

City		Almere
Country	Netherlands	
Population	203,990 (2018)	
Title of policy or practice	Education and open innovation Feeding the City	
Subtitle (optional)	Flevo Campus education and dialogue program	
URL video		
Category	Food Supply and Distribution	
SDGs	SDGs: 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 13.	
Brief description	<p>The city of Almere, together with the province of Flevoland, is the initiator of Flevo Campus, a knowledge institute that was founded specially to flesh out the Feeding the City theme. In practice, where city and polder meet, Flevo Campus shows how the urban food supply, smartly combined with agricultural innovations, leads to a more sustainable food system, more livable conditions and healthy citizens. The education-oriented program and an open debate culture about Feeding the City contribute to this process.</p> <p>The program consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think-tanks. Young professionals (students, young entrepreneurs, graduate students) will work together in think-tanks on urban food supply. Each year, there is a summer school and a winter school in which 20 young professionals participate. Top presenters, including chefs, will provide part of the content of the think-tank program. Results are manifestos, for example on municipal food policy and short chains. The activities are documented with films.</li> <li>• National network meetings. NRC Live in June is for professionals and Flevo Campus Live in December is for students and young professionals. These meetings are attended by about 200 participants.</li> <li>• Annual international conference Floriade Dialogues Summit, organized by Flevo Campus, the province of Flevoland, Floriade BV. This is an international program that invites presenters from all over the world. Presenters this year included Raj Patel and Charles Mann.</li> </ul> <p>The goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to train at least 160 young professionals leading up to the Floriade Expo 2022, an A1 international horticultural exhibition in Almere, in relevant issues concerning the transition to a sustainable food system;</li> <li>• to help and facilitate budding entrepreneurs in the food sector;</li> <li>• to create working communities that share knowledge and best practices;</li> <li>• to promote public debate at a local, national and international level, influence it, and incite it to action.</li> </ul>	
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	01/2017 Ongoing	
Actors and stakeholders involvement	<p>Partners in Flevo Campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aeres University of Applied Sciences, Almere and Dronten faculties;</li> <li>• Three universities (MIT Boston, Wageningen University &amp; Research and Delft University of Technology) that collaborate with the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions;</li> <li>• Province of Flevoland;</li> <li>• City of Almere.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Nature;</li> <li>• Flevo Food (collaboration between regional businesses);</li> <li>• NRC;</li> <li>• Food Hub;</li> <li>• Food Cabinet;</li> <li>• Floriade BV;</li> <li>• Dutch Cuisine.</li> </ul>
<b>Approach</b>	<p>Almere has been developing the green, sustainable character of the city for 10 years and the Feeding the City theme is a central element of policy.</p> <p>Almere has been working with knowledge institutes at the construction of Flevo Campus, to capitalize on the city's knowledge infrastructure in the field of urban food supply.</p> <p>The international exhibition Floriade 2022 is the catalyst where Almere intends to show the world how urban food supply can be shaped in terms of structure and content.</p>
<b>Innovation</b>	<p>The education-oriented program and an open debate culture about Feeding the City contribute to the process of transition towards a sustainable food system. Public debate will be promoted and influenced, young professionals trained, working communities created and budding entrepreneurs helped. The approach is to involve all stakeholders: farmers, (new) food entrepreneurs, students, government authorities, scientists and journalists at a local, national and international level.</p> <p>This takes form in meetings, educational programs, network meetings, international conferences, but also in publications, films and documentaries available to everyone. For example, the activities of the Think Tank are documented with films (De Smaak van Flevoland [The Taste of Flevoland] by Ahmet Polat, recipient of the Dutch national photography award). Moreover, prominent scientists and journalists have been asked to write essays about urban food issues. The essay bundle De Buik van de Stad [The Belly of the City] was published in 2018.</p> <p>The Floriade Dialogues are meant to bring about a working community of 25 international cities/regions that are represented by entrepreneurs, scientists, administrators and artists. The first summit took place in 2019, new summits are planned for 2020, 2021 and 2022.</p> <p>A virtual library of films and interviews about innovation in the urban food supply is in development towards Floriade 2022.</p>
<b>Impact</b>	<p>A research program on regional food chains has been underway at Flevo Campus since 2017. It was reported on recently. One of the findings is that there are neighborhoods in Almere that only have one shop offering food. And that is often packaged food that is not produced in the area but elsewhere in the world. Secondly, only a small portion of organically grown food from the region finds its way to the city of Almere. The vast majority is exported. Thirdly, even bulk products produced in the region (e.g. onions) are hardly ever found in shops in Almere and are exported too. In fact, the onions on the local supermarket shelves are foreign.</p> <p>The manifestos of the young professionals of the think tanks have stressed the importance of short food supply chains and local food policy. The availability of healthy, affordable, locally produced food for all residents is now on the agenda.</p> <p>With the education and open innovation program we aim to capitalize on the city's knowledge infrastructure in the field of urban food supply, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• training at least 160 young professionals up till 2022;</li> <li>• helping young food entrepreneurs;</li> <li>• cultivating and stimulating open debate and knowledge exchange by organizing meet ups,</li> </ul>

	<p>local, national and international events;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bring all relevant stakeholders together in working communities in order to stimulate innovation.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>Thematic inclusion: departments within the city government are education, health and economic development.</p> <p>Territorial inclusion: the city of Almere and the province of Flevoland work together on the Flevo Campus.</p> <p>Social Inclusion: all stakeholders are involved, the events for open innovation and debate are free and accessible.</p>
<b>Adversity coefficient</b>	<p>Almere is a young city (the first residents arrived in 1976) and will double its size to 400,000 residents in the coming years. The city was built on new land in the former Zuiderzee. That land is regarded as the most fertile agricultural land in the Netherlands. The challenging environment here comes from two aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predominantly ultra-modern, efficient, conventional agricultural companies thrive on the new land. The scheme of the Flevoland arable farming companies can be described as 'intensive'. A shift to a sustainable food system is therefore a huge challenge.</li> <li>As Almere is a new town, the knowledge infrastructure is limited. The first University of Applied Sciences opened in this city only in 2010. Networks are crucial and have to be build up from the ground.</li> </ul>