Country Sections Netherlands

Handbook Update CLR II

Support service for citizens led renovation projects - ENER/2023/OP/0036

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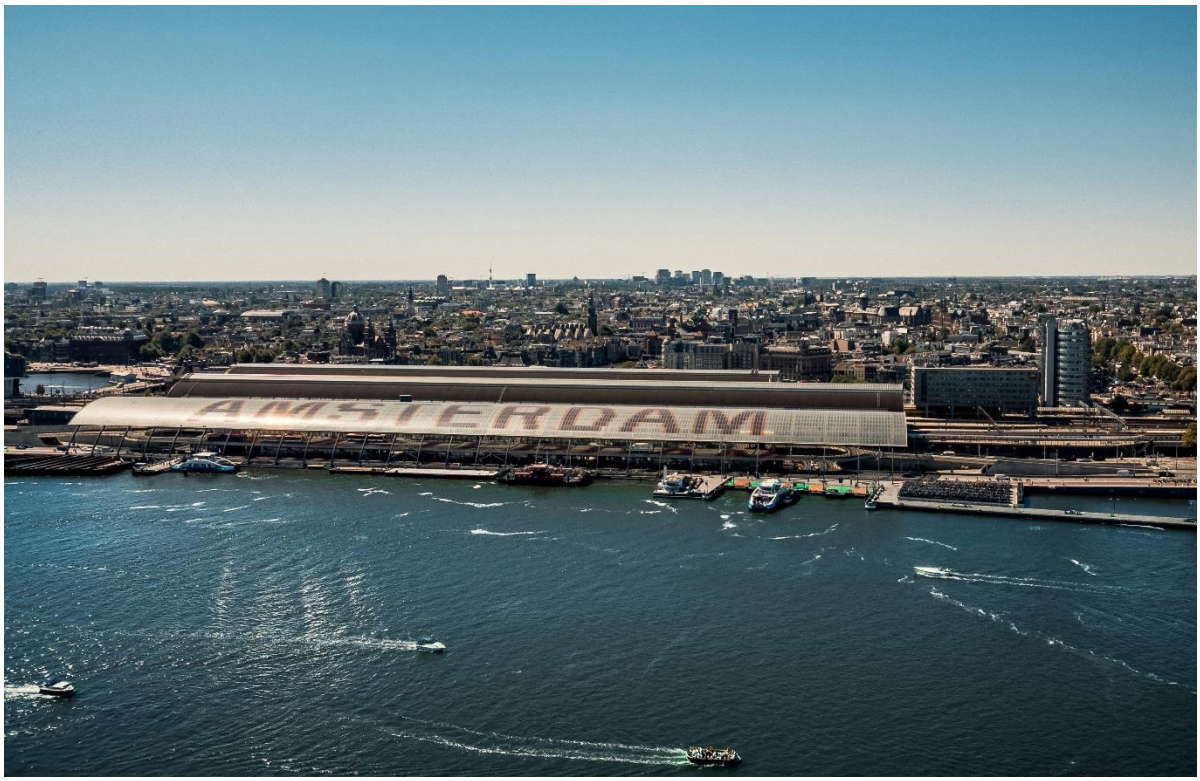
Introduction

This country section provides an overview of the Dutch context for citizen-led renovation (CLR) initiatives and for sharing locally produced renewable electricity among multiple users in buildings and neighbourhoods. It is intended as a practical reference for citizen groups, owners' associations (Verenigingen van Eigenaars – VvEs), municipalities, and one-stop-shop (OSS) actors involved in renovation decision-making, project preparation, and implementation.



1 Aerial view of an urban area in Amsterdam, Netherlands

Current Outlook

Overview of Building Stock

The Netherlands has placed the decarbonisation of the built environment at the centre of its climate and energy policy. In 2022, the built environment accounted for 12% of the Netherlands' total greenhouse gas emissions. The housing stock is also relatively old: on 1 January 2023 there were over 8.1 million dwellings, with 18.3% built before 1945 (and only 14.6% built in 2005 or later). Dutch climate policy therefore emphasises large-scale renovation, the gradual phase-out of natural gas for space heating, and the active involvement of citizens and local actors in the energy transition. Municipalities have a central coordinating role through local heat transition planning (notably the Transitievisie Warmte and the move towards the statutory 'warmteprogramma') that sets neighbourhood-level direction and indicative timelines for alternatives to gas.

