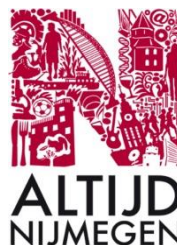


# European Green Capitals A network of Sustainable Cities

**Ton Verhoeven**  
**Advisor Climate Adaptation**  
**Municipality of Nijmegen**



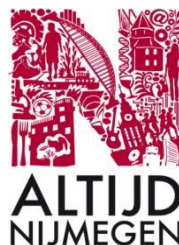
## Short Introduction of Nijmegen

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## Presentation to the jury

## Benefits of applying



# Presentation Applicant Workshop 01-07-2016 Brussel











**Nijmegen**

**10th largest city Holland**

**171.000 inhabitants**

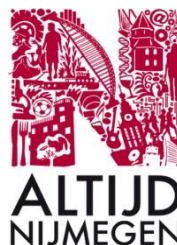
**Ca 72.000 households**

**57 hectare surface**

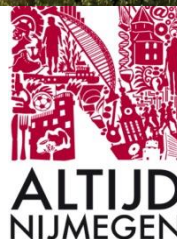
**No rural area**

**2000 years old (Roman)**

**Radboud University/  
University Medical Center**



## Nijmegen wants to be a sustainable city in 2050





## High waters Nijmegen 1993&1995

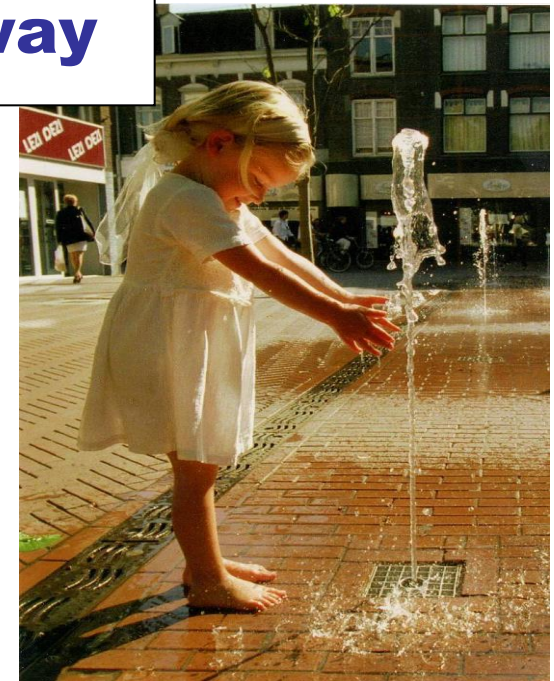


## Room for the Waal: Dike relocation Veur-Lent



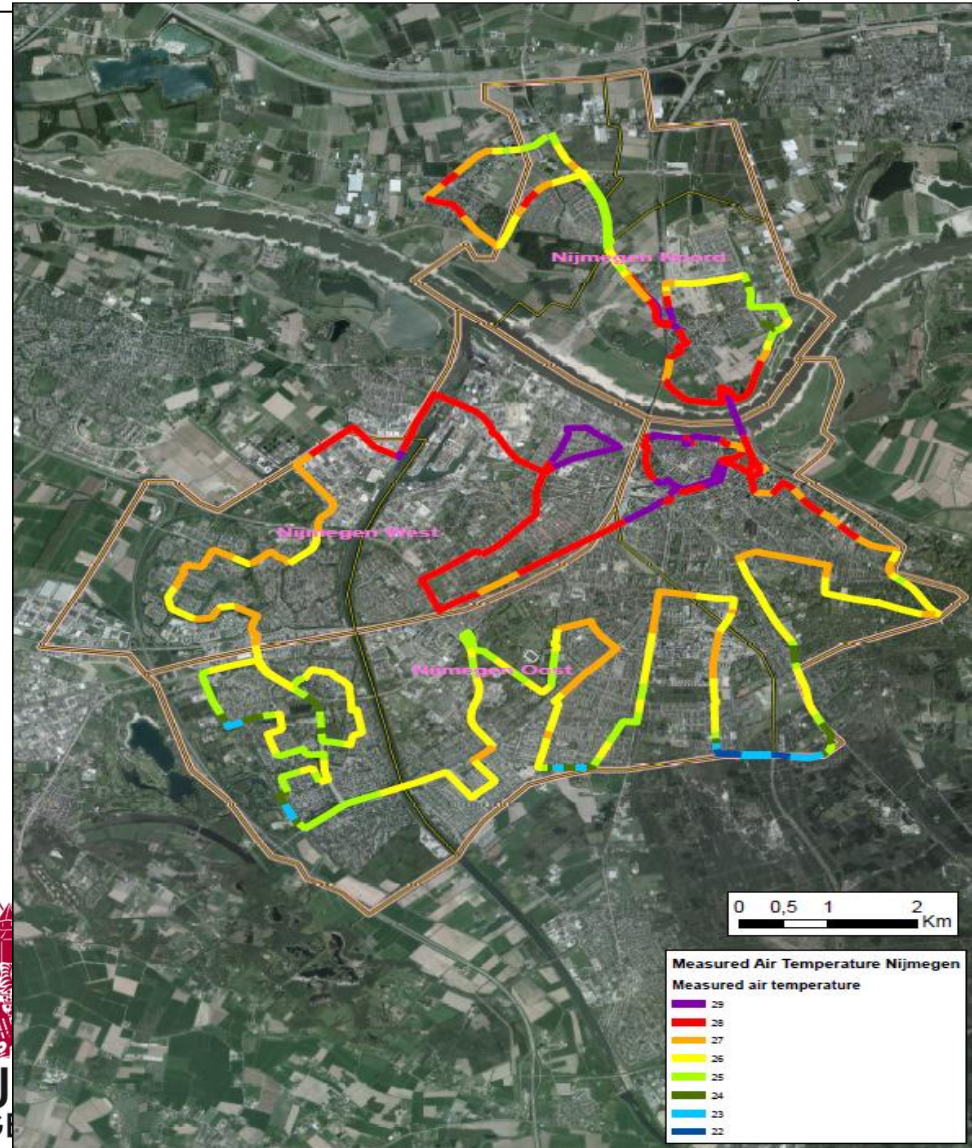
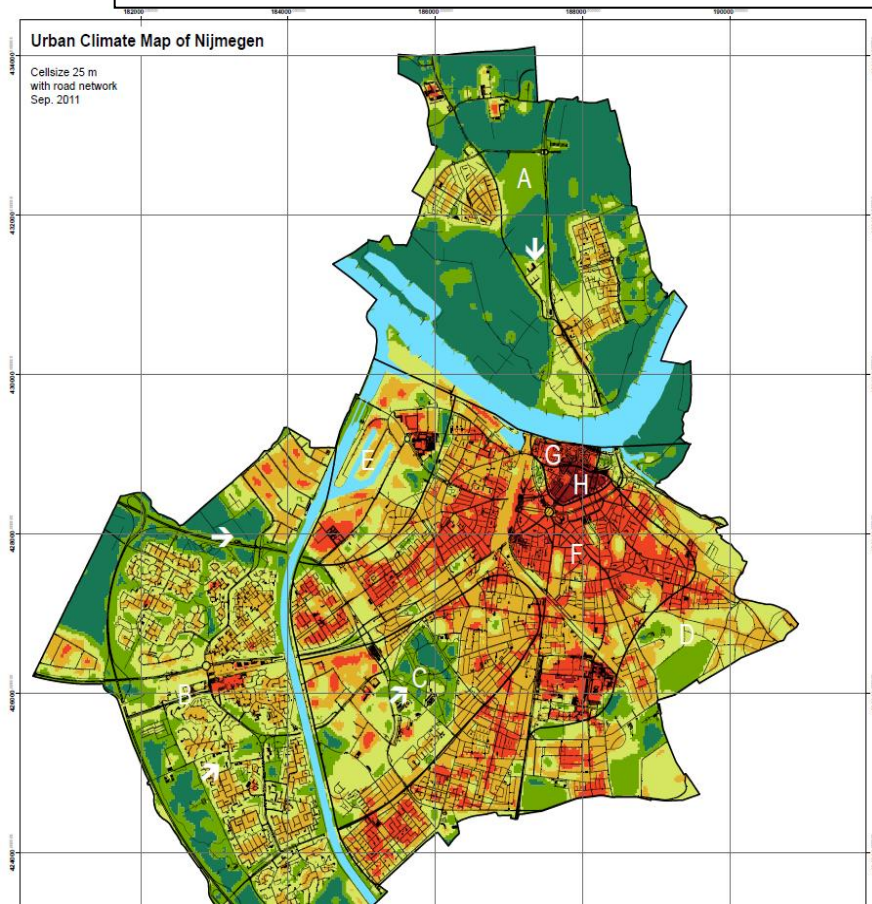


