

GROENLINKS

MAASTRICHT

HEEL DE STAD

THE WHOLE(SOME) CITY

ELECTION PROGRAMME

2022-2026

INTRODUCTION

Maastricht is at the crossroads. Do people in poverty hook up or drop out?

Are Sjengen and students going to live together or will they live alongside each other? Will we join forces to become a climate-neutral city or will we fail because of division? Will residents regain confidence in the government or will feelings of anger get the upperhand? Do the residents of the outskirts feel as full or second-class citizens? Do we live in harmony with nature or do we activate the earth's immune system against ourselves? Are the vaccinated and the unvaccinated open to each other or do they fight each other's rights? The crossroads sometimes seems like a ravine, a watershed between all these people and between all these interests. It will not always be easy to move in the right direction, because in our time of uncertainties and contradictions the road will be full of turns, obstacles, adversity and opposition. But GroenLinks has the optimistic confidence that we can move forward. That we can connect the city. With three words that sum it all up: The Whole(some) City

Maastricht has always been at the crossroads, for more than two thousand years; the Maas from south to north, the road from west to east, or vice versa. That is the name of the city - crossing point on the Meuse - that is also its character; traders and soldiers, canal diggers and workers, preachers and nuns, pilgrims and sinners came from everywhere, stayed for a while, stayed always. Look at the names of the past rulers, look at the names of the present inhabitants; half of Europe can be found here.

Since the Reconstruction after World War II, Maastricht has been moving forward again; new outskirts, restoration of the old town, the university and tourists. Maastricht seems like itself again, always changing; streams of visitors, though now they come for shopping and not for Saint Servatius; streams of young people, though now they come for study and celebration, not for war and party. They come from everywhere and all languages resound in the streets and cafes. And many Maastricht people are happy with the new opportunities and the conviviality, many Maastricht people are working to preserve the beautiful, hospitable city with its quirky character and living traditions.

A city is a place where people meet. Encounters ensure that residents together replace pavement tiles with flowers and plants, that students have lunch with their neighbours. Encounters lead to new ideas and initiatives among entrepreneurs and artists. They make talent visible. Encounters ensure that a retired teacher starts giving language lessons to refugees. Meeting each other provides fun and entertainment and relaxation. Encounters keep a city alive.

We want Maastricht to remain that city of encounters. But then we have to get to work. An inner city without cars literally gives more space. More greenery in the city will create an inviting living environment and keep the city attractive. Good, broad programming of art and culture has something to offer to everyone. Focus on a circular economy creates new activity. A vital university is indispensable for creativity, knowledge development and employment.

But above all, we must work to ensure that everyone in Maastricht is in a position to meet others. That means that there must be enough affordable and sustainable housing. That means that people entitled to benefits should be given space and confidence to explore a meaningful day's work and, moreover, should not be labeled as a fraud. This means that

everyone should receive the care that he or she needs; that people can continue to live in their own neighbourhood for as long as possible. All children should be able to participate in extracurricular activities. Learning difficulties must be spotted quickly and action must be taken swiftly when school failure is imminent.

GroenLinks has faith in the inhabitants of Maastricht. Everyone has the right to make something out of his or her life and to contribute to his/her own environment.

In Maastricht, everyone - regardless of origin, age, sexual orientation, physical condition or gender - should be who (s)he want to be. In Maastricht, people's choices should be made in freedom. In Maastricht, origin should not matter. In Maastricht we want to connect people based on their own uniqueness. The people of Maastricht may count on a GroenLinks standing up for this!

The structure of this election program follows a logical line which tells our story for and about Maastricht. We start with the green city of Maastricht, where everyone should be able to live and move about comfortably with lots of green and nature in the residential area, where walking and cycling should have priority over polluting cars (chapter 2). Then we will tackle the housing market; after all, you have to be able to (and want to!) live in that green city (Chapter 3). But of course, and unfortunately, there is more going on in Maastricht. Chapters 4-6 form the broad social basis of our program. How do we deal with (youth) care? How do we really reduce poverty and prevent debts? What do we have to do to become a truly inclusive city? Then we pick up the thread with one of the biggest challenges of our time: climate change. We must work to ensure that we can all continue to live in this beautiful city. We will have to start heating our homes differently, and the business sector will also have to make a big effort to become more sustainable (see chapter 7). But this transition also offers opportunities to really move towards a sustainable and circular economy with which we can create new jobs for the city (see chapter 8). And finally we end up again with the encounters in the city. And of course we can use the cultural power of Maastricht (chapter 9) for this.