The Netherlands has placed the decarbonisation of the built environment at the centre of its climate and energy policy. Buildings account for a substantial share of national energy use and emissions, and a large part of the housing stock was constructed before modern insulation and energy-performance

standards were introduced. Dutch climate policy therefore emphasises large-scale renovation, the gradual phase-out of natural gas for space heating, and the active involvement of citizens and local actors in the energy transition. Municipalities play a central coordinating role, notably through local heat transition plans that identify preferred alternatives to gas at neighbourhood level and set indicative timelines for implementation.

Energy Efficiency of the Existing Stock

On the buildings side, the Netherlands implements the EU Energy Performance of Buildings framework through national requirements on energy performance and a well-established Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) system under the Besluit bouwwerken leefomgeving (Bbl). Energy labels are mandatory in a range of real-estate situations, including sale and rental, and EPC data are widely used in practice to inform renovation decisions and access public support schemes. The EPC system is embedded in national regulation and supported by a central digital registry, making energy performance a routine and visible element of housing transactions and renovation planning. In recent years, policy attention has increasingly shifted from incremental improvements to deeper, step-by-step renovation pathways, in line with EU ambitions on long-term building decarbonisation.

Renovation Status of the Building Stock

For CLR initiatives, the Dutch context offers important opportunities to combine building renovation with local renewable energy and collective organisation. Typical combinations include insulation and ventilation upgrades paired with collective rooftop PV in apartment buildings, neighbourhood-scale solar projects linked to renovation programmes, or the integration of renovation planning into broader local heat transition strategies (for example through the Programme Aardgasvrije Wijken, which includes 66 'proeftuinen'/demonstration neighbourhoods). Public policy increasingly encourages such integrated approaches, recognising that technical renovation, energy supply choices, and social organisation are closely interlinked.

At the same time, CLR initiatives in the Netherlands face a number of practical challenges. The net-metering scheme (salderingsregeling) will stop from 1 January changing the economics of rooftop PV and increasing the importance of self-consumption and smart demand management. Grid congestion in parts of the electricity network can delay new connections or require more careful coordination with distribution system operators. In the renovation domain, decision-making within VvEs remains a structural bottleneck: achieving agreement among multiple owners on investment levels, cost sharing, and renovation depth can slow down or limit collective projects, even where technical solutions and subsidies are available. The Netherlands does not have a dedicated "citizen-led renovation" law; collective renovation is facilitated through general civil law (e.g. VvE and cooperative/association rules) together with the Omgevingswet/Bbl building framework.

Status of Citizen and Renewable Energy Communities

On the energy participation side, the Netherlands has a long tradition of citizen involvement in renewable energy through local cooperatives, foundations, and collective initiatives. The Lokale Energie Monitor reports over 700 local energy cooperatives/collectives across the country, often rooted in neighbourhoods or municipalities and focusing on collective solar or wind projects. In multi-apartment buildings, VvEs frequently act as the organisational vehicle for collective decision-making

on both renovation measures and shared energy installations, such as rooftop photovoltaic systems. This cooperative landscape predates the formal EU concepts of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and Citizen Energy Communities (CECs), but it has provided a strong social and organisational foundation for citizen-led approaches

On the energy participation side, the Netherlands has a long tradition of citizen involvement in renewable energy through local cooperatives, foundations, and collective initiatives. Hundreds of local energy cooperatives are active across the country, often rooted in neighbourhoods or municipalities and focusing on collective solar or wind projects. In multi-apartment buildings, VvEs frequently act as the organisational vehicle for collective decision-making on both renovation measures and shared energy installations, such as rooftop photovoltaic systems. This cooperative landscape predates the formal EU concepts of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and Citizen Energy Communities (CECs), but it has provided a strong social and organisational foundation for citizen-led approaches.

More recently, the Netherlands has been aligning its legal framework more explicitly with the EU Clean Energy Package. The new Energy Act (Energiewet) entered into force on 1 January 2026 (with some provisions phased in later), consolidating and modernising the former electricity and gas legislation and giving energy communities (energiegemeenschappen) a clearer role within the energy system. In parallel, collective heat has become a major policy focus. The Collective Heat Act (Wet collectieve warmte, Wcw) was adopted in December 2025; its provisions enter into force by Royal Decree and can therefore start on different dates. The Wcw strengthens public steering (including majority public ownership requirements for designated heat companies) while still leaving scope for local and community involvement. Together, these developments signal a shift toward more structured, locally anchored forms of citizen participation in both electricity and heat.