# Infiltrate storm water in a visible way





## Find solutions for urban heat island effects





## New bridge and coal fire plant is closed down



## Nijmegen wants to be energy neutral in 2045



GDF SUEZ  
BY PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE



## Nijmegen Dutch most sustainable city in 2014



## Nijmegen Bike city 2016 and Velocity 2017





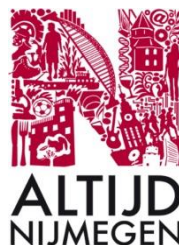
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# Nijmegen applied for Green Capital 2016 - 2018



## Winning cities



Stockholm (2010)



Hamburg (2011)



Vitoria - Gasteiz (2012)



Nantes (2013)



Copenhagen (2014)



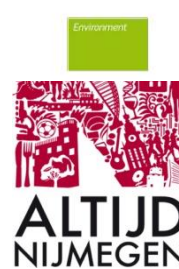
Bristol (2015)



Ljubljana (2016)



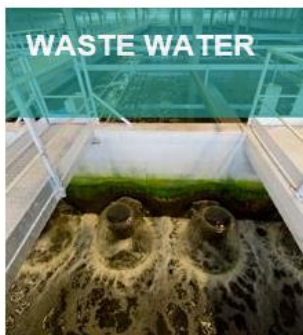
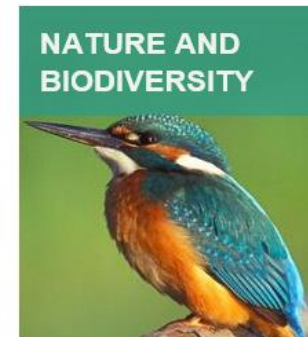
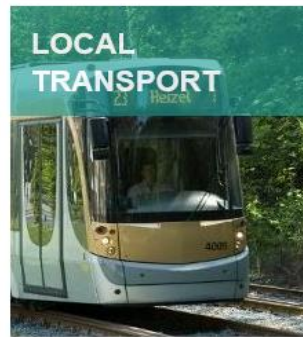
Essen (2017)