For GroenLinks, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an important guideline for working towards a better world. Therefore, each chapter mentions which SDGs we want to promote with it.

We consciously choose to tell a story for and about Maastricht. The story of how GroenLinks sees the city and its inhabitants and how it wants to continue to see them. Where we want to go with our city; together with the whole(some) city towards a healed and complete city. We don't want to interrupt that story with enumerations of concrete actions or goals we want to achieve. But of course we do have them; you will find them in the appendix to this program and on our website.

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1. THE GREEN CITY

GroenLinks stands for the right to a green living environment of and for all of us. Sufficient green and nature is indispensable for our well-being, for the development of our children, and for the survival of animals and insects. We cherish the beauty and peace of a walk through the Frontenpark or on the St. Pietersberg. But not only there; every Maastricht person has the right to sufficient greenery in their immediate living environment in order to be able to move around and relax. And we are going to connect all those green areas to each other as much as possible. If you would walk through the city in a few years, in our vision you would see more trees and fewer parking spaces with cars. In the summer you would cherish the coolness of the plane trees on the market square and there would be much more front gardens around the houses.

GroenLinks stands up for what is valuable and vulnerable. In our municipality we will make the difference. We will put green, biodiversity and quality of life central. We will do this with every building project, every adjustment to the public space and every plan for the future. This requires an integrated view and a radical reallocation of our space. Together with the residents of the neighbourhoods, associations and companies, we want to start working on making their immediate environment as good and green as possible. CNME is an indispensable partner in this and where possible we will intensify the collaboration we have with CNME. Whether we are talking about people, animals or our planet: GroenLinks puts green happiness first and any adjustment to the public space should also make our municipality greener!

We will plant 10,000 trees, including in the Market Square! We want a green plaza plan for the city and thereby designate places for 'Tiny Forests' to further enhance biodiversity. When the municipality cuts down a tree, we want to plant two back. To cut trees with a circumference wider than 25 cm, a permit will be needed, both for the municipality and private individuals and companies

We will protect our nature, restore and strengthen it, and make our environment resilient to the effects of climate change. Building for people also means building for animals and insects, so we will build nature-inclusively. Birds, butterflies, bees and other insects are of great importance to our living environment and food supply. We will have to take in account biodiversity in the management of public green spaces much more. For protected species (think of beavers, rooks, bats, wall lizards) we will develop management plans to strengthen their habitats and, where possible, prevent or reduce tensions in their coexistence with humans. Our parks, verges and other green spaces will be cared for and landscaped according to the principles of ecological management. This will also be reflected in our mowing policy: we will stop mulching!

Review

The municipality handed out 2000 rain barrels! The distribution of rain barrels is an initiative of GroenLinks. In the spring of 2019, GreenLinks's motion for a subsidy on rain barrels was unanimously adopted by the council. With rain barrels we can relieve the sewer system during extreme rain and you save tap water. The municipality has distributed 2000 rain barrels to the residents of Maastricht and that proved to be a great success. It shows that people are willing to contribute to limiting the effects of climate change.

During the Covid-19 crisis we experienced how important a green environment is. Therefore we strengthen our city-countryside zones, such as the Jeker valley, the Zouwdal, the Rivierpark Maasvallei, the landgoederenzone (Naar BuitenGoed), and the eastern edge of the city from Ambyerhei to the Poort van het Heuvelland. We keep the greenery in our existing parks future-proof by replacing sick or dying image-defining trees in a timely and phased manner. And where possible, we will add new parks and flowerbeds. The agricultural land around Maastricht should be transformed into nature-inclusive agriculture or nature reserves.

GroenLinks party members were at the basis of the ENCI-groeve Transition Plan and have worked for the past fourteen years, in the city council, to realize those plans. Not everything has succeeded and it is far from 'finished'. But we are proud of this nature reserve in development that is unprecedented. And we are proud that we have fulfilled our promise to give the mountain back to the people of Maastricht, by making the deep quarry accessible to the people of Maastricht free of charge, and by keeping the transitional zone from the viewpoint to Chalet D'n Observant accessible to everyone free of charge. We are counting on the support of the national and provincial governments to preserve and further strengthen what is of value in the quarry and on the factory site.