Against this background, citizen-led renovation in the Netherlands is best understood as operating within a mature but evolving policy environment: one that combines strong municipal responsibilities, an established cooperative tradition, increasingly explicit legal recognition of energy communities, and a growing emphasis on neighbourhood-level solutions. The remainder of this country section describes how energy communities operate in practice in the Netherlands, the institutional and administrative context relevant for CLR initiatives, the key legislation governing renovation and citizen participation, the main funding bodies and schemes, and a selection of practical tools to support early-stage planning and implementation.

Energy Communities in the Netherlands

2Grunnenger Power Energy Community - Zonnepark Vierverlaten

Citizen and community participation in renewable energy in the Netherlands is characterised by a long-standing cooperative tradition combined with a legal and regulatory framework that is currently evolving. In practice, energy communities and collective energy initiatives do not operate through a single, clearly defined model. Instead, they emerge through a mix of building-level collective action, local energy cooperatives, and municipally anchored initiatives, often making use of existing legal forms and national support schemes rather than bespoke energy-sharing arrangements.

While recent legislation aims to provide clearer recognition of energy communities in line with EU concepts, many Dutch initiatives predate these formal definitions and continue to function through pragmatic, practice-driven approaches. Historically, many citizen-led renovation initiatives interacted with energy communities mainly through organisational structures and financial participation; from 2026, the Energiewet framework also enables 'energy sharing' (energiedelen) under specific conditions, which may expand the models available for multi-user projects.

Building-level collective self-consumption and shared installations

At the level of individual buildings, particularly apartment blocks, collective energy action most commonly takes place through shared rooftop photovoltaic installations organised by owners' associations (VvEs). In these cases, PV systems are installed on common roofs and used to supply electricity to shared services (such as lighting, lifts, or ventilation) and, where technically and contractually feasible, to individual dwellings within the building.

Historically, the economic attractiveness of such configurations has been strongly supported by the national net-metering scheme, which allowed electricity exports to be offset against consumption at

retail tariffs. Although this arrangement has encouraged widespread uptake of rooftop PV, its planned end from 1 January 2027 is changing the conditions for new projects. As a result, recent and future collective installations increasingly prioritise on-site consumption, load matching, and internal use within buildings, rather than relying on long-term compensation for surplus electricity fed into the grid.

For citizen-led renovation initiatives, building-level collective self-consumption is particularly relevant because it can be closely integrated with renovation measures such as insulation upgrades, improved ventilation, or the installation of electric heating systems. However, these projects remain constrained by technical factors (single connection points, internal metering arrangements) and by governance within VvEs, subject to VvE decision-making rules (see the "Relevant legislation" section).

Local energy cooperatives and collective renewable projects

Beyond individual buildings, local energy cooperatives are the dominant form of organised citizen energy in the Netherlands. These cooperatives typically develop renewable energy projects—most commonly solar parks and, in some regions, wind turbines—and enable local residents to participate as members or investors. Governance is typically based on cooperative principles such as one-member-one-vote decision-making, member assemblies, and collective ownership structures motivated by environmental objectives such as increasing local renewable energy generation, reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, and supporting the local energy transition.

In contrast to some other EU countries, participation in Dutch energy cooperatives usually does not involve direct allocation of electricity to members' households. Instead, cooperatives often sell electricity to the market or to utilities, with financial returns redistributed to members or reinvested locally. This means that the link between cooperative energy projects and household energy consumption is often indirect, operating through financial participation rather than physical or virtual electricity sharing.

For CLR initiatives, energy cooperatives can nonetheless play an important role. They may act as project developers, trusted intermediaries, or long-term asset owners for renewable installations linked to renovation programmes. In some cases, cooperatives work closely with municipalities to align renewable generation with neighbourhood renovation strategies or local climate plans.

Energy communities in law and policy: an evolving framework

While citizen energy has been active in practice for many years, recent legislation such as the Energiewet has begun to provide clearer legal recognition and operational rules for energy communities. The new Energy Act introduces a clearer basis for recognising energy communities in national energy law, aligning Dutch legislation with EU definitions of Renewable Energy Communities and Citizen Energy Communities. This represents a shift from an implicit, practice-based approach toward a more formalised framework.

