFundGI explores how green infrastructure (GI) can help protect and extend the lifespan of deep and shallow foundations in Dutch cities. Climate change, declining groundwater levels, shrinking clay soils, and land subsidence are increasing foundation risks, while GI is already being used to address heat stress, biodiversity loss, and stormwater management. The project investigates whether GI can also reduce subsidence and foundation damage, contributing to a more climate-resilient and nature-inclusive built environment. By combining satellite data, field measurements, geotechnical information, and foundation data from urban pilot areas, ProFundGI develops evidence-based insights into the relationship between GI and foundation stability. Key project activities include data collection, analysis and integration, development of a GIS-based decision-support tool, and validation with municipalities and stakeholders. The project will deliver an interactive web platform, practical guidelines, and monitoring methods to support targeted GI implementation and improve long-term foundation resilience.



KlimAzo!

Climate-adaptive living environments to counter the spread of zoonotic pathogens

The KlimAzo! project investigates the potential risks associated with climate adaptation measures regarding nuisance caused by vectors of human diseases. This involves monitoring within and near the sites where such measures are implemented. Tools are being developed to enable managers of nature-based solutions to quickly determine the presence or absence of disease vectors and take appropriate action. ClimateScan is being used to gain insight into existing climate measures, and a digital tool will be created for managers to assess the likelihood of nuisance arising from the installation of a new measure. This allows managers to specify how a measure should be implemented without increasing the risk of disease.



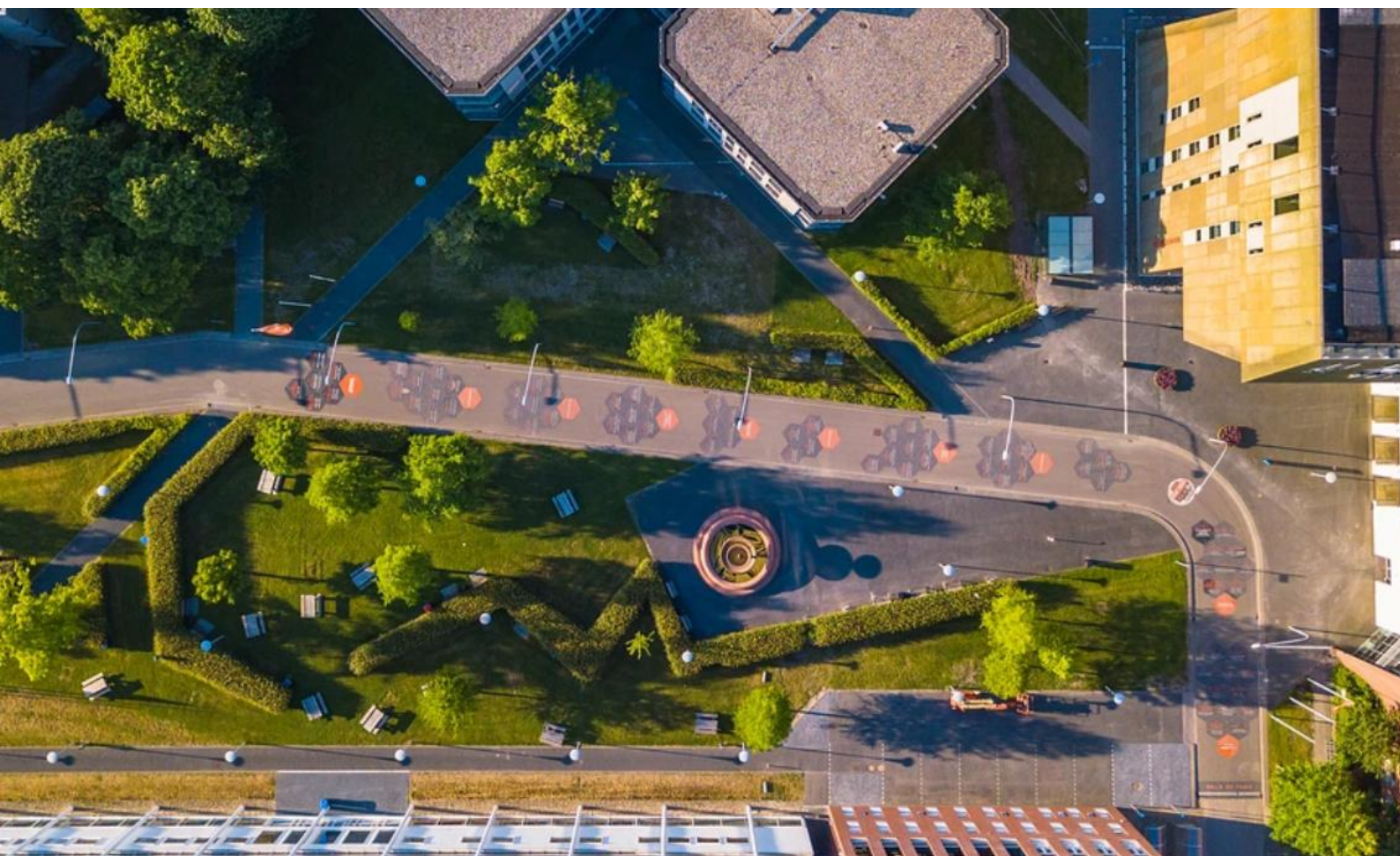
COMBINED**Connecting biodiversity, climate and society for resilient Dutch landscapes**

