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Press release

Rotterdam Climate Proof ready to tackle heat stress

ROTTERDAM MEASURES HEAT IN THE CITY USING CARRIER CYCLE FULL OF MEASURING EQUIPMENT

Rotterdam, 5 August 2009 – Two carrier cycles full of measuring equipment will ride around the city tomorrow to prepare a graph of the heat in various locations in the city, as the City of Rotterdam intends to take measures to fight so-called heat stress. The term heat stress refers to the fact that temperatures tend to be higher in large cities compared to outside these cities. Expectations are that climate change will aggravate this effect.

Researchers of Wageningen University will conduct measures using a fast thermometer, special sensors for wind direction and velocity, a hygrometer and sensors to measure incident sunlight. At the same time, special cameras will be used to take photos of the buildings and greenery in the environment.

Climate change

Rotterdam Climate Proof (RCP), the climate adaptation programme of the Rotterdam Climate Initiative, wants to survey the heat in the city in order to be able to take action in time. The RCP programme is a set of measures designed to ensure that Rotterdam will be climate proof by 2025. Due to climate change, summers tend to get hotter and wetter, with an increase in heatwave frequency.

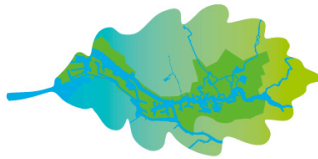
The results of international research show that in large cities with many tall buildings and relatively few parks and ponds, temperatures may rise dramatically. The centre of Mexico City, for instance, appears to be six degrees warmer than areas outside the city centre.

Green roofs

The study, supported financially by Knowledge for Climate, the national climate research programme, will make it possible to take targeted measures. The cooling effect of green roofs, for instance, may help to reduce temperatures. Furthermore, the realization of additional watercourses and parks may provide a solution. These plans can be taken into consideration during the (re)development of residential areas.

Various measurements

The heat measurements will take place tomorrow morning in various locations and at various points in time, to provide an optimal overview. The researchers will measure



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the conditions at an industrial estate, in an old residential district, in a municipal park and in the port area. The measurements have to be taken during a hot period with maximum temperatures of over 25 degrees Celsius.