However, many details of how energy communities will operate under this new framework—particularly in relation to electricity sharing, market participation, and interaction with grid tariffs—are still being clarified through secondary legislation and implementation guidance. As a result, most current CLR-related initiatives continue to rely on existing cooperative models and subsidy schemes

such as the Subsidieregeling Coöperatieve Energieopwekking (SCE) and the SDE++ renewable energy support scheme, while monitoring how the new legal framework may enable more advanced forms of collective energy use in the future.

In parallel with the policy developments described earlier, collective heat is becoming increasingly relevant for neighbourhood-scale renovation strategies. As municipalities implement local heat transition plans and neighbourhoods move away from natural gas, heat networks are expected to play a larger role, especially in dense urban areas. Recent legislation strengthens public control over heat infrastructure, but also creates space for citizen and community involvement in planning, governance, and, in some cases, ownership. For CLR initiatives, this reinforces the importance of aligning renovation decisions with local heat strategies and community-level solutions.

Relevance for citizen-led renovation initiatives

In the Dutch context, energy communities should be understood as part of a broader ecosystem of collective action, rather than as a single, uniform model. Building-level self-consumption, local energy cooperatives, and emerging legal energy community structures often coexist and overlap. CLR initiatives frequently combine these elements, starting with practical measures at building level and connecting to broader cooperative or municipal initiatives where scale, governance, or long-term investment requires it.

Formal energy community structures tend to become most relevant when projects extend beyond individual buildings, involve multiple stakeholders, or aim to deliver social objectives alongside technical outcomes. While energy sharing (energiedelen) is now enabled under the Energiewet framework, practical implementation is still emerging and conditional (e.g., dependent on an electricity supplier offering energy sharing and, under the described current rule set, participants being with the same supplier), so many Dutch CLR initiatives still rely heavily on organisational coordination and financial mechanisms.

Country specific information on energy communities

In the Netherlands, the practical implementation of energy communities and collective energy initiatives is shaped primarily by (i) electricity grid connection and congestion rules, (ii) municipal responsibilities for the local energy and heat transition, and (iii) the governance structures of owners' associations (VvEs) and energy cooperatives. Rather than relying on a single national "energy sharing" scheme, most initiatives operate within existing legal and organisational frameworks and adapt their design to local conditions.

Several institutions are typically involved in the development and operation of energy-community-related projects (ACM; Rijksoverheid, Energie Samen):

- National authorities and implementing agencies define the overarching energy and renovation policy framework and administer national support schemes. Key actors include the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), which provides guidance, administers subsidies, and supports programme implementation.

- Distribution System Operators (DSOs) play a central role, as they manage grid connections and determine technical feasibility for rooftop PV, collective installations, and larger cooperative projects. In areas affected by grid congestion, DSOs may impose restrictions or delays, which can directly affect project timelines (ACM – Grid operators and tasks, Netbeheer Nederland – Grid congestion).
- Municipalities are key actors, particularly in the context of neighbourhood-level planning and the transition away from natural gas. They coordinate local heat transition plans, engage residents, and often support citizen initiatives through advisory services or partnerships with cooperatives (Rijksoverheid – Aardgasverije wijken).
- Energy cooperatives and VvEs function as the main organisational vehicles for citizen participation. Cooperatives typically develop collective renewable projects at local or regional scale, while VvEs are central for building-level initiatives in apartment buildings.

A Netherlands-specific operational characteristic is that the choice of project pathway depends strongly on scale and configuration, with different models (e.g. VvE-based projects, cooperative projects, or municipal initiatives) applied depending on the building typology, ownership structure and project scope:

- Single buildings or apartment blocks usually focus on shared rooftop PV and energy efficiency measures organised through a VvE, with electricity primarily used on-site or for common services.
- Multi-building or neighbourhood initiatives often rely on energy cooperatives, where citizens participate through shared ownership and governance rather than through direct allocation of electricity to individual meters.
- Areas undergoing a heat transition may prioritise alignment between renovation decisions and future collective heat solutions, with municipalities playing a coordinating role.

Energy sharing (energiedelen) is legally enabled under the Energiewet (from 2026), but practical take-up remains early-stage. Under the current rule set described by Vereniging Eigen Huis, energy sharing is only possible if the producer and consumer are contracted with the same electricity supplier; suppliers may offer energy sharing, but they are not obliged to do so. As a result, many energy community projects still focus on collective ownership and financial participation models, where citizens invest in shared renewable assets (such as solar or wind projects) and receive financial returns or local benefits rather than directly consuming the generated electricity. This distinction is important for CLR initiatives, as financial participation models primarily deliver indirect benefits, whereas energy sharing could enable a more direct link between local generation and household energy consumption.