COMBINED is a six-year project within the Climate and Nature program of the Dutch Research Agenda (NWA). Climate change and biodiversity loss are deeply interconnected challenges that cannot be addressed in isolation. The COMBINED project brings together researchers and societal partners to understand these interactions and develop integrated solutions for Dutch landscapes. Focusing on three major landscape types (grasslands, forests and urban nature), COMBINED studies climate, nature and human interactions. The project aims to impact biodiversity recovery, improved climate resilience and provide a healthy living environment. A key strength of COMBINED is its transdisciplinary and cross-scale approach, bringing together knowledge from natural and social sciences with the practical expertise of municipalities, provinces, nature organizations, land managers and other stakeholders. Through field research, modelling, stakeholder engagement and co-creation, the project aims to develop knowledge and approaches that can be applied across different landscapes and contexts. COMBINED ultimately seeks to move beyond isolated solutions towards adaptive and integrated landscape management. By combining scientific evidence with societal values and practical experience, the project will contribute to landscapes that are richer in biodiversity, more resilient to climate change and healthier places for both people and nature.



Erasmus+ Learning mobility of individuals and organisations

Learning mobility opportunities aim to encourage the mobility of students, staff, trainees, apprentices, youth workers and young people. The role of the organisations in this process is to organise these opportunities for individuals. The benefits for the organisations include an increased capacity to operate at an international level, improved management skills, access to more funding opportunities and projects, increased ability to prepare, manage, and follow-up projects, a more attractive portfolio of opportunities for students and staff at participating organisations and the opportunity to develop innovative projects with partners from around the world. For this ClimateCafé our partners from Indonesia and the Philippines are invited and play a vital role in international knowledge exchange. Tools such as climatescan and ClimateCafé result in the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices at organisational, local, regional, national or European levels.



Data collection

The ClimateCafé follows a participatory, co-creation and knowledge sharing approach. This means that during sessions, the discussions and activities may be observed and documented through handwritten or typed notes as part of the research data. These notes will be anonymized and stored according to the relevant data management protocols of the participating institutions. The collected data may be used for academic articles, reports, presentations, and other published or unpublished outputs. Unless explicit permission is given, personal names or other identifying information will not be included in any publications. Photos or videos may be taken during the event; if you do not wish to be photographed or recorded, please inform the organisers in advance. Please read the participation information that follows.



Participation Information

Thank you for your interest in participating in this ClimateCafé. This ethics form ensures that you understand your rights as a participant, and how your contributions may be used in research and publication. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. If any information is unclear, you are welcome to contact us for more information.

