

# CATCH

an Interreg North Sea Region project

**Good practice:**

## **Pinkeltjesplein (square):**

transformed into a climate adaptive  
city brook and biodiverse playground

*Enschede, Netherlands* 

**In leaps and bounds to a water sensitive city**

## ABOUT THE PILOT

The green blue Pinkeltjesplein project is part of the Stadsbeek-project and was co-financed by Interreg North Sea Region. The new city brook Stadsbeek improves the city's living environment and its climate resilience. It was a multifaceted project that comprises various neighbourhoods.

The Pinkeltjesplein was finished in 2020. What used to be a vacant lot for years is now an attractive playing and meeting area for children that also functions as a water storage area during heavy rainfall. The Stadsbeek runs through the square where water has become part of city life again.

The project was designed in cooperation with the citizens in the surrounding neighbourhoods: a 'must' for a successful project and a way to raise awareness for climate adaptation in the city.







## POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND ORGANISATION

- CATCH taught us to start our project by researching where we stand in the process of becoming a climate adaptive city. The self-assessment tool (part of the Adapt My City tool) gave us insight in the goals we still had to reach.
- Involvement of neighbours of the Pinkeltjesplein in the design process raised awareness about the changing climate and commitment to take climate adaptive measures, also on their private property.
- What started off as a civil water management project, developed into a social movement with behavioural change.
- Inspiration of our fellow-Catch-cities on what measures to take to reach our goals.





## LESSONS LEARNED

- CATCH helped to integrate biodiversity and the reduction of heat stress in the project. Now, the new square not only reduces the risk of flooding and damage from high groundwater levels, but also lowers heat stress and drought. Varied and colourful vegetation makes the area attractive. All this improves the quality of public space and gives a boost to the neighbourhood.

Project leader Koen Wagelaar: “CATCH made clear that climate adaptation to deal with heavy rain events is not only achieved by civil engineering and smart technological solutions. It is also about awareness of our citizens and behavioural change.”

### More information

Contact: [enschede@groenblauwenschede.nl](mailto:enschede@groenblauwenschede.nl)

Or visit our website:

[www.groenblauwenschede.nl/professionals/  
projecten/stadsbeek/](http://www.groenblauwenschede.nl/professionals/projecten/stadsbeek/)