A key practical challenge across all configurations is grid capacity, particularly in parts of the electricity distribution network where congestion has emerged. In these areas, available capacity for new connections is limited due to high demand for electrification and renewable energy projects, which can lead to connection delays, restrictions on feed-in, or requirements for project redesign. This affects both individual building-level installations and larger cooperative projects and increases the importance of early-stage feasibility assessments and coordination with the distribution system operator. Early-stage feasibility checks and early engagement with the DSO are therefore important for realistic project planning. In addition, decision-making within VvEs and other multi-owner settings remains a recurring bottleneck, as collective agreement on renovation investments and benefit sharing can be complex and time-consuming.

Overall, energy communities in the Netherlands operate within a well-developed but continuously changing policy and market environment. Strong local cooperative traditions and active municipal involvement provide a solid foundation, while ongoing regulatory changes are expected to gradually clarify the role of energy communities and their interaction with renovation and local energy planning.

Relevant legislation

Renovation-related legislation

Renovation-related rules in the Netherlands are shaped by the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and are implemented mainly through the Omgevingswet (integrated planning/permitting framework) and the Besluit bouwwerken leefomgeving (Bbl) (technical rules for building and renovation works). The energy label (energielabel) is mandatory in key real-estate situations (sale, rental, and handover) and is registered in the national EP-Online database.

In practice, most household and VvE support schemes do not require pre- and post-renovation energy labels as proof. Instead, eligibility is usually evidenced via measure-specific requirements (e.g. minimum surface areas, technical performance thresholds) and documentation such as product meldcodes, invoices, payment proofs and photos (notably under ISDE and SVVE).

The Netherlands is also preparing for transposition of the revised EPBD (EPBD IV, Directive (EU) 2024/1275), which is expected to strengthen structured renovation planning and building data use through phased implementation

Policy / Law / Programme	Purpose & Core Measures	Relevance to Citizen-Led Renovations
Omgevingswet	National framework for spatial planning and permits (in force since 1 Jan 2024). Renovation activities may require an environmental permit and must align with local rules via the Omgevingsloket.	CLR groups and VvEs should use the Omgevingsloket route early to confirm whether works (façade changes, major roof works, external units, etc.) require a permit and what documents are needed.
Besluit bouwwerken leefomgeving	National technical rules for building and renovation works ('bouwen' and 'verbouwen'), including safety, health and sustainability/energy rules; successor to the former Bouwbesluit framework.	Sets baseline technical compliance for renovation works in CLR projects. Ensures renovation interventions must meet minimum requirements (e.g. for building components/installation changes) even if works are subsidy-driven.
Energy label obligation (Energielabel) + EP-Online registry	Energy label mandatory for sale, rental and handover; labels and underlying data are recorded in EP-Online. Supports transparency and informs renovation planning.	CLR projects can use the existing label as a baseline indicator and as supporting evidence in communications with owners/tenants. For transactions (sale/rental) the label is a compliance requirement and can help motivate collective upgrades.

