



# NWEA Manifesto: Wind energy in the Netherlands

Wind energy is indispensable for the transition towards a sustainable energy supply. Wind energy strengthens the Dutch economy, reduces our dependence on energy from abroad and ensures that the Netherlands meets its side of the deal in the Paris climate agreement. According to national opinion polls, three quarters of the Dutch population is in favour of an increase of Dutch wind energy.

## WIND stands for:

- **Work:** The Dutch National Energy Agreement will result in tens of thousands of additional jobs for the Netherlands. As a fast growing branch the wind sector will account for a large portion of these new jobs.
- **Innovation:** Wind energy is innovative and efficient. Wind is already the cheapest source of renewable electricity, and rapid innovation in the sector will only make it cheaper.
- **Netherlands:** Windmills fit the Dutch tradition. The Dutch wind sector is also a sector with great international potential, supporting the image of the Netherlands in markets abroad.
- **Durable/Sustainable:** Wind is a renewable energy source without emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and harmful substances. Accounting for 7% of total Dutch electricity production, wind energy now supplies half of the sustainable power in the Netherlands.

More and more local residents and businesses want to generate their own electricity. Onshore wind energy makes local ownership possible, affordable and tangible. People can design and touch their own wind turbine. Onshore wind energy is integrated well into the electricity grid. Offshore wind energy is on the rise and offers the opportunity to generate large amounts of renewable energy. A fully sustainable energy supply for the Netherlands can be achieved through energy savings, large-scale offshore wind farms combined with local wind turbines and other renewable energy technologies built into a robust energy network with sufficient buffer capacity.

## NWEA's offer:

- The wind sector contributes positively to the Dutch economy and energy supply. Our ambition is to generate around 500 petajoules per year by 2030 (about 16% of the current energy demand, source CBS 2015) and to double that amount by 2050.
- The wind sector ensures the cost of wind energy is further reduced by 2025 through technical and social innovation. If no cost-cutting restrictions will be imposed, wind energy will be able to go without of government assistance by 2025 (at an electricity price of approximately 5 eurocents per kWh). This is evidenced by a recent report on cost price analysis by Ecofys.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://nwea.nl/images/PDFs/Ecofys-Kostenprijsanalyse-Wind-op-Land-170405.pdf> (in Dutch)



Concerning **onshore wind energy**, NWEA wants to work with the government, provinces and municipalities on:

- **Shared benefits:** NWEA wants to share the benefits of wind energy even better. Wind energy must be developed in compliance with local communities. Therefore, if desired by these communities, NWEA wants to open up new onshore wind projects for 50% for participation by the community, by citizens and businesses.
- **Regional direction:** We believe in the combination of national goals and active governance by municipalities and provinces. We therefore support the approach of the Regional Energy Strategies as this policy allows for initiatives with local support. Our proposal is to hand provinces and municipalities financial responsibility to reach their part of the national goals.

For **offshore wind energy**, NWEA wants to speed up the growth of wind energy to 1 to 2 gigawatts per year between the years 2020 and 2030. The development of this will involve all relevant stakeholders in the North Sea.

**Our ask:**

These ambitions are feasible if the government offers sufficient continuity and investment security. To this end we ask the new Cabinet to draw up long-term objectives for the generation of renewable energy and to link these to concrete interim goals. These goals need to be actively monitored. For offshore wind energy, a follow-up roadmap needs to be decided upon for the period after the National Energy Agreement (which runs until 2030 in 2017). Offshore wind energy needs to be linked to the Regional Energy Strategies, including the result obligations. These Strategies must be developed in a concrete way so that there is investment security for the sector. At the same time, the government must pay attention to the preconditions for achieving this growth: the market system needs to be adapted to a more sustainable market system and the electricity network must be able to process the extra sustainable energy production.