1. Voluntary Participation

You have been invited to participate in a ClimateCafé. Your participation is entirely voluntary. You are allowed to withdraw your consent at any given moment if you no longer wish to participate. You can choose not to answer questions or participate in activities without consequences or providing reasons.

2. Use of Data and Results

By participating, you consent to the collection of data (e.g. interview notes, observations) during the ClimateCafé activities. This includes photographic and/or video material. The data and results generated during the ClimateCafé may be used for academic research, reports, or publications. Insights from the project may also be used in public reports or shared at conferences to foster broader awareness and understanding of climate adaptation issues.

3. Confidentiality and Anonymity

The information you provide will be treated confidentially. Any identifying information will be anonymised (data collected is also anonymous) in all research outputs unless you explicitly consent otherwise. Please note that images and audiovisual content in which you appear could be used for e.g. social media, with respect to your privacy and dignity. Collected raw data (recordings, workshop output), along with any other recordings, will be stored on secure servers at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences. Access to personal data is limited to researchers engaged in relevant research activities. These data may be used for articles, book chapters, published and unpublished work and presentations. Personal names or any other information which would serve to identify you as a participant will not be included in this research or in any future publication or reports resulting from this project.

Questions? Please contact c.theron@pl.hanze.nl

How to get to Zernike

The map below will help you find your way to Zernike, the Research Centre for Built Environment - NoorderRuimte, and BuildinG. We will be spending time outside, so please remember to bring your raincoat! Umbrellas will be available.

share your talent.
move the world.



Day 1: Kenniscentrum Noorderuimte

Address: Zernikeplein 7, 9747 AC Groningen (Van OlstBorg, Hanze)

Bus Stop: Halte Zernikeplein (ca. 2–3 min. lopen)

Parking: Parkeerterrein P3



Day 2: BuildingG

Address: Zernikelaan 17, 9747 AA Groningen

Bus Stop: Zernike Noord (approx. 8–10 min. walk)

Parking: BuildingG Klimaatproeftuin



Agenda

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Venue: Research Centre for Built Environment - NoorderRuimte, Van Olstborg Building, Zernike Campus

09.00 – 09.30 Coffee

09.30 – 09.45 Welcome: Opening and introduction

09.45 – 10.15 Interactive activity

10.15 – 11.00 CURE-NbS project updates

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee break

11:20 – 12.00 Upscaling NbS to Asia

12:00 – 13.15 Lunch at Reitdiep constructed wetlands (walking distance)

13.15 – 16.45 Conceptual solution planning using the CRC-tool

13.15 – 13.45 Characterisation of the area and future outlook

13.45 – 14.15 Introduction of the CRC-tool and NbS in the tool

14.15 – 14.35 Coffee break

14.35 – 16.00 CRC-tool modelling in groups

16.00 – 16.45 Discussion

16.45 – 17.00 Closing

17.00 – 18.00 Drinks



Agenda

Thursday 29 October 2026

Venue: BuildinG, Zernike Campus, Zernikelaan 17

09.00 – 09.30 Welcome and coffee

09.30 – 10.00 Introduction to the ClimateCafé

10.00 – 10.30 Our projects

10.30 – 11.15 Gemeente Groningen

11.15 – 11.45 Coffee break

11.45 – 13.15 Participatory workshop activity

13.15 – 14.15 Lunch

14.15 – 14.30 Introduce Climate Testing Garden (klimaatproeftuin)

14:30 – 16.30 Testing Garden Tour (30 minutes per station)

- New Bioswale full scale test
- Mesocosm Biofiltration test
- Climate Testing Garden – various measures
- ClimateScan and Virtual Reality

16.30 – 17.00 Closing

17.00 - 18.00 Dinner and drinks

Discover Climate Adaptation in Action

The Climate Testbed on Zernike Campus features 30+ live innovations, including circular test homes, a food forest, and the KAS Climate Studio. Together with municipality, students, and industry partners, we test real-world solutions for heavy rain, urban heat, and flood prevention.

