


Fact sheet for planning levels

Planning level		Type of plan																																																					
<p>Country</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Planning system of the Netherlands (post-2024 Environment and Planning Act)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Planning level</th> <th>Planning instrument</th> <th>Content of plan</th> <th>Legal basis</th> <th>Policymaker</th> <th>Legal impact</th> <th>Scale</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>National, provincial, municipal</td> <td>Environmental Vision (Omgevingsvisie)</td> <td>Outlines a strategic, long-term vision for spatial development and the physical environment</td> <td>Environment and Planning Act, 2024 (Omgevingswet)</td> <td>State, province or municipality</td> <td>Self-binding</td> <td>National, provincial or municipal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All levels</td> <td>Programme (Programma)</td> <td>Action-oriented plan outlining specific measures to protect, manage, use and develop the physical living environment</td> <td>Environment and Planning Act, 2024 (Omgevingswet)</td> <td>Any level of government, possibly jointly</td> <td>Binding if linked to legal standards; otherwise indicative</td> <td>Thematic, sectoral or area-based</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National, provincial, water board</td> <td>Project Decision (Projectbesluit)</td> <td>Enables specific projects of national or provincial interest to proceed outside of existing plans in the event of overriding interests. Overrides municipal environmental plans.</td> <td>Environment and Planning Act, 2024 (Omgevingswet)</td> <td>State, province, water boards</td> <td>Legally binding for all legal and natural persons</td> <td>Project-level</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Province</td> <td>Environmental Ordinance (Omgevingsverordening)</td> <td>Includes all spatial and environmental rules at the provincial level</td> <td>Environment and Planning Act, 2024 (Omgevingswet)</td> <td>Province</td> <td>Legally binding to municipalities and water boards within the province</td> <td>Province</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Municipal</td> <td>Environmental Plan (Omgevingsplan)</td> <td>Sets out where development may take place, what may be built, the size of the development and what it may be used for</td> <td>Environment and Planning Act, 2024 (Omgevingswet)</td> <td>Municipality</td> <td>Legally binding for all legal and natural persons</td> <td>Municipality</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>ARL 2025 www.arl-international.com</p>							Planning level	Planning instrument	Content of plan	Legal basis	Policymaker	Legal impact	Scale	National, provincial, municipal	Environmental Vision (Omgevingsvisie)	Outlines a strategic, long-term vision for spatial development and the physical environment	Environment and Planning Act, 2024 (Omgevingswet)	State, province or municipality	Self-binding	National, provincial or municipal	All levels	Programme (Programma)	Action-oriented plan outlining specific measures to protect, manage, use and develop the physical living environment	Environment and Planning Act, 2024 (Omgevingswet)	Any level of government, possibly jointly	Binding if linked to legal standards; otherwise indicative	Thematic, sectoral or area-based	National, provincial, water board	Project Decision (Projectbesluit)	Enables specific projects of national or provincial interest to proceed outside of existing plans in the event of overriding interests. Overrides municipal environmental plans.	Environment and Planning Act, 2024 (Omgevingswet)	State, province, water boards	Legally binding for all legal and natural persons	Project-level	Province	Environmental Ordinance (Omgevingsverordening)	Includes all spatial and environmental rules at the provincial level	Environment and Planning Act, 2024 (Omgevingswet)	Province	Legally binding to municipalities and water boards within the province	Province	Municipal	Environmental Plan (Omgevingsplan)	Sets out where development may take place, what may be built, the size of the development and what it may be used for	Environment and Planning Act, 2024 (Omgevingswet)	Municipality	Legally binding for all legal and natural persons	Municipality	<p>National Environmental Vision (2020)</p> 						
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Facts: National Environmental Vision (2020)

Legal basis

The National Environmental Vision (NOVI, *Nationale Omgevingsvisie*) of 2020 is an advisory, non-binding policy document which sets out the intentions, ambitions and key issues for spatial planning decision-making at the national level in the Netherlands.