In a green city, we also want to move sustainably. In Maastricht, we will be able to walk and cycle even more, unhindered by cars. After all, the space we have is limited and is now taken up too much by cars. Thinking smartly about facilities and fully committed to walking, cycling and public transport, means that we free up space: instead of space for stationary and moving looks on four wheels, there will be more room for comfortable cycling routes, safe walking paths, greenery and playing children. Space that we can use to meet each other, to relax and to move around. Space, in short, for people instead of for the machine.

In the area between Via Regia-Noorderbrug-Terblijterweg on the north side and Tongerseweg-Kennedybrug-Akersteenweg on the south side (the so-called rib structure) we change our public space into zones with green space, clean air and space for cyclists and pedestrians. In the area between the ribs, car-free areas will be created where recreation, meeting people, playing, sport and relaxation should be central. In a few years' time, you will be able to cycle from all the districts via cycle paths to the most important facilities such as schools, stores and care institutions. There will also be more express cycle paths offering cyclists from outside the city a comfortable and safe route to the city. In this way we encourage our residents and visitors to leave their polluting cars behind more often. We will raise the standard for bicycle parking and, where necessary, create additional bicycle parking spaces. Residents are given the opportunity to convert car parking spaces into bicycle parking spaces. At the same time, we also encourage shared transport concepts such as MaaS (Mobility as a Service) to further reduce the number of necessary car parking

Road safety on the streets is essential for children and adults alike. To ensure this, we will gradually reduce the maximum speed in built-up areas to 30 km/h. Where possible, we will make roads one-way. Mopeds, motorcycles and scooters will be on the carriageway. This usually requires major reconstructions, for which there has been a lack of money in recent years. We therefore want to triple the annual mobility budget to € 1.5 million per year. We are counting on government policy and budget to get to work.

spaces. We understand that illegally parked bicycles are an eyesore for many residents. In a bicycle town like Maastricht, bicycles are part of the street scene and not every illegally parked bicycle is a problem. Sidewalks should of course remain passable, especially for the blind, visually impaired and disabled. Enforcement alone will not solve that problem.

We will continue to invest with Zuid-Limburg Bereikbaar in behavioural change campaigns and, where possible, significantly expand the number of bicycle parking spaces. We will invest in a large-scale underground or indoor bicycle parking facility in the city center west of the Meuse River, for example in the basement of Entre Deux. Enforcement on illegally parked bicycles will then be the final step in cases where illegally parked bicycles are truly undesirable, in the way or dangerous, and where alternatives are available. We will favour pedestrians and cyclists as well as public transport, not polluting cars. And in addition to encouraging walking and cycling, we want to discourage car use in a number of ways. Firstly, parking in the city will become more expensive. The demarcation of the paid parking area will be based on a parking pressure study and through a clear and transparent participation process. In neighbourhoods, where there is not enough room for the parking standards, no new second parking permits will be issued. In other neighbourhoods, the second parking permit will become significantly more expensive. The use of (electric) car sharing concepts in the neighbourhood or alternative parking locations for a possible second car will be stimulated. At least in the inner city, paid parking will be introduced in the evening hours.

Besides passenger cars, fossil fuel delivery vans and trucks are also polluting. And we would like to change that too in our city. In 2025 the center of Maastricht will be a zone for Zero Emission City Logistics (ZES). Together with entrepreneurs, goods flows to and from that zone will be better bundled and transported entirely with zero-emission vehicles. In the city center we also want to establish an environmental zone, overlapping with the ZES zone. The cameras of the ZES-zone can thus serve twice as effectively. In neighbourhoods, residents choose for themselves whether they want a car-free or an environmental zone. In this way we will stimulate the transition to cleaner transport.

Every kilometer not taken by car counts. We will therefore construct large-scale parking facilities from which you can continue your journey by train, bus, boat, bicycle or on foot. We will do this in logical places, not strictly speaking only at the edges of the city or municipal boundaries. Near the Brusselse Poort shopping center or on Trega South along the Noorderbrug are obvious locations. But we will also talk to our (Dutch and Belgian) neighbours about possible locations on their territory.

GroenLinks is still a strong supporter of the future Tram Flanders-Maastricht. We will continue with this project, based on the expectation that this will bring visitors and employees from Flanders to our city quickly, comfortably and sustainably, which will lead to much less car traffic from that side. We eagerly anticipate that any problems in Flanders will be resolved quickly, because in Maastricht everything is in the starting blocks to proceed with the construction of the line on our territory. Alternatives were rejected years ago (train, by the NMBS) or are a deterioration compared to the current situation ('trambus'). If the light rail project unexpectedly fails, we fear decades of stagnation in improving cross-border public transport. Our inhabitants and those of the Flemish region deserve better than that.

