

Solar thermal energy netherlands

Novar is developing the largest solar heat (solar thermal) park in the Netherlands in ...

Novar is a solar thermal pioneer in the Netherlands. We are Novar. We realise ...

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Het is tijd voor nieuwe energie. Daarom heeft Solarfields sinds 18 april 2023 een nieuwe naam: Novar. Wil je meer weten? Lees hier het bericht over de naamswijziging.

The park is a sustainable and local solution in the challenge we face in the Netherlands when it comes to sustainable energy generation. It is an important project in realizing a CO2-neutral and natural gas-free Groningen. With the help of TVP solar collectors and the advent of the new heat station - which will be opened on the 3rd of November as well; the heat from the sun will be collected and converted to sustainable heat for thousands of Groningen residents. In this way solar thermal is a sustainable, innovative, and safe solution for the Groningen heat supply.

Dick Takkebos, director of WarmteStad, explains: "Solar thermal energy is one of the natural energy sources that we use to heat households and companies in Groningen in a sustainable way. This solar heat is mainly obtained in summer but is most needed in winter. We solve this by storing part of the heat in the summer; the so-called seasonal storage. In this way we take care of our own Groningen energy together. At any time of the year."

This project contains a new technology. More than 24,000 solar collectors are used. The difference with "regular" collectors is that no electricity will be generated, but heat. Instead of cables, there is running water through the solar panels. The water heats up to 85 degrees Celsius on sunny days. A special high vacuum technique in the collectors, makes it possible to produce these high temperatures in an efficient way.

Jan Martijn Buruma, project director of Solarfields, explains: "With this technology we are able to contribute to a natural gas-free Groningen. Moreover, with solar thermal energy we do not burden the local transport capacity of the electricity grid. This leaves capacity for other sustainable projects. An additional advantage of solar thermal is the fact that you can connect older buildings without having to make too many architectural adjustments. And, the vacuum solar collectors are also fully recyclable. Altogether, this is an innovative and sustainable solution with a lot of potential, also for the rest of the Netherlands.

When designing the solar thermal park, a lot of thought has been given to natural integration into the landscape. Of the 22-hectare dredging depot, 12 hectares are intended for solar thermal energy, whereby the ecology around the solar collectors has been examined. The other 10 hectares will be used for nature. An

ecological development plan has been drawn up by an ecologist for the entire 22-hectare site. By seeking connection with the whole site and with the environment, we looked further than just the design of a solar thermal park.

## Approach in consultation with the environment

The plan for the solar thermal park was discussed with the surrounding area at an early stage. Marloes Sprong-Ariëns of K3: "In the discussions with the local residents, the main request was to put maximum effort in the ecology of this area. We asked an ecologist to develop a plan in consultation with the local beekeepers' association, several local residents and the authorities. As a result, a few adjustments were made to the plan during this coordination. For example, the use of a concrete foundation has been abandoned. The park is now being built on piles, so that less concrete is needed and there is more room for flower-rich and herb-rich grassland."

The depot was put into use during the construction of the Van Starckenborgh Canal in the 1930s. Until the 1990s it was used by the province of Groningen as a dredging depot. In 2006 the operation was taken over by Grondbank GMG. Grondbank is a subsidiary of K3. In recent years, the depot has been an important application location for the Winschoterdiep dredging project and for several large projects in the city of Groningen. In 2020 Grondbank GMG completed the completion of the depot.

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