**Are YOU next?**



## Nijmegen applied for Green Capital 2018



# 1 Climate mitigation and adaptation





## 2 Sustainable local transport





## 3 Create green areas in the city centre





## 4 Preserve Nature and biodiversity



## 5 Realise good air quality





## 6 Good quality of the acoustic environment



## 7 Sustainable waste management





## 8 Create a healthy and resilient water system



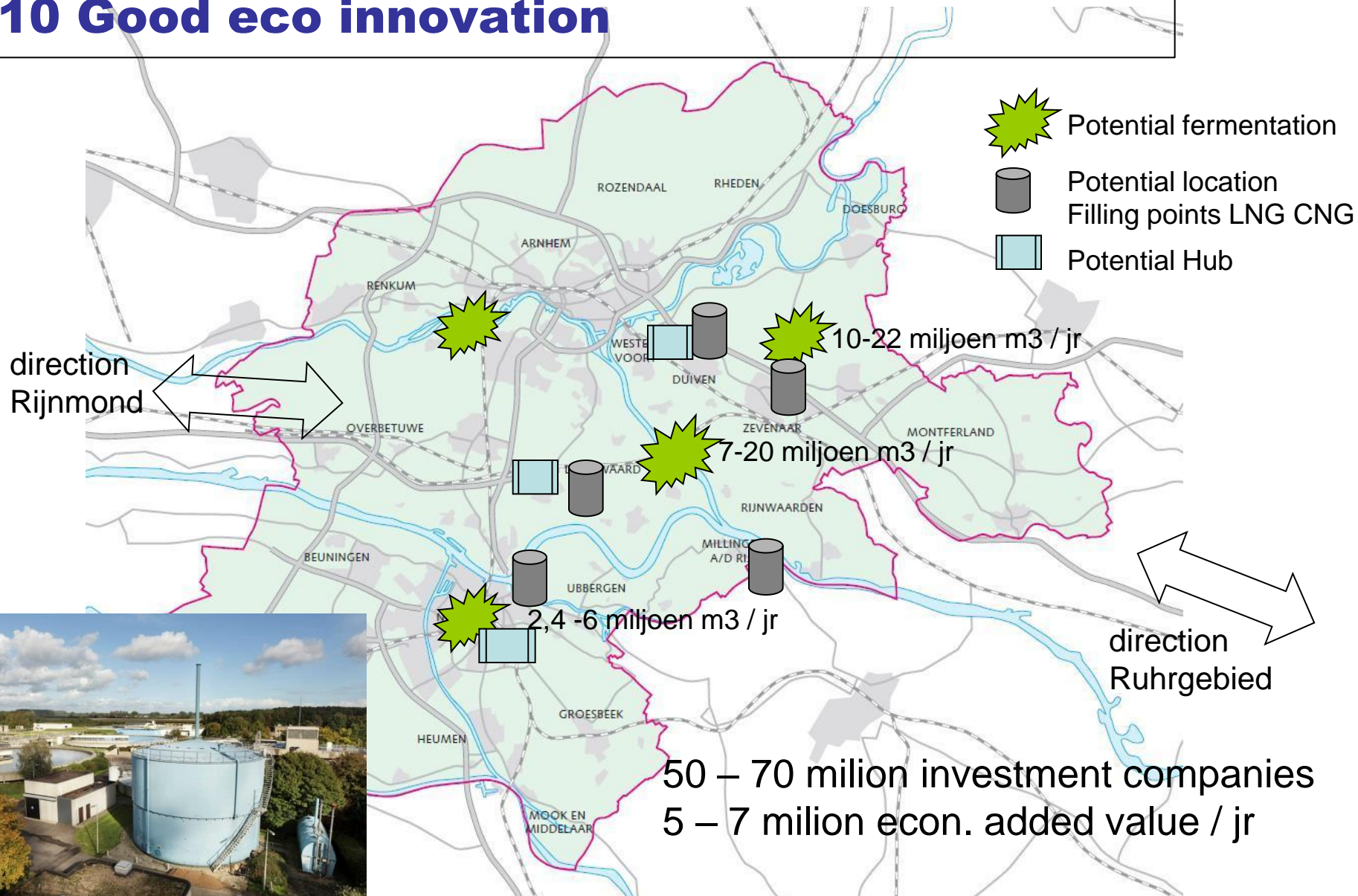


## 9 Good waste water management

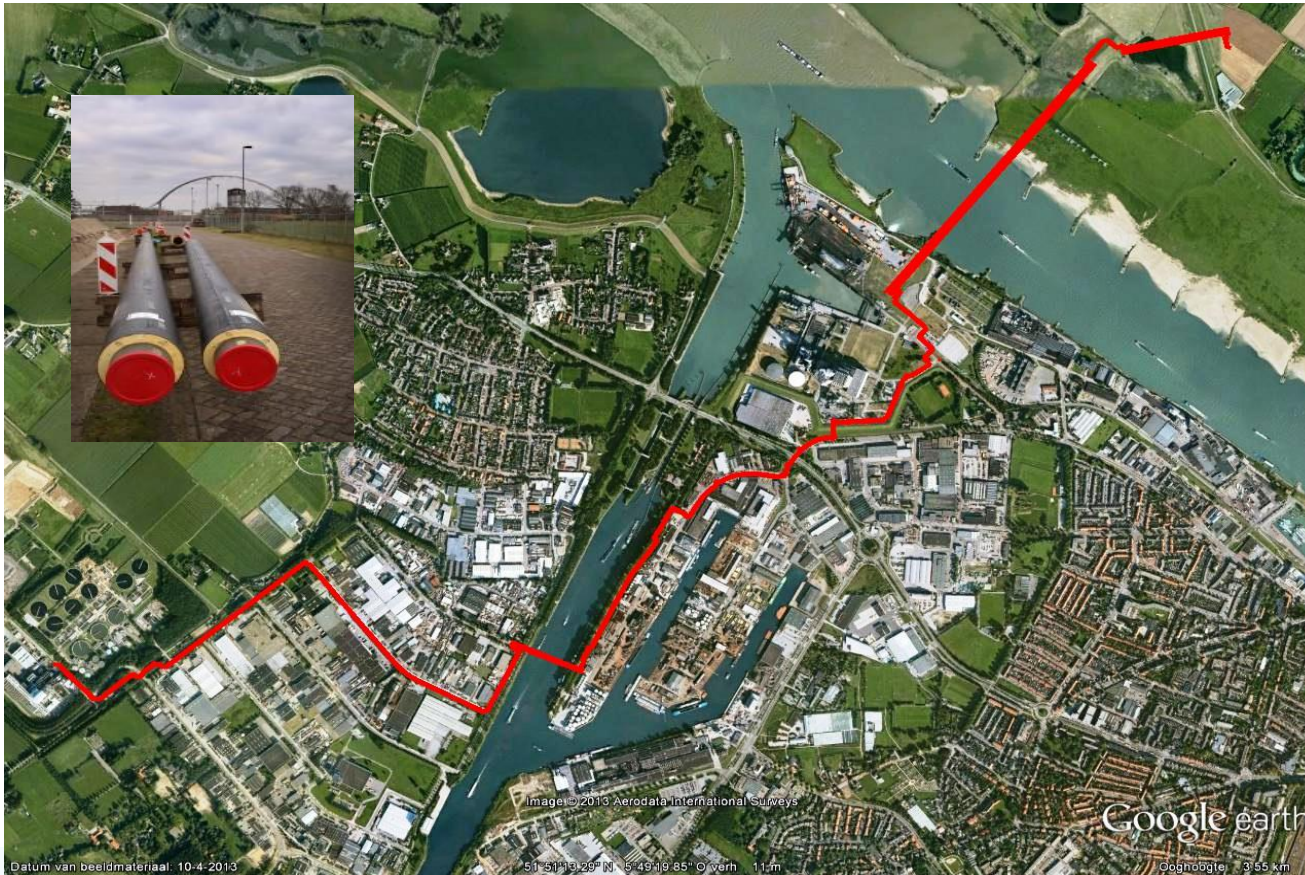




## 10 Good eco innovation

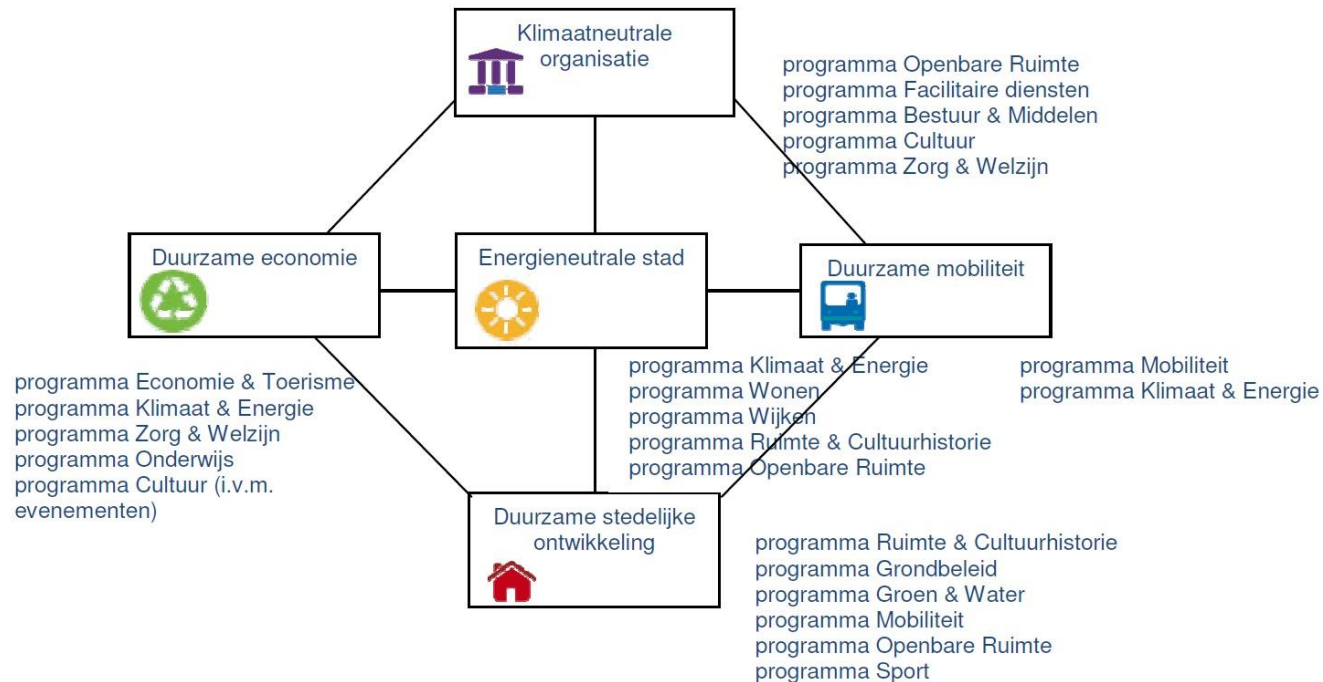


# 11 Good energy performance





## 12 Integrated environmental management



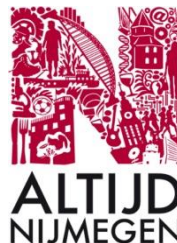
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## Nijmegen applied for Green Capital 2016- 2018

Time path Nijmegen for GC 2016:

- 30 August 2013 Application workshop ECGA
- August/September: preparation application (reading documents of the ECGA and setting up the organization structure)
- September: commitment administration (with the arguments of European benchmark, good city marketing and improving internal cooperation)
- October: writing of the twelve indicator texts and the introduction text with a team of 5-10 people (managers/experts)
- Just before the deadline we uploaded it all to the secretariat GC



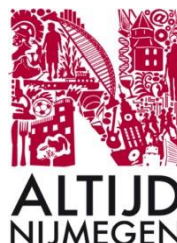
## Nijmegen applied for Green Capital 2016- 2018

### Conclusions:

- Two months is not enough for writing all texts if you have not answers on all questions