2. HOUSING IN MAASTRICHT

We want everyone in Maastricht to be able to live affordably and appropriately. After all, a roof over your head is a fundamental right. But we are in the middle of a housing crisis in which this is by no means a matter of course for everyone. The waiting lists for social housing are huge, so starters and people with low incomes can hardly find a home. Rental housing in the free sector is unaffordable for many people. The huge increase in house prices means that many families have no chance of finding a place on the housing market. The number of homeless people has doubled in ten years. And throughout the country there is a shortage of housing for elderly people who can no longer, or no longer wish to live completely independently, but who are not yet eligible for a nursing home. More homes will therefore have to be built. But building more is not enough. It is also about building affordably, for those people for whom the shortages are the greatest. GroenLinks therefore actively promotes the construction of social housing and social housing for starters and single-person households. In addition, in many municipalities there is now a mismatch between supply and demand: many people live too small or too large. Therefore we will use the current housing stock much more creatively and intelligently, for example by making it more attractive to flow through.

Housing is not a commodity. That is why we are introducing a self occupancy obligation and an anti-speculation clause for new owner-occupied homes. We tackle the exploitation of tenants. A landlord license is required to rent out a house or room. Anyone who exploits tenants, fails to provide decent living conditions or discriminates in the admission of tenants will lose his or her license.

Unlike in similar cities elsewhere in the Netherlands, social housing in Maastricht is still relatively well distributed across the city. But social problems are not so well distributed: they are mostly concentrated in neighborhoods like Malpertuis, Caberg, Pottenberg, Nazareth and the northern parts of Witte Vrouwenveld and Wyckerpoort. And yet it is precisely this distribution that is important in order to maintain the capacity of each neighborhood. The better mixing of neighborhoods and districts reduces the

fear of "the other" and inequality. For this reason, we will stop the sale of social housing in neighborhoods where there are relatively few, and we will make agreements with housing corporations about a better distribution of social housing between the first and second tier. We also want to add more private sector rental homes and owner-occupied homes in socially disadvantaged neighborhoods. To prevent the downward spiral from continuing, the neighbourhoods mentioned above will receive extra and integrated attention in the coming years: a social approach to neighborhood problems goes hand in hand with urban planning, urban management, enforcement, sustainability, mobility, exercise and culture. If you want people to care about each other and ensure cohesion, then space for meeting each other and space for playing in a clean, green, livable and safe street is a basic condition.

In the coming years there will be a lot of construction along the Groene Loper and in the Sphinx Quarter. The municipal organization and the city council are working very hard to create a nice mix of housing, businesses, P&R and green areas on Trega/Zinkwit (Limmel aan de Maas).

The station area has recently been restored to its former glory, a lot of work has been done to bring the connections with the international bus station together, a magnificent underground bicycle storage facility has been built, and in the coming years there will be major investments in turning the square in front of the station into a place to meet people. Now it is time to really tear down the last barrier in Maastricht, which means not only building more housing near the station but also making housing above the tracks a serious option. Because for those who live above the railroad, the world lies at their feet. And that real estate development can also be the flywheel to finally heal Maastricht on both sides of the tracks and realize the vision of City & Rail.

The GroenLinks lobby for lifting the levy for social housing companies has already worked in part because it is being further reduced. This means that the investment space for corporations is growing. GroenLinks believes that this investment leeway should be used in particular to make social housing more sustainable. Accessibility, life-course resistance and social safety of these homes could immediately benefit. Moreover, this reduces the chance that tenants will no longer be able to pay their gas bill.

Everyone in Maastricht is entitled to a (safe) home. The municipality is responsible for housing vulnerable people, such as the homeless and people with mental health problems. Everyone has the right to a roof over his/her head, so we make sure that homeless people get a house first, and then their other problems are addressed. In its housing plans, the municipality of Maastricht must therefore take into account the various target groups that deserve a place in their neighbourhood or city. Everyone should be able to choose whether they continue to live at home with professional help or in small-scale living arrangements where care is available.

Finally, housing plays an important role in the transition to a sustainable society. This means that solving the housing shortage should not lead to higher CO2 emissions and should not be at the expense of our scarce natural resources. We will continue to encourage the conversion of vacant commercial and office buildings. Smart building should be energy neutral and as circular as possible, climate adaptive and nature inclusive: both houses and gardens should be built and laid out in such a way that, for example, bats, birds, hedgehogs and wild bees can find a good habitat. We are looking for the space for this as much as possible within the current built-up environment. In this way we spare the green space and biodiversity, we give the existing built-up environment a boost and we contribute to healthy mobility such as walking, cycling and public transport.