All projects are mapped on ClimateScan.



Water Wall

A facade-mounted buffer storing stormwater for reuse to combat flooding, drought, and heat stress.



Experimental WADI System

A three-swale test site evaluating how vegetation and sand/carbon filters purify roof runoff contaminated with heavy metals like copper, zinc, and lead



Bio-Filtration Experiment

A modular setup with willow trees and layered soils measuring how vegetation and water storage influence evaporation and retention.

Agenda

Friday 30 October 2026

Venue: House of Connections, Grote Markt 21 (see the map below)

09.00 – 09.30 Welcome - Coffee

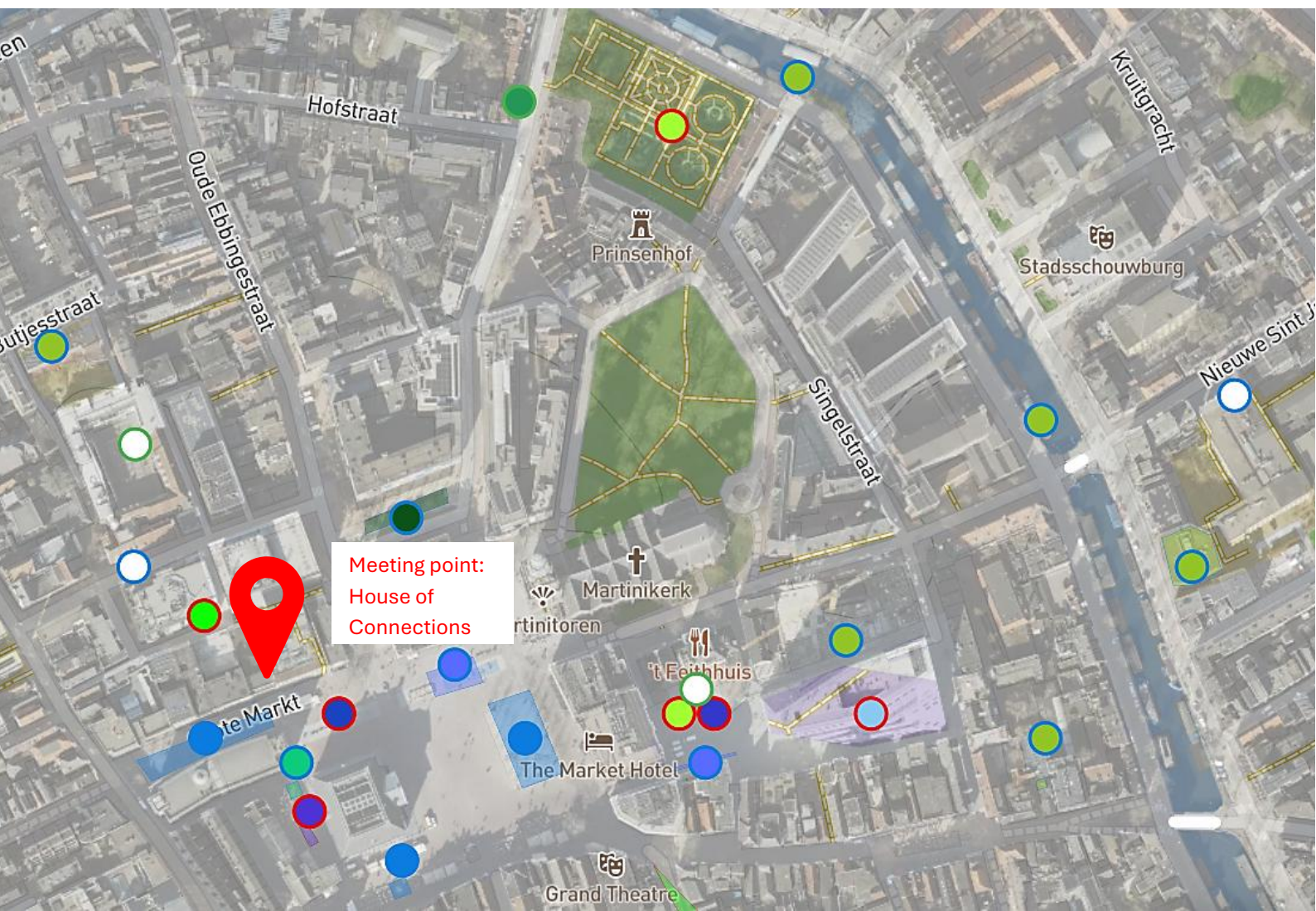
09.30 – 09.45 Introduction to tour

09.45 – 12.00 Walking tour Groningen visiting Nbs

12.00 – 12.30 Light lunch

12.30 – 15.00 Continuing the tour on bicycles (optional)

15.00 - End



The Fieldlab at BuildingG is a large testing ground on the Zernike Campus in Groningen where more than 50 climate adaptation innovations are developed and evaluated with public and private partners. The fieldlab provides a real-world environment for experimenting with solutions that support climate-proof cities, including measures for heat reduction, rainwater harvesting, storage, purification and reuse, and sustainable building practices. It serves as a hub for applied research, education, and collaboration, bringing together researchers, companies, and students to accelerate practical climate adaptation in the built environment. More information:

1. Boogaard F.C, Zijlstra P. Jorritsma L, Proeftuin voor klimaatadaptatie, Land en Water.
2. Boogaard F.C., Piet Zijlstra, Kim van Dam, Opschalen van innovaties voor klimaatadaptatie en – mitigatie in proeftuin in Noord Nederland, Van proeftuin naar straatbeeld, Straatbeeld.
3. Innovation origins ‘Nepbomen, reflecterend asfalt: We kunnen klimaatbestendige steden bouwen met deze creatieve oplossingen’.
4. Innovation origins, Floods in Europe: innovations against climate change.