Energielabel C	Since 1 Jan 2023 many office buildings must have at least label C (or equivalent fossil primary energy use threshold) to be used as offices.	Relevant for mixed-use buildings or community-owned office premises. Can act as a trigger for deep(er) renovation decisions and for combining envelope upgrades with heating/ventilation measures.
ISDE – Investeringssubsidie duurzame energie en energiebesparing (RVO)	National grant scheme for homeowners (e.g. insulation, heat pumps, solar boilers, ventilation measures). Evidence-based eligibility relies on meldcodes, invoices/payment proofs and photos.	Practical for CLR: supports packages such as "insulation + (hybrid) heat pump". Documentation requirements (meldcode + invoice + photos + payment proof) should be built into project planning and contractor agreements.
ISDE installation rule - FAQ	For several ISDE measures (notably heat pumps and similar installations), DIY (including partial self-installation) is not allowed for subsidy eligibility; installation must be fully done by a building/installation company.	Important for volunteer-led projects: volunteers can coordinate and support residents, but technical installation must be contracted professionally if ISDE support is needed.
SVVE – Subsidising sustainable renovation for VvEs	Support scheme for VvEs, housing associations and housing cooperatives: subsidises (i) sustainability research/advice, (ii) implementation measures (insulation, sustainable heat options, very energy-efficient packages), and (iii) EV charging infrastructure advice.	Core CLR instrument for apartment buildings: enables VvEs to fund feasibility work (e.g. DMJOP/energy advice) and implement collective measures. Useful for step-by-step approaches where decision-making and financing require staged preparation.
Nationaal Isolatieprogramma	National programme aiming to insulate 2.5 million homes by 2030, focusing on poorly insulated dwellings; includes a municipal "local approach" and measures addressing energy poverty.	Relevant where CLR groups partner with municipalities or target hard-to-reach households. Can complement building-level CLR by linking residents to local insulation offers and support.
Nationaal Warmtefonds: VvE Energiebespaarlening	Loan instrument enabling VvEs to finance energy-saving measures; includes conditions such as VvE activity requirements and typically an energy advice/plan component.	Supports financing for collective renovation when grants do not cover full costs. Useful for CLR in VvEs where upfront investment is a barrier and staged repayment via service charges is needed.
EPBD IV – Directive (EU) 2024/1275	Revised EU framework strengthening building decarbonisation policies (e.g.	CLR relevance is forward-looking: likely to increase the importance of staged

	more structured renovation planning and improved building data). Dutch implementation is planned in tranches towards the EU deadline (May 2026).	renovation pathways, better building performance data, and clearer long-term decarbonisation direction in renovation planning.

Legislation on engagement of neighbours and volunteers in the renovation

The Netherlands does not have a dedicated legal framework specifically labelled "citizen-led renovation". Instead, collective renovation and citizen participation rely on general civil law (co-ownership rules for apartment buildings and legal forms such as associations/cooperatives/foundations) together with building safety and energy rules. For volunteer-driven initiatives, this means volunteers typically contribute through coordination, outreach and project support, while regulated technical activities (especially gas appliance work) must be carried out by certified professionals and must comply with applicable safety and liability rules.

Policy / Law / Programme	Purpose & Core Measures	Relevance to Citizen-Led Renovations
Appartementsrechten / VvE (Dutch civil Code – Book 5, Title 9)	Defines apartment property rights and the Vereniging van Eigenaars (VvE): governance bodies, decision-making and responsibilities for common parts.	Central legal basis for CLR in apartment blocks: collective renovation measures (roof, façade, shared installations) require lawful VvE decisions and agreed cost allocation under the applicable rules.
Dutch Civil Code – Book 2 (legal entities: association, foundation, cooperative)	Sets legal forms commonly used by citizen groups: associations (membership-based), foundations (board-led, no members) and cooperatives (member-based, often for collective economic activity).	Enables CLR groups to choose a suitable legal form for organising projects, holding funds, contracting services, and applying for subsidies/financing. Use a cooperative where shared investment/operation is central; an association or foundation can suit neighbourhood coordination and project governance.
CO-stelsel / CO-certification for gas combustion installations	Only CO-certified companies may install, maintain or repair gas combustion installations; DIY work on these appliances is prohibited.	Directly affects volunteer renovation activities: volunteers must not undertake regulated gas appliance work. CLR projects involving heating upgrades must plan for certified contractors and factor this into budgets/timelines.

ISDE execution rule (RVO FAQ)	For several ISDE-supported installations, work must be fully done by a building/installation company; partial DIY plus professional commissioning is not accepted.	Practical constraint for volunteer-led projects seeking ISDE: organise professional installation contracts and ensure evidence requirements are met (invoice, payment proof, photos, meldcode).

Funding bodies and schemes

Funding bodies and schemes in the Netherlands

Public support for building renovation and clean energy participation in the Netherlands is delivered through a combination of national ministries, implementing agencies, local authorities, and dedicated funding schemes. Rather than relying on a single programme, citizen-led renovation (CLR) initiatives typically combine different instruments depending on project scale, building type, and organisational structure. The table below provides an overview of the main funding bodies and schemes relevant for CLR in the Netherlands.

