

DeBlauweWij(k)Economie - Arnhem - NL



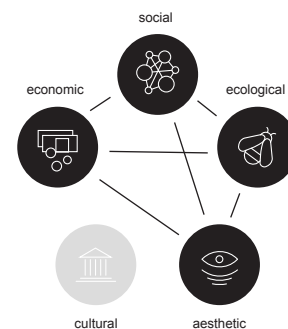
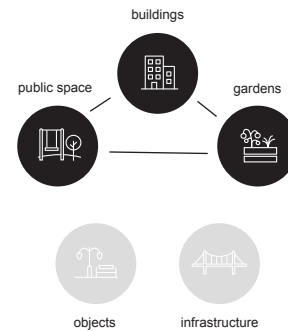
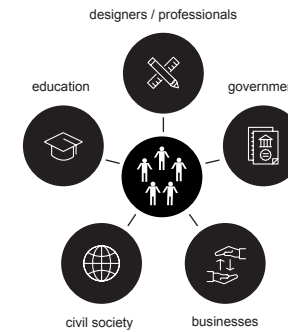
Spijkerkwartier, Arnhem, the Netherlands
2012 - ongoing
<https://mijnspijkerkwartier.nl/pagina/deblauwe-wijkeconomie>

images: DeBlauweWij(k)Economie

Spijkerkwartier, a historically wealthy district in the city centre of Arnhem, fell into disrepair in the from the '60s. As a result of governmental measures in 2006/7, the Spijkerkwartier turned again into a popular and diverse residential area. A number of citizens started a local initiative for solar panels, Spijkerenergie, which subsequently grew into a network of initiatives with the overarching aim to realise a circular and inclusive local economy based on values already present within the neighbourhood.

Enablers

The ambition of the foundation is to develop new business models from local values that increase the ecological, social and economic sustainability of the neighbourhood. De BlauweWij(k)Economie calls on local residents to contribute their own ideas and to realise them in cooperation with the municipality, companies and knowledge institutions, thereby stimulating local social entrepreneurship. The foundation finds the energy that is present in the neighbourhood to address local needs and concerns.



Resources

Spijkerenergie's ambition is to realise a CO2-neutral and climate-adaptive neighbourhood. Attention is paid to both saving energy and generating energy locally. For example, Spijkerenergie stimulates and mediates the installation of solar panels, both individual installations on private roofs and collective installations on (semi) public roofs. Another part of the organization, the BuurtGroenBedrijf - a social neighbourhood company - is concerned with the aim of "creating a green and social neighbourhood by taking ownership of the quality of our environment".

Actors

"The BlauweWij(k)Economie always looks at the quadruple helix, so we always want companies, government and knowledge institutions at the table. We visit them with the question: 'this is our dream, what do you think of it?'" The organisation works closely with the local government department and with residents. Although cooperation with the government goes reasonably smoothly, the holistic and integral approach that the initiatives inherently require does not automatically fit in with the local government's sectoral way of working. Companies are more flexible in that respect and quickly see dBWE as a serious partner.

Spatial elements

The physical impact of the circular initiatives of the dBWE and the BuurtGroenBedrijf are particularly visible in the public space of the Spijkerkwartier. The neighbourhood is being cleared of litter through joint cleaning activities, and made greener by planting façade gardens and tackling courtyard gardens. This contributes to the attractiveness, liveability and character of the neighbourhood.

Values

The initiatives of the dBWE are aimed at creating a sustainable living environment in which local residents cooperate in an innovative way with local government, private companies and knowledge institutions. As soon as profitable models become viable, such initiatives will be given their own entity (eg BuurtGroenBedrijf), but will remain part of dBWE family. The various initiatives have created added value in ecological terms by planting gardens, in sustainability terms by installing solar panels and in social and economic terms by involving residents, especially those with limited access to the labour market, in the initiatives.