Retrospective

On the initiative of GroenLinks, the city council passed a motion in September 2021 making self occupancy mandatory in new construction. In Maastricht, too, the overheated housing market leads to major problems for starters and middle-income earners. They can no longer find affordable housing, both for rent and for sale. In these days of low interest rates, more and more houses are bought by investors to rent out and sometimes to occupy. With little supply, prices rise significantly and housing becomes increasingly unaffordable.

3. LIVING AND CARING TOGETHER

GroenLinks opts for a city where we live together and care for each other. We believe that every resident should be able to make a meaningful contribution to Maastricht society through work or in another way. This can be done through paid work, volunteer work, caring for others or by following an education. We do not believe in systems that are primarily there for the system itself: we want less bureaucracy. The system serves the people and not the other way around. GroenLinks works on the basis of trust and challenges residents to creatively use their talents and shape their lives in Maastricht.

Sociale Zaken Maastricht Heuvelland and the Social Services should continue to work from the idea that no 'quid pro quo' applies in social assistance. Maastricht citizens in the Participation Act are entitled to personal and tailor-made assistance and guidance on their way to suitable work, voluntary work, training or a daytime activity. This may involve a gentle hand or a push in the back, but always with respect for the individual.

Meanwhile, we also see that there is much inequality in the Maastricht society. It matters where you were born, where and with whom you grow up and where you received your education. In Maastricht, too, there are people who have to put on an extra sweater in winter because they can no longer pay their gas bill. We can only change this if people are no longer treated as numbers. If the money for social policy is spent effectively and not on unnecessary paperwork and perverse neoliberal incentives of the system, so people do not get the help that really helps them. So we

want no more situations where they have dozens of care providers on the floor. Instead real customized help as in the 50-family approach or through close cooperation with other partners in care is necessary. Or with low-threshold advice from, for example, the primary care assistant at the family doctor's.

GroenLinks is in favor of experiments with a basic income, in which the obligation to apply for a job is abolished and the possibilities for additional income are expanded. We are charting the legal possibilities for this. But essential voluntary work and informal care should also lead to an exemption from the obligation to apply for a job. We do not want to do this with blind trust. Where appropriate, the municipality should carry out random checks on volunteer work and/or informal care.

We also believe that the municipality should help self-employed people who are forced to be self-employed and have received support from the municipality in the COVID-19 period to switch to paid employment if they wish, preferably in the sustainable and/or public sector and construction.

Loneliness is a major problem in Maastricht. According to a 2020 study by the GGD, 50% of Maastricht residents aged 18 or older feel lonely. This is above the national average. 14% of the inhabitants of Maastricht indicate that they feel seriously to very seriously lonely. Welfare organizations, health centers but also the library and local entrepreneurs can be significant in reducing loneliness in Maastricht. In our city, too, we are going to organize this approach effectively as soon as possible. We will do this by forming a coalition with as many different

parties as possible to effectively tackle loneliness. GroenLinks strives for a local approach to combat loneliness in Maastricht as soon as possible. And although we understand that 'the Maastricht person' does not exist, we believe in a city that embraces differences. A city that offers room for diversity. And where 'together' is central. We want to do justice to the wishes, problems, interests, differences and similarities of all Maastricht people. We choose a community, not a society.

Retrospective

During the past parliamentary term, Maastricht appeared to have lost its grip on expenditure in the social domain; the organization was not properly equipped for the complex manner of reimbursements, purchase and allocation of care and the ever-growing demand for care. This led to large overruns in the budgets for care and youth welfare. As a coalition partner, GroenLinks has taken its responsibility in this, but has also always held the principle that the position of people living on less than 110% of the social minimum must be protected at all costs. We will maintain this principle in the coming period, certainly until the minimum wage and the related benefits have been substantially increased by the new government!

Active citizenship!

There are many major challenges in our city. Whether it's about quality of life or the energy transition, about social cohesion or combating poverty. In recent years it has become clear that more is asked of people, their immediate surroundings and neighborhoods and there is an increasing call for integral cooperation and solidarity. These tasks can only be tackled successfully if the municipality works together with all its residents.

