

Good Practice Factsheet

Green Fund Scheme- Netherlands

Core Theme and topic	Core Theme 4 - funds and financing for energy efficiency Involving banks in energy efficiency financing
Name of work programme/project	Green Funds Scheme
Project scope and description	
Short description of the programme & what it hopes to achieve	The Green Funds Scheme is a tax incentive scheme launched in 1995 by the Dutch government to encourage green initiatives.
What is the scope of the project? e.g. - National/regional/local - Building type/owner	The projects are designated Green Project certification when they have a positive effect on nature and the environment and are innovative in character. They generally fall into the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature, forestry and landscape • Agriculture • Energy • Sustainable construction and renovation • Sustainable transport
Who are the key people involved? e.g.: - Installers - Local Authorities	Citizens, project developers, high street banks/financial sector, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment and Ministry of Finance, NL Agency
Who was the target audience?	Investors, financial sector and project developers
How was this work programme/ project financed?	Individual investors and tax incentive
What was the cost of the work programme/project ?	Every EUR of public funds spent generates a private investment of 40 EUR
When did it start and end?	1995
Project Outcomes & Communication	
What were the key achievements?	The scheme is a long running scheme which started in 1995. Since the start over 7,400 projects have been realised. Apart from the increase in volume of projects a clear achievement is getting over a quarter of a million investors involved in environmentally sound investments. Not only has funding been generated but awareness in the banking sector and

	end-user has been increased.
What were the outcomes and expected benefits?	Over 7,400 Green Projects Over a quarter of a million investors Involvement of all high street banks More money available for Green Project
What were the key lessons learned?	Due to the broad scope of the Scheme there is sufficient flexibility within the scheme to respond to changes in policies and in the interest of investors. The scheme is based to a certain extent on trust: individuals invest their savings and companies enter into long-term obligations with the banks. Once a critical mass of investment has been achieved the system is self-perpetuating. All the stakeholders have their own particular interest. The cornerstone is taxation, without a tax benefit it will not succeed.
Is there anything you would do differently in future?	More attention to how to adapt the scheme more quickly. At present all changes must be approved by Dutch Parliament as well as the EC which is a time consuming process.
What makes this a good practice example?	Given the right circumstances it ticks all the boxes. It contributes to EU energy and environmental targets; it leverages funds 40:1. It gets individuals, banks and project developers involved and once up and running isn't resource intensive to run.
Web links to further information	www.agentschapnl.nl/groenbeleggen http://www.agentschapnl.nl/sites/default/files/bijlagen/SEN040%20DOW%20A4%20Greenfunds_tcm24-119449.pdf
Contact details of named person for further information	Anton Duijnhouwer, NL Agency
Please indicate if this case study can be made available to the public?	Yes