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City of Rheden  
Dr. Henk J. Doeleman  
Program Manager  
Global Goals  
h.doeleman@rheden.nl  
003165 1591877

# SDG-based administration in the municipality of Rheden, the Netherlands

## Accelerating contribution to the SDGs with a new operating system: the SDG-based network-organisation

In 2018, Rheden transformed its administrative structure based on five SDG clusters: welfare, sustainability, economical development, integrated area development, governance and security.



### Initial situation

- Rheden is a medium-sized Dutch municipality in the eastern part of the province Gelderland with approx. 43.500 inhabitants.
- In previous years (2010-2016), the municipality's management was characterised by an individual expert-based style of working. This led to a division into expert silos that complicated cooperation and efficient collaboration.
- The municipality's employees did not work in multidisciplinary teams to meet the local society's challenges.
- The framework of the SDGs delivered the required answer to solve these administrative challenges.
- The SDGs facilitate the organisational development towards a multidisciplinary challenge-driven municipal administration.

### Objectives

- On the long run, behavioral changes towards a more sustainable society shall be obtained across Rheden and, if possible, beyond the municipality. Here, the global goals serve as framework of thinking.
- In 2018, Rheden developed a project and program monitor to supervise it's progress in terms of Sustainable Development.
- In 2019, Rheden participates in various competitions. These include, among others, the European call for 'Local Authorities: Partnerships for sustainable cities'
- Rheden aims at founding a Global Goal Academy which is intended to share experiences and good-practice examples with other municipalities.

### Implementation

- As far as possible, project plans and activities have been aligned with the global goals. This includes the coalition agreement, the college strategic policy plan, program budgets and team plans.
- Rheden shares its experience with other Dutch municipalities, countries in the Global South (e.g. Rwanda, South Africa), disaster areas (St. Maarten) and other EU member states (e.g. Spain, Germany).
- In 2019, Rheden focuses on the internalization of the global-goal-thinking among the municipality's employees and strengthening the team of global goals ambassadors. The aim is that every employee knows the global goals and delivers his/her contribution to their achievement.
- Additionally, the global-goal-thinking shall be spread among neighbourhoods, educational organisations and entrepreneurs. In this way it becomes a part of Rheden's culture and society. Compared to other Dutch municipalities and beyond, this is an unique and distinctive bottom-up approach.

### Achievements

- Due to its activities in the field of the SDGs, the municipality of Rheden has already won several awards, among others:
- 'Most Inspiring Global Goal Municipality' (2019)
  - 'Winner of International Global Goal Rap Challenge' (2018)
  - 'Most Promising Global Goal Municipality' (2018)
  - 'Runner-up Most Sustainable Municipality of the Province' (2018)