

Press release - The Hague, 14 December 2009

## The Hague busses become carbon neutral

Today, Monday 14 December, on behalf of the **Klimaatfonds Den Haag** alderman **Peter Smit (Environment)** has revealed the first HTM citybus on green gas. The **Peter Smit: "This is an important step in the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions in the city of the Hague. The entire bus fleet of HTM, the local public transportation company, will be using green gas. With the transition we will achieve a reduction of round about 16.000 ton CO<sub>2</sub> over the next two years."**

The Klimaatfonds is able to provide 9 million m<sup>3</sup> of green gas to HTM thanks to the collaboration with CNG Net and Essent. The amounts corresponds with the estimated usage for the next two years. Dirk le Clercq, general manager of HTM: 'This is unique. HTM will have the first carbon neutral bus fleet in the world. The Klimaatfonds, the city of The Hague and HTM are taking a step of unprecedented significance, a fact of which we are very proud.'

Green gas is produced by the fermentation of biodegradable materials (biomass, manure) or as a part of the purification process of water. After filtration the produced gas is brought up to pipeline quality and added to the existing distribution network for natural gas. Using green gas for public transportation makes this carbon neutral and is as such an important part of the campaign towards a climate neutral the Hague in 2050.

### New busses

In 2011 all 135 HTM busses will be gas fired. This year already 45 busses have been replaced. The decision to use only gas fired engines means is a choice of the most sustainable public transportation available at this moment. It has a positive effect on air quality, because the busses emit less soot particles and nitrogen dioxide as compared to a gasoil fired engine. Furthermore the engine are more quiet. But the busses are not only quiet and clean, they are also equipped with screens providing information for the passengers. There is more leg room and in the back of the bus seats are placed in right angles towards each other, allowing better social interaction and more safety. The eye-catching bulge on the roof contains the gas tanks.

### A climate neutral future for the Hague

The Klimaatfonds Den Haag was inaugurated on 17th of March 2009 and stimulates organisations, local authorities and households to become climate neutral. This can be achieved by offsetting the CO<sub>2</sub> caused by heating, lighting, cooling, mobility etc. For each ton CO<sub>2</sub> an amount of € 20,- can be made payable to the fund. The fund uses this money to support projects in the city, that reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions. In this way the city works together in becoming climate neutral.

For more information: [www.klimaatfondsdenhaag.nl](http://www.klimaatfondsdenhaag.nl).



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**More information**

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