Competences

The NOVI was prepared by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and sets the strategic direction for integrated policy on space, the environment, mobility, water and climate. The document clearly states that the central government takes a guiding, not centralising, role, emphasising the shared responsibility of the national, provincial and municipal authorities, water boards and civil society. The main national interests defined in the NOVI are framed within four overarching priorities and several specific policy domains.

According to the NOVI, the national government retains the responsibility for directing or safeguarding these interests when:

- an issue benefits or affects the entire country and exceeds the capacity of decentralised authorities;
- international obligations or treaties apply (e.g. on biodiversity or World Heritage);
- the issue transcends administrative boundaries and risks administrative deadlock.

The key national interests include:

1. Space for climate adaptation and the energy transition – ensuring resilience against climate change and space for sustainable energy generation and infrastructure.
2. Sustainable economic growth – including support for mainports, brainports, greenports and vital infrastructure such as data centres and logistics hubs.
3. Strong and healthy cities and regions – ensuring liveability, accessibility and urban quality through sustainable urbanisation and infrastructure.
4. Future-proof development of rural areas – including biodiversity restoration, circular agriculture and strengthening the landscape and nature values.

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5. Preservation and reinforcement of international and cross-border relations – enabling international connectivity and cooperation.
6. Environmental and living quality – ensuring healthy air, soil and water and reducing exposure to environmental risks (e.g. noise, emissions).
7. Security and public health – including the management of risks from hazardous activities or infrastructure.
8. Use and protection of the subsurface – for drinking water, energy storage and sustainable resource extraction.
9. Protection of cultural heritage and landscape values – reinforcing spatial identity.
10. Efficient use and maintenance of infrastructure networks – ensuring national accessibility and economic competitiveness.

Tasks and content

NOVI defines four national priorities:

- Space for climate adaptation and the energy transition;
- Sustainable economic growth potential;
- Strong and healthy cities and regions;
- Future-proof development of rural areas.

These priorities are linked to long-term ambitions, such as becoming climate-resilient, circular and carbon-neutral by 2050. The document is structured around *omgevingsinclusief beleid*, an approach that integrates spatial, environmental and social considerations through three guiding principles: (1) combine functions rather than separate them; (2) prioritise local identity and characteristics; (3) prevent negative externalities.

Binding force

While NOVI is a non-binding policy vision, it plays a key role in steering the spatial strategies of provinces and municipalities. Its strategic choices must be taken into account in the development of decentralised environmental visions and plans. The NOVI is accompanied by a rolling Implementation Agenda, which outlines how national and regional actors will translate the vision into actions and area-specific programmes. The NOVI is designed as an adaptive document, subject to periodic updates in response to changing circumstances and ongoing monitoring.

Process, duration, participation

The preparation of NOVI involved an extensive multi-year participatory process (2017–2020), including:

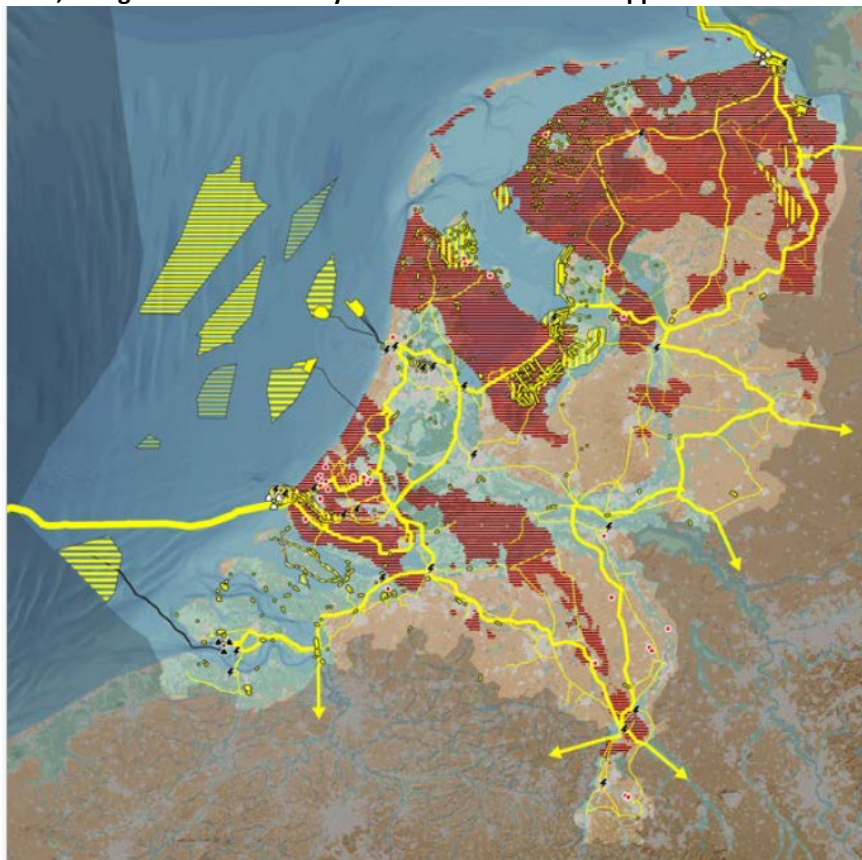
- National and regional stakeholder consultations (over 300 organisations),
- Public hearings and engagement through online platforms and local meetings,
- Bilateral discussions with provinces, municipalities and water boards,
- Targeted input from academia, NGOs and the private sector.

Duration of validity

NOVI is designed as a living document with no fixed end date. Its policy horizon extends to 2050, but the strategy is intended to be regularly updated.

Details of the plan

Detail 1: National interest: Achieving a reliable, affordable and safe energy supply that is low in CO2 emissions by 2050, along with the necessary main infrastructure to support it.

**Hoogspanningsnet**

Bestaande nationale infrastructuur
(incl. onherroepelijke uitbreidingsplannen)

- Hoogspanningsverbinding 450 kV
- Hoogspanningsverbinding 380 kV
- Hoogspanningsverbinding 220 kV
- Hoogspanningsverbinding 150 kV
- Hoogspanningsverbinding 110 kV
- Kabel van windpark op zee naar aanlandpunt

Bronnen: TenneT, Routekaart windenergie op zee 2030, Windstats.nl, Structuurvisie windenergie op land, TNO, Structuurvisie Ondergrond, SV Infrastructuur en Ruimte

Duurzame elektriciteit

Bestaand aanbod

- Windpark op zee
- Windmolen op land

Aangewezen grootschalige windenergiegebieden op zee

- Windenergiegebied routekaart 2023
- Windenergiegebied routekaart 2030
- Overig aangewezen windenergiegebied

Aangewezen grootschalige windenergiegebieden op land

- Kansrijk gebied voor grootschalige windenergie

Duurzame warmte

Bestaand aanbod

- Aardwarmteboring

Potentie geothermie

- Potentie gemiddeld tot hoog

Kerncentrales

Bestaand aanbod

- Kerncentrale

Reserveringen

- Kerncentrale reservering

Overzicht Nederlandse windparken op zee

- Bestaand windenergiegebied
- Aangewezen windenergiegebied



Characteristics

Location of the area

The National Spatial Vision covers the whole territory of the Netherlands, including its coastal waters.

Initial situation

The NOVI follows earlier national spatial planning frameworks, most notably the 2006 Report on Spatial Development (*Nota Ruimte*) and the National Policy Strategy for Infrastructure and Spatial Planning (*Structuurvisie Infrastructuur en Ruimte*, SVIR) of 2012.

Further information and links

Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties. (2020). *Nationale Omgevingsvisie: Duurzaam perspectief voor onze leefomgeving*. Den Haag: Rijksoverheid. Retrieved from <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2020/09/11/nationale-omgevingsvisie>

Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties. (2019). Toelichting ontwerp Nationale Omgevingsvisie. Den Haag: Rijksoverheid. Retrieved from <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2020/09/11/nationale-omgevingsvisie>