Green Cities for Eco-efficiency

Duration	**3 weeks**
Dates	**March 2015**
Tuition Fee	**€ 2,500**
Language	**English**
Abbreviation code	**ECO2**

Rationale of the training course

Half the world's population now lives in built-up areas, with 60 million people being added every year. Worldwide cities witness a residential and industrial boom that lead to increased emissions of air pollutants, augmented production of waste, lack of vegetation, the loss of biodiversity and other negative effects that threaten their environmental sustainability. In this context cities are responding with arrays of options or levers at their disposal when it comes to the task of improving their overall environmental performance and eco-efficiency. The course will look at these concrete local solutions and policies such as including green concepts in from the beginning of the planning and managing process, putting green space on an equal footing with buildings and infrastructure, achieving better energy reduction, increase water-sensitiveness & water conservation, design sustainable transportation, wastewater treatment, drainage, solid waste and urban agriculture (vertical farms) facilities as well as applying green financing and economics concepts and approaches. The training will end with participants preparing a practical study to measuring the overall environmental performance of their cities using the European Green city index methodology and designing an action plan to propose actions to improve the environmental performance and eco-efficiency of their cities.

Theme 1: Concepts and strategic systemic approaches to green cities
Theme 2: Spatial Development for Green Cities and Urban Containment: tools, techniques and policies
Theme 3: Transport, buildings and Energy Approaches for Green Cities: Netherlands and International experiences
Theme 4: Greening of Urban Services in time of water extremes: water supply, Sewerage Treatment, Drainage, and solid waste (European and international experiences)
Theme 5: Green Financing and green economy

Target group

Local and national elected representatives, policymakers, city community leaders such as mayors and councillors, high officials in central government, NGOs and private sector, Urban planes and professionals involved in improving the urban environment and wellbeing of the citizens.

Course objectives

On completion of the course, participants will be able to:

• Understand the latest thinking on sustainability and eco-restoration for cities
• Describe the environmental and economic impact of energy consumption
• Develop effective and sustainable local energy plans and policies in response to environmental, economic and social challenges faced by cities.

Methodology

This course employs a wide variety of formats to engage students in the material, including lectures, guest speakers, small group discussions, documentary films, student response pieces and activities (both in and out of class), role playing simulation exercises, participants led debates, and a final case study project and presentation on assessing the overall environmental performance of a city and develop an action plan to improve the city environmental performance to make it greener. Field visits to some Dutch experiences with green cities and environmental performance will complement the training.