Institution / Body	Role and Funding Relevance
Ministries and National Managing Authorities	
Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK)	Responsible for housing policy, building regulations, and coordination of national strategies for the built environment and energy efficiency improvements. Plays a central role in shaping renovation policy frameworks.
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK)	Leads national energy transition policy and renewable energy support schemes, including subsidies such as ISDE and frameworks for citizen participation in energy systems.
Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning (VRO)	Commissions national energy-transition subsidy schemes implemented by RVO, including ISDE.
Executive Agencies and Implementing Bodies	
Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)	Main implementing agency for national subsidy schemes related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate-neutral buildings. Provides guidance, manages applications, and supports citizens, VvEs, and cooperatives.
EU-Level and Multilateral Financial Institutions	
European Commission	Provides funding frameworks that support national renovation programmes and energy transition investments, including grants and technical assistance aligned with EU climate targets.
European Investment Bank (EIB)	Provides loans and financing instruments that can support large-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy investments.
Municipalities and Local Authorities	
Municipalities and Provinces	Key actors in implementing local renovation strategies, coordinating neighbourhood-level energy transition plans, and supporting citizen initiatives through advisory services

	and local programmes. Often act as facilitators and co-financiers.
Community-Level and Financial Actors	
Energy cooperatives and VvEs	Act as organisational vehicles for citizen participation. Cooperatives typically develop renewable energy projects, while VvEs organise building-level renovation and shared energy investments.
Local financial institutions / National Heat Fund	Provide loans and financial products to support energy renovation and renewable energy investments, helping households and VvEs overcome upfront investment barriers.

Challenges and practical considerations

Although the Netherlands offers a well-developed ecosystem of funding instruments for renovation and renewable energy, a number of challenges persist for citizen-led initiatives. These include administrative complexity and fragmented eligibility criteria across different schemes, which often require citizen groups, VvEs, and energy cooperatives to combine multiple funding sources. This increases the need for technical and financial advisory support and can slow down project preparation.

In addition, upfront investment requirements remain a barrier, particularly for collective projects involving multiple stakeholders. Even where subsidies or favourable loans are available, projects typically require pre-financing and coordinated decision-making, which can delay implementation. Practical constraints are also linked to infrastructure and permitting conditions: grid congestion in parts of the electricity network can limit or delay new connections, while permitting procedures may introduce additional uncertainty. These challenges are reflected in national analyses and implementation experience, including reporting by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and the Dutch Court of Audit (Algemene Rekenkamer).

Despite these challenges, the Dutch funding landscape provides substantial support for both building-level and community-scale projects, particularly where different funding instruments are effectively combined and supported by local coordination.

Useful tools

A range of online platforms and services in the Netherlands support citizen-led renovation and collective renewable energy projects — from early feasibility and energy planning to subsidy applications and legal compliance.

- Milieu Centraal / Verbeterjehuis.nl: Provides practical tools and guidance for homeowners and VvEs, including step-by-step renovation support, cost and savings calculators, and the 'Verbetercheck'. The platform offers tailored advice on insulation and energy upgrades, as well as an overview of available subsidies and financing options.
- EP-Online (Energy label database): Official national database managed by RVO where certified energy advisers register energy performance certificates (EPCs). Private owners can access their energy label via MijnOverheid, while businesses can retrieve it via EP-Online (using eHerkenning).
- Mijn RVO (subsidy application portal): Central digital portal for applying to and managing national schemes such as ISDE, SVVE and SCE. Users (including homeowners, VvEs, and energy cooperatives) can submit applications, track progress, and upload required documentation.
- Regionale Energie Strategie (RES) platforms: Regional platforms presenting local energy strategies, including spatial planning for renewable energy, municipal targets, and opportunities for citizen and community participation in energy projects.
- Netbeheer Nederland – Capaciteitskaart: Provides a national overview of electricity grid capacity and congestion. This tool is essential for early-stage feasibility checks of PV installations, heat pumps, and collective energy projects. Project developers are advised to consult this map and engage early with their regional distribution system operator (DSO).
- Omgevingsloket (permits and checks): Use the Vergunningcheck / application routes for renovation works that may require a permit.
- One-stop-shop (OSS) services (local/municipal level): In many municipalities, one-stop-shop services provide integrated support for renovation projects, including technical advice, financial guidance, and assistance with subsidy applications. These services are often delivered through municipal energy desks, regional energy agencies, or local partnerships with cooperatives. While there is no single national OSS platform, examples include municipal energy lokets (e.g. https://www.verbeterjehuis.nl/energiehulp) and regional advisory services that guide citizens through the full renovation process.

These tools play a role in supporting project preparation, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, and facilitating access to funding and technical expertise — particularly for collective renovation projects and energy community initiatives.