

Region Arnhem Nijmegen | Netherlands



The Arnhem Nijmegen region, home to 20 municipalities and 730,000 inhabitants, has set a goal of helping actors to meet the EU nearly zero energy building (NZEB) challenge for public and governmental buildings by 2018 and all new builds by 2020. This is fully in line with the region's aim of becoming energy neutral by 2050. Making the transition to nearly zero energy in new builds, existing houses, and utility buildings is a challenge that must be tackled swiftly. Success depends upon professionals with the right knowledge and experience to build NZEBs based on the Passive House Standard and complemented by renewable energies.

Knowledge of the Passive House and the implementation of renewables is fundamental for the envisaged transition but also there is a need for action. Alongside the cities of Arnhem and Nijmegen and the province of Gelderland, the region is thus actively preparing itself for this challenge, in part through participation in the EU-funded PassREg project for Passive House Regions with Renewable Energies. The region is now taking the first steps in bridging gaps in knowledge for professionals and end users.

The region is supporting sustainable building and NZEBs with its Green Agreement, signed in 2013. The agreement is a public-private collaboration between all municipalities, housing associations, and the building sector. It consists of the application of an instrument for the measurement of the sustainability of buildings, called GPR Building. As such, GPR Building is also a communication tool and a first step towards understandable policy on sustainable buildings and NZEBs.

Along these lines and in collaboration with the province of Gelderland, the region is taking part in a large scale project to support local authorities and empower home owners and end users to invest in green measures for their homes, identifying home owners who want to achieve nearly zero energy. Post Green Agreement, a real public-private partnership with a legal entity and proper funding could be the way forward as the key factor for success in the Arnhem-Nijmegen region.



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PassREg



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