Many steps have been taken in the past period, for example with the introduction of the citizens' budget. It is now important to further stimulate citizen participation: by lowering the threshold for initiatives, inhabitants who were previously not or hardly involved in local politics, are more inclined to actively participate in and subsequently give feedback on the political process. Central to this are the acquisition of information, the exchange of arguments, time for consultation and a joint search for solutions and positions.

The greatest challenge here is to involve the quiet middle class, but also young people and students. But then you have to know each other first. That is why, following the example of Schiedam, we want to work with neighbourhood pictures: creating encounters by saving neighbours and putting them in a corresponding sticker book.

Customized care

GroenLinks believes that people's health is a key issue in Maastricht. Health is more than not being ill. Care, welfare, housing and a healthy, green living environment should go hand in hand, because that makes our residents healthier. The municipality cannot take away mental or physical limitations or cure diseases, but it can provide the necessary preconditions. In a concrete environment where people do not feel safe on the street and where there is a lot of nuisance, they lock themselves up behind the front door, they feel worse and less healthy. These are precisely the issues where the municipality can make a difference. A pleasant and liveable environment does not slow people down but makes

them more resilient, and therefore healthier and happier. That is why we want people to be able to live in their own neighbourhoods for as long as possible, to do sports and exercise, and to meet each other there, such as Athos and, for example, The Masters, Vorkje prikken and Stichting met je hart. And we want healthcare to be accessible to all residents in the neighborhood.

Everyone in Maastricht should be able to do sport and exercise somewhere. We are convinced that sports and exercise are not only healthy and relaxing, but also contribute to tolerance, cohesion, integration, and participation. We want good and affordable sports fields, swimming pools, and sports halls well distributed throughout the city. At the same time there should be enough space for residents to exercise outdoors without hindrance.

Attention from birth

Prevention is important, right from birth. In Maastricht, every young person deserves a promising start. Therefore, we want to see active efforts in prevention, cultural sensitivity, and close cooperation between general practitioners, midwives, and educational institutions. Education and training remain essential for the development of every child, of every person. Education is indispensable for growing as a human being, for making choices and for maintaining control over one's life. It is a right for residents that all parties involved, parents, education, youth health care, youth aid, the learning rights officer and the municipality join hands and really work together well. We therefore think it's great that Maastricht is participating in the provincial Trendbreak program that organizes and bundles programs and finances for this purpose.

GroenLinks thinks that we are on the right track with the wide-ranging Integral Children's Centers; schools where, in addition to the real schoolwork, children also have sports, library, and green spaces. And we think that there should be Healthy Primary Schools of the Future in more places in the city.

Children and youth with a migrant background often find it difficult to find their way to Youth Aid when they need it. GroenLinks believes that they are entitled to extra attention for the cultural differences between young people. This means that social workers have enough eye for the fact that young people sometimes grow up between two completely different world views, often with (too) much freedom and (too) much control at the same time. Especially compared to other peers. And that it is difficult for young people to find a way in this.

4. GET RID OF POVERTY AND DEBT

People with a lower income often have a hard time, also in our city. Unfortunately, Maastricht is still one of the municipalities with (too) high poverty rates. This was already a reason to implement an active poverty policy in the past period. A policy that, despite all our efforts, has not yet shown enough concrete objectives and results.

In the coming period we would like to shift up a gear and we want to do this along two lines:

- We are committed to a broad plan to guide people to work, in good cooperation between the municipality, employers, unions, education and the UWV. We do not see anything in schemes based on quid pro quo but want personal attention to help people find a good job that suits them.

- Residents deserve that we start a big offensive against debt problems in our city. For many families, welfare is too low to live decently, but many working people also live in poverty. We are going to focus even more on this. Maastricht will continue, together with other municipalities, to lobby the government to be able to do more for the various groups who are confronted with (the consequences of) poverty.

It is very important to GroenLinks that everyone in Maastricht - within the framework of the constitution - can make use of the right to demonstrate. Unfortunately, in recent years we have noticed that the municipality has (sometimes unintentionally) restricted this right. In our opinion this has to change and improve. Everyone in the city has - as long as the constitution is respected and therefore no hatred is being sown or people are being agitated - the right to have his or her voice heard.

Poverty policy will be an important part of area and district plans and will be made in collaboration with residents. This means that we start from the principle that this policy is based on the question of what is needed at district and neighbourhood level. We will invest more in local initiatives in the field of poverty prevention and more will be invested in those neighbourhoods where most of the problems are. Local venues where we find people with poverty related

problems, such as schools, community centers and food banks, will be used more often to guide people to the municipal supply of income support. The neighbourhood teams should play a central role in this.

