

Sustainability Fund Port of Amsterdam

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Summary

The Port of Amsterdam started on 30 September 2009 with the “Sustainability and Innovation Fund Port of Amsterdam”. A sustainable development of the port region is of strategic importance for the Amsterdam Port Authority. This can only be achieved in close cooperation with local and regional companies. The fund gives a grant for feasibility studies and for pilot projects. From the start in 2009 until 2012 a total of € 4 million has been granted to companies in the port region for development of innovative sustainable projects. These projects mainly focussed on development of sustainable energy sources, energy reduction and reduction of CO₂ – emissions in the port area. November 2012 an evaluation has been made of this fund and the results over the last years (2009 – 2012). Based on this evaluation it has been decided to continue the fund.

Relevant topic:

The Sustainability fund mainly focussed on “energy and climate change”.



Sustainability fund Port of Amsterdam



Figure 1: Brochure for Sustainable and innovative fund

1. Background

In the port vision of the Amsterdam port 2008 – 2020 there is a strategic focus on a sustainable development of the port region. Relevant issues are among others: air quality, safety, climate and CO₂, sustainable energy resources (like wind energy and bio fuels), development of intermodal transport. As a so called land lord port authority Port of Amsterdam does not operate terminals or tranships cargo. This is all being done by local and regional companies in the port area. For a sustainable port development close cooperation between the port authority and the companies in the port area is needed.

2. Purpose and objective

In the port vision the creation of a subsidy fund for port companies for sustainable innovative projects was considered an important instrument for the Port Authority. Thereby helping local and regional companies in the port area to develop innovative sustainable solution for their day-to-day operations.

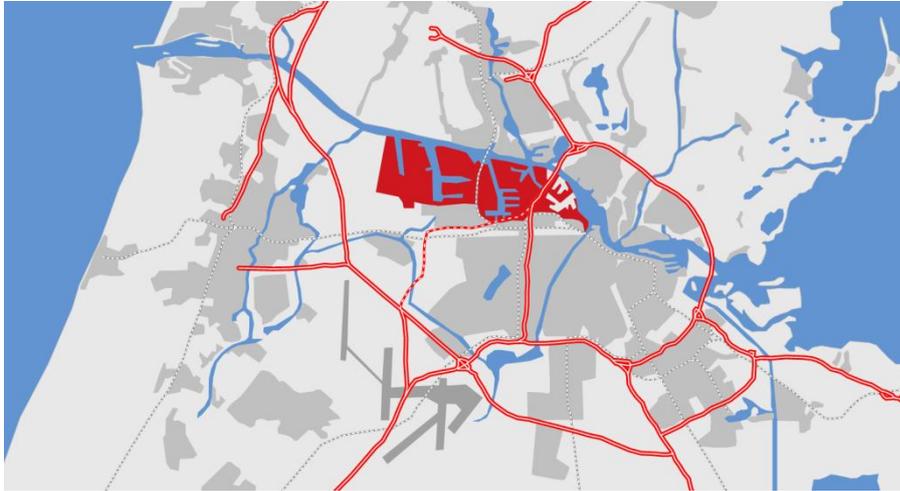


Fig. 2: Amsterdam Port region

3. Beneficiaries

The fund has as a target audience port companies in the Amsterdam port region along the North Sea Canal.

4. Methodologies

The fund was developed under the city funding rules and was checked against EU regulations concerning funding programs. The fund focusses on two kinds of projects:

- Feasibility studies, with a maximum subsidy of € 40.000 and a maximum project period of 1 year.
- Pilot and demonstration projects, with a maximum subsidy of € 200.000 and a maximum project period of 2 years.



An independent Advisory Committee was established for the assessment of individual project proposals.

5. Evaluation

In November 2012 an evaluation was performed over the period 2009 – 2012. Based on this evaluation it has been decided to continue the fund.

The main conclusions of the evaluation are:

- In this period a total sum of € 4 million was spend on 18 projects from different companies in the port region.

- The projects often had combined topics, like CO₂-reduction by development of intermodal transport or by introduction of bio-energy.
- These projects combined gave a reduction on CO₂ of 74 kton CO₂/year.

Some examples of feasibility projects are:

- Use of compressed bio gas as fuel for trucks used for city distribution of cargo.
- Research for bio mass incineration plant for steam delivery to a ethanol factory.
- Effective use of residual heat by the production of asphalt.
- Realisation of a tank station for bio gas for trucks for collection of household waste.

Some examples of pilot projects are:

- Production of fertilizer by using residual products to close the phosphate production circle.
- Development of a crane system for use of regenerative energy during braking of the crane lifting system.
- Innovative system for reduction of evaporation during loading and unloading of oil products.
- Demonstration installation for energy production of waste products in agri bulk.
- Development project for use of recycled consumer oils and fats in production of bio fuels.
- Use of chute for development of heat and steam.
- Use of LED lighting on terminal.
- Development of a crowd funding program for use of solar energy cells on roofs of warehouses in the port area.

6. Lessons learned:

- The past four years have learned us that both sea port authorities, the private companies in the port area and the companies in the international logistic chains that pass through these sea port have more strategic focus on sustainable development, the role they can play in sustainable improvement and the impact they have on a regional, national and global level.
- To get into a next and higher level of sustainable innovations individual private companies and port authorities have to work together (for instance by crowd sourcing and open innovation processes).
- Port authorities can play an important role in sustainable development of international logistical chains and port regions. By being a linking pin between the companies in the port region, the companies in the international logistic chain and the more general oriented research institutes to transfer general innovative sustainable development and knowledge into practical and sustainable port and logistical solutions.
- Port authorities, as independent parties, can organize a sustainable network within the port region together with private companies and regional research institutes, universities, etc. Thereby creating an innovative sustainable climate with a focus on “port sustainable responsibility” which goes beyond the Corporate Social Responsibility of individual companies.
- By creating a subsidy fund for the regional port community Port Authorities can function as an accelerator to introduce new and innovative sustainable techniques in the port area.

- A critical success factor in all this is open dialogue with regional port related companies and other strategic stakeholders in the surrounding community.