5. Innovation origins, ‘Fake trees, reflective asphalt: Building climate-proof cities with these creative solutions’.
6. Innovation origins, A look into the future of climate-proof construction during Let’s Gro Festival, Sustainability - The testing ground is a living lab where answers are sought to regional climate issues.
7. Groningen Building heatstress 2023
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQ-pKwHW3jU>
8. Groningen building Water 2024
<https://youtube/w4SCHoMlqak?si=0zbMhRLrKI9gXs7O>



From Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS)

Travelling from Schiphol Airport (AMS) to Groningen is straightforward, comfortable, and the most reliable option for reaching the city. You can use the [9292 app](#) to navigate your way using public transportation in the Netherlands.

Departure: Schiphol Airport Station

The train station is located directly under the airport terminal. You can buy tickets at NS ticket machines (yellow blue kiosks), at the service counter, or simply tap in/out with a contactless debit or credit card (OVpay).

Travel options and duration

- Direct Intercity trains to Groningen run twice per hour.
- Travel time: approximately 2.5 hours, depending on whether the service is direct or requires one quick change at Zwolle.
- Trains depart from: Platform 1-2 (most often) or 3-4 (check screens for confirmation).
- Arrival station: Groningen Central Station, located in the city centre.

Travel in Groningen

You can rent a bike in Groningen. Biking is the most efficient way to move around in the city. See bicycle rentals: Fietsverhuur Groningen, Dumo Tweewielers, Bolt.

Accommodation suggestions

- City Hotel Groningen (★★★) Gedempte Kattendiep 25, 9711 PM Groningen, www.cityhotelgroningen.com
- The Market Hotel (★★★★) Grote Markt 31, 9712 HS Groningen, www.themarkethotel.nl



BuildinG, Zernikelaan 17 te Groningen

www.BuildinG.nl

Front



Parking



Thank you for attending!



If you have any questions or comments, please contact us:

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