- We did not show many links between different indicators (experts only read one indicator text!)
- We lacked many figures/tables so we had to write text
- Not all experts judged the efforts of a medium sized city
- We were writing the text from our view as a Dutch city
- We were ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the Benchmark

Applicants	Mitigation & Adaptation	Local Transport	Green & Land Use	Nature	Air Quality	Acoustic Quality	Waste management	Water Management	Waste water	Economy	Energy	Integrated Environmental Management
Oslo	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	4	6	1	3	2
Essen	2	6	4	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	4	4
Ljubljana	5	2	2	4	4	4	5	3	4	5	6	1
Nijmegen	4	4	3	5	8	6	4	5	1	4	2	3
Umeå	3	3	7	6	6	3	2	6	5	3	1	6

26 1e  
34 2e  
45 3e  
49 4e  
51 5e





## Nijmegen applied for Green Capital 2016- 2018

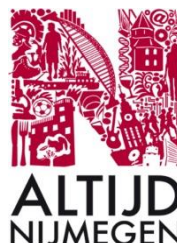
Time path Nijmegen for GC 2017:

- June/July: preparation renewed application (reading documents of the ECGA and improving the organization structure)
- August/October: writing of the twelve indicator texts and the introduction text with a team of 5-10 people (managers/experts)
- Just before the deadline we uploaded it all to the secretariat GC

Conclusions: we improved ourselves on many indicators

- We were ranked second close to Essen
- We still wrote the text from our view as a Dutch city

