

Project Green Challenge - Day 22 Challenge Greenest

In my city, Almere which is about thirty to forty five minutes away from Amsterdam, we have many ways of getting energy. In Almere we have many windmills and solar panels which means that there is a lot of green energy being distributed in my local environment. The government of Almere is ambitious in the area of energy and is striving to be energy neutral in 2022 (excluding mobility).

The food used in our grocery stores unfortunately comes from all over the places and is not choosing local products over the cheaper alternative. As all the grocery stores in my local area are all chain stores such as Albert Heijn, Lidl and Jumbo. (These are all known Dutch and or European grocery brands)

The town center in Almere is filled with shops, housing, workplaces but also a lot of green places filling all of those in between spaces. Almere is a city in Flevoland which is one of the twelve provinces of the Netherlands but unlike the rest it was constructed by man. During the baby boom the Dutch government decided to add a twelfth province to make space, dug sand together and filled a lake making the Polder. It is an area of very flat land under sea level but great for agriculture.

After all the information I have learned so far I have to think about 3 sectors in my town where I bring some of that innovative spirit to make my town more sustainable.

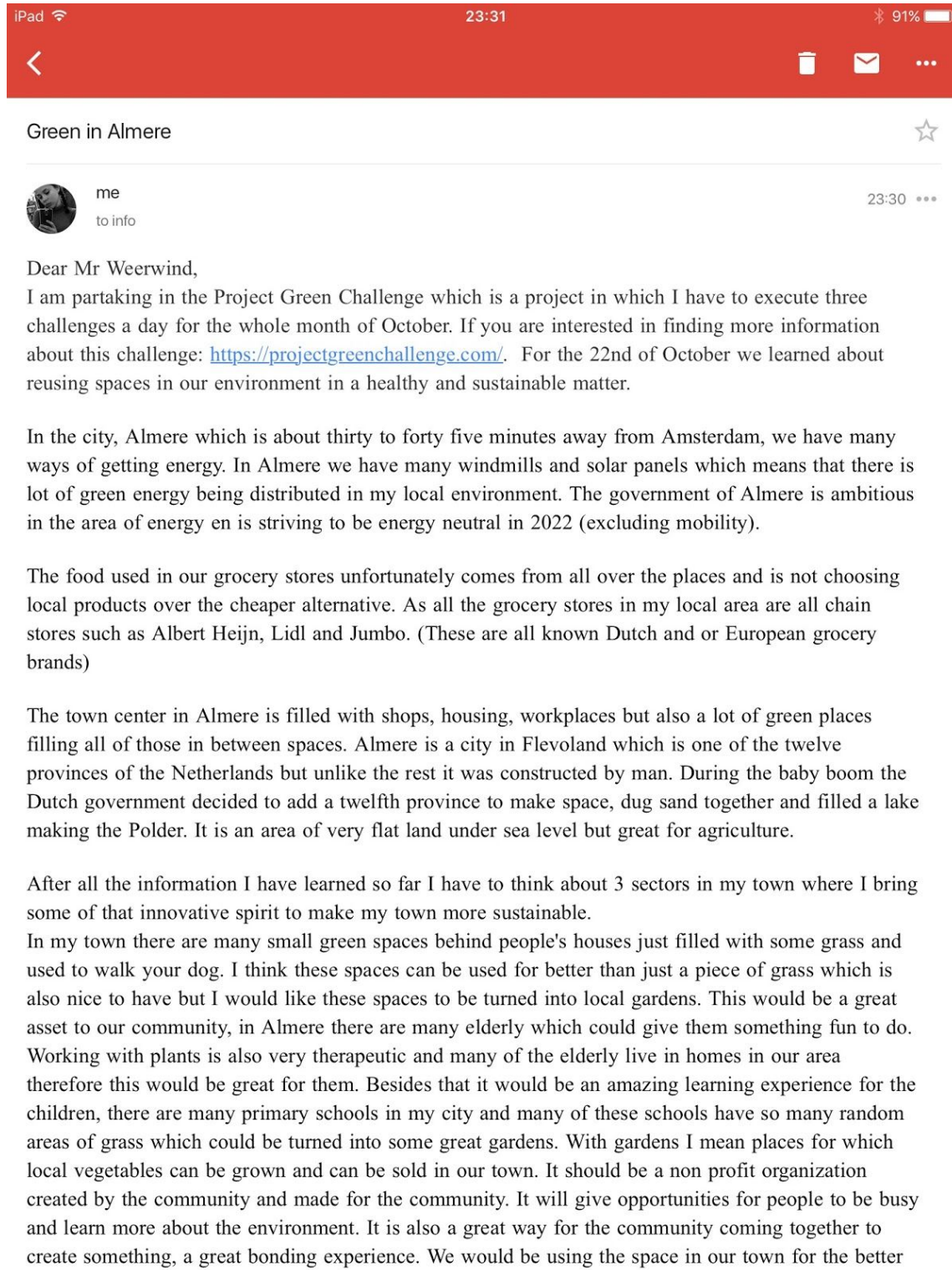
In my town there are many small green spaces behind people's houses just filled with some grass and used to walk your dog. I think these spaces can be used for better than just a piece of grass which is also nice to have but I would like these spaces to be turned into local gardens. This would be a great asset to our community, in Almere there are many elderly which could give them something fun to do. Working with plants is also very therapeutic and many of the elderly live in homes in our area therefore this would be great for them. Besides that it would be an amazing learning experience for the children, there are many primary schools in my city and many of these schools have so many random areas of grass which could be turned into some great gardens. With gardens I mean places for which local vegetables can be grown and can be sold in our town. It should be a non profit organization created by the community and made for the community. It will give opportunities for people to be busy and learn more about the environment. It is also a great way for the community coming together to create

something, a great bonding experience. We would be using the space in our town for the better and not harming our surroundings.

The second sector in my town which we can use to our advantage is a mall called DoeMere which is a place where people go to to buy furniture and more. Many of the stores are totally empty as the stores in the mall are not the most compelling and they are a bit annoying to get to if you are in the center. Since many of these stores are empty and these buildings are wide, spacious and made with a lot of glass I thought that it might be an idea to turn it into a glass house and fill it with plants that need a warmer temperature. This could be a follow up after the first idea would be executed which gives the community a wider variety of vegetables and fruits but still all locally grown.

The third sector in my town which could be transformed for our sustainable benefit would be, if the previous idea of the glass house would not be used, that the empty spaces of DoeMere could be made into a local and organic food market. This gives people the opportunity to not only choose for the big grocery shopping chains. In Almere there are many easily accessible fast food stores which is just promoting a bad way of living and leaves no real space for the healthy. It would be a great place for locally owned companies which creates sustainability, involves the community and offers jobs to the community. Jobs in which a person can be proud of as they are helping! If there is an option for the people of Almere to also have a big space only dedicated to healthy, local, organic foods hopefully at a reasonable to low price.

The email I have sent to the mayor of Almere proposing my ideas, on the following page:



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