



## FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST

Municipality Vaals

Country Netherlands

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Name project

Climate Think Tank

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualita' urbana);
- Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalita, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- Social cohesion (coesione sociale).

Summary project

On April 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 the City Council signed off on the Notice Climate Adaption 2019-2021. One of the decisions was to establish a Climate Think Tank: A group of residents who actively want to participate in solving sustainability, energy and climate issues. The Climate Think Tank consists of a fixed group of ca. 6 residents complemented by alternating people, among which civil servants.

Goal project



The goal of this project was to entice people to actively participate in positive changes to climate, energy and sustainability whereby the people themselves take the lead instead of the government.

The Climate Think Tank members are the ambassadors and they create projects through which climate, energy and sustainability goals are being met as well as other inhabitants are being drawn in to participating as well.

### Result project

At the moment there are three running projects:

#### Information about the broad meaning of sustainability

One goal is to increase awareness about and involvement in sustainability through adequate information channels, either in person or digital, but also to stress to our residents the urgency, extent, time span, and consequences.

On the other hand we want to offer concise and transparent (technical) information about what our residents can do themselves. It is not our intention to reinvent the wheel but more to consolidate all available information.

#### A council wide Climate Cooperation

We can only successfully implement the climate transition if our residents can actively participate. Only then there will be an intrinsic necessity to make powerful changes.

The goal is to create an overall cooperation/structure from which knowledge, support and access to networks are being offered to initiatives which transcend the individual approach.

Another goal is to connect residents with (the same) wishes for sustainability in order to create a sum of individual activities.

#### An impulse to convert to a more natural agriculture

Almost 60% of our territory is being used for agriculture. It is apparent that the agricultural sector is at the beginning of far-reaching changes. The goal is to enlarge awareness with farmers and other stakeholders by focusing on model projects such as the farming forest and innovative business models. The Cittaslow values will play a big part in this.

### Finance (costs and benefits)

One-off survey costs € 23.000

De costs for the demonstration plot farming forest is € 15.000

### Staff (staff involved and use of time)

3 staff members/civil servants of the City of Vaals



Additional information (if necessarily)

All projects are aimed at visible activities and tangible results, and more importantly, all projects are initiated, created and implemented by residents with the City of Vaals solely playing a facilitating role.

Once filled in this form please send it to: [info@cittaslow.net](mailto:info@cittaslow.net)