Applicants	Mitigation & Adaptation	Local Transport	Green & Land Use	Nature	Air Quality	Acoustic Quality	Waste management	Water Management	Waste water	Economy	Energy	Integrated Environmental Management		
Essen	1	7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	28	1e
Nijmegen	5	2	1	3	3	3	1	3	1	4	3	1	30	2e
Umeå	2	3	4	5	1	1	3	7	5	1	1	4	37	3e
Den Bosch	3	5	3	1	4	4	5	1	3	3	4	3	39	4e
Lisbon	8	1	5	4	5	6	6	4	4	7	5	5	60	5e



## Nijmegen applied for Green Capital 2016- 2018

### Time path Nijmegen for GC 2018:

- June/September: improving the old texts because of two “magic words”: integrality and transition
- June/September: improving the pictures, tables, graphics
- October: finalising the twelve indicator texts and the introduction text and the best practises texts
- Just before the deadline we uploaded it all to the secretariat GC

### Conclusions: we improved again ourselves

- We now wrote the text from our view as an European city

Applicants	Mitigation & Adaptation	Local Transport	Green & Land Use	Nature	Air Quality	Acoustic Quality	Waste management	Water Management	Waste water	Economy	Energy	Integrated Environmental Management		
Nijmegen	4	1	1	2	4	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	23	1e
Umeå	2	2	4	4	3	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	27	2e
Den Bosch	1	3	2	1	1	3	4	1	3	3	3	3	28	3e
Gent	3	4	5	5	2	6	3	4	5	4	4	4	49	4e
Talinn	5	5	3	3	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	55	5e





