

City		Almere
Country	The Netherlands	
Population	203,990 in 2018	
Title of policy or practice	Oosterwold, urban agriculture	
Subtitle (optional)	Inclusive approach to urban development and food	
URL video	<a href="https://vimeo.com/294583999">https://vimeo.com/294583999</a>	
Category	Food Production	
SDGs	SDGs: 3, 11, 12, 15.	
Brief description	<p>Oosterwold is a rural area, part of the municipalities of Almere and Zeewolde. It comprises 4,300 acres of rural landscape and will accommodate about 15,000 residences. Unlike traditional forms of development, Oosterwold lacks a classic blueprint and is being left entirely to private initiative. Potential developers only receive a clear set of rules based on the principles of sustainability, self-sufficiency and large-scale urban farming. More than two-thirds of the surface will remain green. Every initiative should contribute to preserving the green landscape, or preferably improving it. Generally, a plot consists of 20% buildings (residential, business, etc.) and 50% urban farming, and the rest is reserved for paved surfaces, green public areas and water storage.</p> <p>Urban farming is a profound part of the development of Oosterwold and will be executed on a large scale. The following goals will be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping the area of Oosterwold agricultural, open and green.</li> <li>• Realizing short foods supply chains and as little transport as possible.</li> <li>• The city will be interwoven with the agricultural sector and therefore have access to healthy food as well as insight into food production.</li> <li>• Realizing a new 'canvas' for the further development and exploration of urban farming in all its facets.</li> </ul> <p>The beneficiaries are the developers of Oosterwold, the residents of the city of Almere, and the population of the region. To make urban farming a success, the government has started a dialogue with the residents. In addition, there is an annual Urban Farming event, 'Oosterwold Ontkiemt'. During these meetings, knowledge and experience are exchanged through activities in the field of design, construction, maintenance, harvesting, processing and marketing. An online marketplace is also being designed: demand and supply meet; knowledge and experiences can also be shared.</p>	
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	11/2015 Ongoing	
Actors and stakeholders involvement	<p>In 2010, the municipalities of Almere and Zeewolde, together with the Dutch Central Government Real Estate Agency (Rijksvastgoedbedrijf), the Province of Flevoland and the Water Authority (Waterschap Zuiderzeeland) joined forces to make the development of the Oosterwold area possible, deviating from traditional development strategies.</p> <p>The residents of Oosterwold are the most important actors.</p> <p>State forest Management, nature organization The Flevo landscape and organic farm ERF are involved.</p>	
Approach	<p>The municipalities drew up the rules that initiators must follow in the Intermunicipal Structural vision for Oosterwold.</p> <p>Team Oosterwold has been formed to support initiatives from the planning stage to the sale of the</p>	

	<p>lot.</p> <p>With this set of rules, initiators can get started building their own house, organize roads, greenery, public spaces and water management.</p> <p>To help residents succeed in urban farming, knowledge days are organized and an online marketplace is in development.</p>
<b>Innovation</b>	<p>Urban farming is such an important part of the development of Oosterwold and it will be executed on a large scale. Therefore, we have created a new 'canvas' for the further development and exploration of urban farming in all its facets. This development strategy makes Oosterwold unique. Nowhere else in the world do urban farmers contribute to the development of a new, green city on such a scale. The city will be interwoven with the agricultural sector and gives access to fresh and healthy food as well as insight into food production.</p> <p>In the field of urban farming, new markets are tapped into, such as agricultural childcare, care farming and the production of energy for nearby residential areas.</p> <p>This development process requires extensive collaboration between current and future neighbors, making the area and its society unique. Oosterwold is an experiment in which the involved authorities jointly explore, learn, experience and share responsibilities with the residents. This is unparalleled in the Netherlands and far beyond.</p>
<b>Impact</b>	<p>The design of Oosterwold is not imposed by the government but is a bottom-up project. Every initiator is personally responsible for water management, waste water processing and the power supply. This must be sustainable.</p> <p>The development setup of this area is opened and accessible, not only for the Almere community but also for its surroundings. This means close access to healthy food and insight into how the food is produced.</p> <p>Living in Oosterwold is affordable for many people. A sustainable dwelling, including a self-sufficient household, is possible in Oosterwold even for families with a very small budget. This is exceptional for an area that is less than 30-minute by car from Amsterdam and Utrecht. The area is becoming more and more popular; it is uncertain if the area will remain affordable.</p> <p>Economic impact: private initiatives, estates, recreation, healthcare and other forms of combinations with urban farming are popping up in the area. New business models are being discovered. Oosterwold will be a breeding ground of experiments.</p> <p>Environmental impact: initiatives should contribute to preserving the green landscape, or preferably improving it. A wide variety of green areas will be created in the predominantly agrarian landscape of Oosterwold: meadows, fields, plantations, woods and gardens. Part of the project is planting 30 hectares of forest by State Forest Management. In the forest there will be a food forest, nature playground and nature farm.</p>
<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>Thematic inclusion: urban development joins with new insights in the fields of food production, nature experience, nature development and society.</p> <p>Territorial inclusion: The area of Oosterwold is part of two municipalities. Not only these two municipalities are involved in its development, but also the province and the national government, because part of the grounds belongs to the national government.</p> <p>Social inclusion: Despite its lush green appearance, living in Oosterwold remains affordable for many. We are already seeing that a sustainable dwelling, including a self-sufficient household, is possible in Oosterwold even for families with a very small budget. This is exceptional for an area</p>

that is less than a 30-minute drive from Amsterdam and Utrecht. However, the increasing popularity of the area makes it challenging to keep it affordable.

The way in which the area is being developed requires extensive collaboration between current and future neighbors, making both the area and its society unique.

**Adversity coefficient**

- Several government parties have been involved in the development: two municipalities, the province, the national government and the water management. At the same time, current and future residents have been free to participate in the design of the area. There is a structural vision shared by the municipalities in order to accomplish the development.
- Residents are asked to closely collaborate in the development of public spaces. That isn't always easy. Aspects in which the government plays a limited role occasionally seem to need more intervention. We have formed Team Oosterwold, which has the consent of the parties involved to support initiatives from the planning stage to sale of the lot.
- Urban farming at this scale presents challenges for residents. By far not all residents have an agricultural background. To help residents in this respect, the municipality has started a dialogue to exchange knowledge and experiences. In addition to the yearly event, an online marketplace is being developed where supply and demand will meet, and where knowledge and experiences can also be shared.