Prevention and very early intervention can prevent much misery. We think it is a good thing that the municipality, together with housing corporations, energy companies and health insurers, signals debts at a very early stage and offer immediate help. Children in poverty deserve extra attention. Everything must be done to alleviate poverty by, for example, guaranteeing access to sports and cultural facilities through special funds. And to prevent poverty leading to major disadvantages in opportunities, extra efforts must be made to provide free homework help at schools.

GroenLinks wants those on welfare in Maastricht to be given the opportunity to live together without having their welfare payments immediately reduced. In this way, the attention can be focused on living together and further developing the relationship. We give them six months to see if they 'like' living together. Without it having an effect on their financial situation.

Residents in poverty are entitled to a little more breathing space. We will continue to apply the principle that special assistance remains available to people living on an income up to 110% of the social security standard. We do not want people who are slightly above all the standards to fall through the poverty line because they are not eligible for anything. Low-threshold assistance should be provided in applying for all kinds of provisions, allowances and regulations. This can be done through budget circles, debt assistance buddies, the neighborhood service points, the clapper project, etc. We also want to give debt relief workers the opportunity to offer tailor-made solutions through, for example, a bureaucracy-free budget.

There are people who are ashamed of their debts or money worries, but not talking about these poverty problems does not help them. There is no shame in living in poverty. We can only solve that taboo if we teach our children to treat classmates living in poverty with

respect and compassion. By making debt problems a subject of discussion, we want to be able to spot people at risk of going wrong at an early stage, stand beside them and prevent small debts from developing into an insoluble situation. At school handling money and preventing debts should have extra attention.

Menstrual poverty becomes a spearhead of the poverty policy. We do not accept that people do not have enough financial possibilities to buy (menstruation-related) hygiene products, resulting in failure at school or work. Therefore we want the municipality to join forces with schools, sports clubs, community centers and food banks and guarantee that menstrual products are available free of charge at certain locations in the city.

5. EVERYONE BELONGS!

Everyone is welcome in Maastricht. It has been that way for centuries and it will stay that way as far as we are concerned. People come to Maastricht because of the university, the international business community, the beautiful housing, the historic inner city, and the proximity of nature. GroenLinks believes in solidarity between the rich and the poor, the sick and the healthy, and between people who have a hard time and those who do not. That is why we have already paid extensive attention to combating poverty, which is necessary to help close socioeconomic gaps. Maastricht should also stand up for people from marginalized groups: for the LGBTQ+ community, people fleeing war and violence, people with disabilities, people of color. Everyone in our city has the right to be him/herself without being afraid.

Being a tolerant city also means being an inclusive and good employer. Maastricht has signed the Diversity Charter. This means that within our municipality we aim to promote diversity in the workplace, in the areas of sexual orientation, age, culture, education, gender and physical disabilities.

Maastricht is LGBTQ+ friendly!

Since 2015, on the initiative of GroenLinks, there is a rainbow crosswalk, in the heart of our city, on the Vrijthof. With this symbol in that symbolic place, Maastricht wants to underline that everyone is allowed to be there, no matter who or how you are. GroenLinks wants the municipality to pursue an inclusive policy in the years to come, paying attention to the LGBTQ+ target group and more specifically to the safety of this group. It is unacceptable that in the year 2022 LGBTQ+ people do not dare to walk down the street hand in hand or openly express their sexual orientation, for fear of being harassed or shouted at. In particular, we will be talking to schools and employers to draw attention to this, and to work on raising awareness. In that context we want to work on a rainbow coalition, that draws attention to the importance of diversity more broadly and more often. This can be done by putting up flags or, for example, by presenting a rainbow jersey to the winner of the Ridderronde. The city council should be more active in discussions with parties in the city. There should be special attention for transgender and intersex people and for people who have to deal with a combination of non-discrimination grounds, for instance because they are lesbian and Muslim. The municipality should also extra alert to ensure that safety in the asylum seekers' center is in order.

As far as GroenLinks is concerned, activities for LGBTQ+ young people will be supported by the municipality and the municipality will encourage youth care workers, community workers and other social workers to have sufficient expertise about this group. The COC Limburg

can also offer support where necessary through QueerCare. This online care counter is staffed by volunteers who have followed a training course. GroenLinks believes that the counter should be able to continue to develop in the coming years and therefore deserves the support of the municipality.