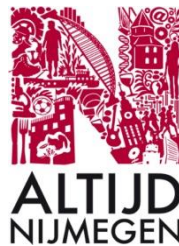
## Nijmegen applied for Green Capital 2016- 2018

### Essential aspects:

- Your administration must see the benefits of applying for this European Award, but also be aware of the costs
- You must have a team of people who are expert in all the environmental themes and people who can write the texts in a clear and short way (max words).
- They should be motivated, they must have enough time (500 h) and they have to think integral, not sectoral.
- You must have lots of figures, pictures and tables ready on all environmental themes
- You must have policy plans (favourable on all fields)



# Questions?





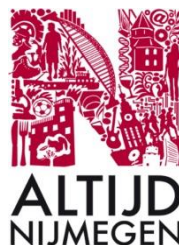
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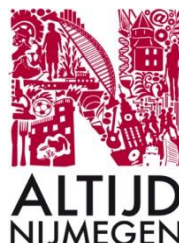
## Nijmegen applied for Green Capital 2016- 2018

### Jury report 2017:

- The jury were impressed by the engaging nature of the Nijmegen presentation
- Nijmegen with a tag line 'Nijmegen forever' ensures that every policy field clearly shows their contribution to sustainability
- The jury were impressed by the Nijmegen 'urban lab' which facilitates and supports synergies amongst stakeholders within the municipality.

**Nice words but we did not win!!!**

**Maybe we did to much on form  
and to little on content??**

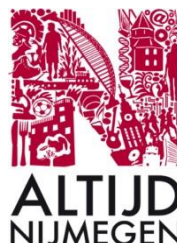




## Nijmegen applied for Green Capital 2016- 2018

### Presentations:

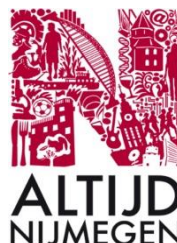
- 2016: video, presentations of the mayor, vice-mayor, experts interlinked by two pupils of a secondary school: **Nijmegen is sustainable!**
- 2017: talkshow host interviewed mayor and vice-mayor, several funny small videos and three experts from stakeholders: **Nijmegen is a city with a high participation level and we can be a nice role model.**
- 2018: back to a normal P-presentation with two videos and also again with two pupils of a secondary school: **But the message was different! Nijmegen is an European city, we are good but we still have to take many steps to become sustainable and we need other cities to help. We used the metaphore of a puzzle and winning the Green capital was the last piece of the puzzel. Fot those yet to come!**



## Nijmegen applied for Green Capital 2016- 2018

### Jury and Award ceremony:

- 2016: we were very nervous although we were very prepared. Because of our successful presentation we even thought that we could win. But Ljubljana did win and we knew that politics are also part of the game.
- 2017: we were less nervous, because we had again a surprisingly, funny presentation. But Essen won and we later heard that it was a very tough decision. Again a big city did win was our comment to the jury!
- 2018: we were again very nervous, because we were now favorite. And finally we won and still we are celebrating and surprised by all attention from Europe (and the low attention in Holland!!).





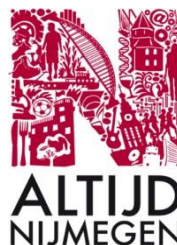
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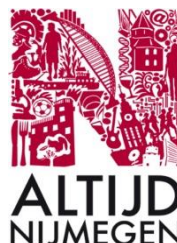
**Benefits of applying**



## Benefits of applying for Green Capital

### Essential benefits:

- Your administration undergoes a process of working together that improves the integrality of your city management
- The benchmark shows your strong and weak points
- Indicator 12 asks for an integrated sustainability policy
- Indicators are linked to each other, so you have to combine your sectoral working processes and policies
- You have to make lots of figures, pictures and tables that will be usefull for communication to your stakeholders
- Without strong communication to your citizens you will never get enough awareness and support for becoming a sustainable city. So applying for GC starts or improves that process.
- Applying is costly (if you are ambitious) but on the long run you earn the costs double or triple back.



Thank you for your attention!

