

The Netherlands can save almost five billion cubic metres of gas in one year

In four years, potentially 10 billion cubic metres of gas can be saved.

With relatively simple measures, the Netherlands can reduce its natural gas demand on the short term. The measures can already result in a strongly reduced natural gas demand for next winter. Within a year, the Netherlands can save almost five billion cubic metres of gas. Within approximately four years, even ten billion cubic metres of gas can be saved. Currently, the Netherlands consumes about 40 billion cubic metres of gas every year, of which five billion cubic metres comes from Russia.

The Netherlands is in the transition phase from a lot of 'orange-grey' energy (domestic natural gas) to a lot of 'orange-green' energy: self-generated renewable energy. Especially in the current intermediate phase, our dependence on energy imports is high. Accelerating the energy transition is the best response.

The Dutch Association for Renewable Energy (Nederlandse Vereniging Duurzame Energie - NVDE) elaborates on several options for the short and the longer term. For each measure, we provide an indication of the reduction in natural gas consumption resulting from that measure (expressed in billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas). This list is not exhaustive, but it does provide important solutions. Existing climate policy is already heading in the right direction, so it often involves acceleration of this policy. Climate policy aims to reduce CO₂ emissions, this memorandum focuses on reducing Dutch gas consumption. There is a lot of synergy between the two, but they are not the same.

Concrete examples of the measures:

1. Better tuning heating systems at companies and households can save 1.5 bcm of gas within a year. This measure is highly cost-efficient.
2. Thermal insulation in the industry is relatively simple to implement and can save 1.5 bcm of natural gas within four years.
3. Supplementary packages for making heat sources more sustainable in homes can save 0.6 bcm of natural gas within a year, and a total of almost 2 bcm within a few years. Sustainable biomass can be implemented relatively quickly.

Several conditions are crucial:

1. Investments in availability of skilled professionals are crucial, as there is currently a shortage of skilled workers to carry out the work.
2. Make use of the initiative '[Samen sneller het net op](#)' (getting connected to the grid faster together) which focuses on strengthening the electricity grid, including the usage of battery systems. The proposals from this widely supported action plan also enables the rapid growth of sustainable generation and electrification of heat and transport.

There are important reasons to incorporate these measures as soon as possible:

1. To strengthen our energy independence.
2. To reduce Dutch funding for Putin's War Machine.
3. To reduce energy costs, both directly (less consumption) and indirectly (lower demand leads to lower prices).
4. To accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Read the full [memorandum](#).

About the NVDE

The Dutch Association for Renewable Energy (Nederlandse Vereniging Duurzame Energie - NVDE) aims for a fully renewable energy system by combining forces from the whole sector. The NVDE represents directly and indirectly more than 6,000 organisations that are also actively contributing to the sustainable energy transition. These organisations combined have a revenue of over €41 billion and 250.000 employees.