

iCSL2 – Energy Transition Challenge De Pijp

Amsterdam

Climate change requires a radical change in our CO₂ emissions. An important component for reducing our carbon footprint is the transition from traditional heating sources based on fossil fuel to more sustainable alternatives. The City of Amsterdam has formulated the ambition to be climate neutral by 2050 and to be completely gas free by 2040. These are goals that will require radical changes in infrastructure and behaviour, both by policymakers and by individual residents.

Duurzaam in De Pijp

For the neighbourhood De Pijp, **Duurzaam in De Pijp** was created as a network for and by residents to develop and support initiatives and networks for a sustainable neighbourhood. In 2019 Duurzaam in De Pijp has started the 'Warm Neighbourhood' working group to develop a vision for a sustainable heat supply for De Pijp from the perspective of the residents. Together with (students from) the VU Amsterdam, Duurzaam in De Pijp is investigating how residents' initiatives, collectives and cooperatives specifically aimed at realising sustainable heat in De Pijp and the rest of the city can develop further.

The Challenge

We are now recruiting a group of motivated students from different master programmes of the VU Amsterdam that can contribute to this challenge through their master thesis or internship. Students selected to work on this challenge will also join the course iCSL2 ([CLICK HERE](#) for more information), wherein they will be guided in the process of collaboration to contribute to the goals of this project.

Questions to be addressed in this project include - but are not limited to - are the following:

- **Sources and solutions:** Which sustainable heat sources and heat solutions are available, now and in the future? How do they score on sustainability, affordability, reliability, feasibility and availability?
- **Future energy system:** How do different sustainable heat solutions fit within a broader future energy system within De Pijp, including the generation of electricity and energy storage?
- **Social character:** How does the development of a sustainable heat supply fit in with the characteristics and developments in parts of De Pijp? (e.g. Aquathermy in Willibrordusbuurt)
- **Energy reduction:** How can we inform and advise VVE's about better insulation of houses and other steps towards a sustainable energy system? How to best support their decision-making process?
- **Community building:** How do we involve and organise individual residents and VVE's? What needs do they have? (e.g. drivers of participation, effective communication channels, behavioural change)
- **Governance:** How can we organise the supply of sustainable heating with ownership and control by residents? What are the possibilities and restrictions for cooperations within new legislation?
- **Collaboration:** How to foster collaboration between actors with different interests and priorities? (e.g. Vattenfall, housing associations, companies in De Pijp, installation and insulation companies)
- **Government policy:** What opportunities and obstacles does government policy offer in different levels (e.g. district Zuid, municipality of Amsterdam, MRA, province and central government)?

During the iCSL2 course students will also work on a group assignment that focuses on **the promotion of, and collaboration between community initiatives and networks** in and around Amsterdam.

Interested?

Please send your CV and motivation letter to Eduardo Urias (eduardo.munizpereiraurias@vu.nl) and you will be informed about the selection process. Please make sure you include in your motivation letter how this challenge could fit with your master (thesis / internship) and what potential topic (research questions) you would like to address.