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Project website	www.hotspottilburg.nl		
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Context / Social problem

Tilburg is situated in a higher part of the Netherlands and will therefore not be directly affected by rising sea levels caused by climate change. However, the city will feel the effects of climate change on many other fronts, including the design of the built environment, groundwater levels, sewers, flora and fauna, water discharge problems in regional tributaries of the Meuse, recreation, etc. Tilburg will therefore serve as an example of the issues that will affect large parts of the Netherlands.

Tilburg municipal council pursues an active energy policy, supported by the BANS (new style administrative agreement) climate subsidy programme, an energy programme that ran until April 2007. Tilburg wants to continue this programme beyond this date and expand it with an active climate policy. This ambition has been adopted in Tilburg's Environmental Policy Vision 2006–2010. Tilburg is actively participating in various discussions and negotiations on the follow-up to the BANS regulation. The municipality's aim is to develop adaptation as well as mitigation strategies for climate change.

In general, there are two key questions to be answered when developing a regional climate policy. First, what is going to change in and for the region (content)? Second, how are we going to deal with these changes, and with whom (process)? This project will cover all aspects of these questions.

What is already known, and what is not?

Interviews have already been held with stakeholders and a first mini-conference with stakeholders has been held. The results of these activities indicate that the parties involved clearly feel the need for a joint approach to climate change. What is not known is whether the proposed methodology and approach is feasible in practice,

whether it is capable of producing results, and if so, if it is applicable elsewhere.

What is being studied?

1. Development of a generally applicable working method for coping with climate change at local/regional level:
 - a. *testing the usefulness of the existing literature*
 - b. *communicating experiences*
2. Formulation of a long-running climate programme in the Tilburg region and assembling a strong local grouping of parties who are both willing and able to implement the programme:
 - a. *describing the risks and opportunities associated with climate change in the Tilburg region*
 - b. *the local grouping*

What are the results, and who are they for?

In general terms, a method will be developed for coping with climate change which will be applicable to other regions and municipalities. The intended result for the Tilburg region is a local grouping of stakeholders who will implement a regional climate programme.