We consider that all Maastricht care institutions should have the Roze Loper certificate. At the moment, however, not a single care institution has this certificate. The municipality should control this by requiring that in tender procedures elderly and home care institutions have an LGBT-friendly policy and that they will have the Roze Loper certificate.

Maastricht offers a safe haven

People fleeing from war and violence, from persecution, from hunger or poverty, are always welcome in Maastricht. From day one these people should count in Maastricht. They should be given all spaces and rights to participate in our society. GroenLinks recognizes the importance of integration, but understands that it does not happen automatically. It is not only social, but also sensible to focus on integration as soon as possible. The Cabinet has worked in recent years to change the civic integration system. The municipality is given an important role in assisting new Maastricht citizens who are obliged to participate in a civic integration program. GroenLinks is pleased that municipalities are being given more responsibilities, and will ensure that in Maastricht the municipality will also pick up his role. Refugees must be given better opportunities to participate in our city from the beginning of the asylum procedure by learning the language, following an education, and finding work or a meaningful way to spend their day. Volunteer organizations should be encouraged to work with newcomers.

Integration comes from two sides. The contact between refugees and other Maastricht people is strengthened in different ways, from the municipality, but also from the many initiatives and informal networks in the city. Social cohesion, voluntary work and communal living should be promoted. GroenLinks opposes (political) groups that have an interest in setting groups of vulnerable inhabitants of our city up against each other.

Review

On the initiative of GroenLinks, the City Council passed a motion in early 2019 calling for joining those hundreds of other municipalities that are Children's Permit Municipalities. GroenLinks believes that in a relaxed and borderless city, children should not walk around with the fear that they could be deported! We believe in Maastricht as a 'city of tolerance'. And in such a 'city of tolerance' the children who qualify for the 'Kinderpardon' also belong!

Maastricht as a student city

GroenLinks believes that students make a very positive contribution to the atmosphere, culture, and developments in the city. Thanks to the students, the university is the lifeblood of our city. We want to cherish and preserve that. There are also relatively many art students in the city. With its conservatory, art programs, and drama program, Maastricht is a city par excellence that can continue to shape a lively culture through its students. It is important that what is learned in the programs can be experienced in the city. You want to experience

that "it" happens in Maastricht. Maastricht is also home to many international students, both from within and outside the EU. We think it is important that they also feel connected to the city. International students have an undeniable cultural and social added value.

Every six months, in September and January, a new batch of students come to our city to live, study and party. That means every six months a new group that deserves a warm welcome. But they are also taking the first steps into a new phase of life, where, understandably, boundaries are sought and sometimes crossed. Many of those students fortunately also live in the city and we notice that! GroenLinks is in favor of an adequate housing policy that reduces the pressure on overburdened neighborhoods, but at the same time remains a warm welcome for the students who keep our city lively and vibrant.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IN MAASTRICHT

The climate crisis is the greatest task of our time. The fight against global warming requires all our decisiveness, creativity and will to cooperate.

Waiting is not an option anymore: we have to roll up our sleeves now. Firm commitment from the city government is indispensable for this. Together with all residents we can really put sustainability into practice. The municipalities are obliged to achieve the goal of having all homes off natural gas and connected to an alternative heat source by 2050.

While we want to counteract the causes of climate change with the energy and heat transition, we are also working on absorbing the consequences that are bound to happen anyway. More trees and greenery will help to retain water in times of drought and heavy rainfall, but also provide more shade and counteract heat stress. In addition, we are giving high priority to the 'Maasoevers Maastricht' project, to make our city safer from high water, to make the Maas more safely navigable, to make more contact between city and Maas along the Griend, to create a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge between Griend and Bassin and from there a two-way bicycle connection to the north (rive droit), and to generate energy in Bosscherveld and at the Borgharen weir.

GroenLinks wants the energy transition to be sustainable and fair, designed and implemented together with our residents. We also want windmill projects and the construction of solar meadows to be accompanied by an investment in the biodiversity of

Perspective

Thanks to the efforts of the GroenLinks, a solar field is being created in the Lanakerveld area that will produce enough energy to meet 20% of the electricity needs of the built environment. The Lanakerveld solar field is an example for the rest of the Netherlands, because it incorporates all the requirements you would want a solar field to meet. It is the first solar field to be fitted into the landscape in a nature-inclusive manner: the landscape will be more biodiverse than it has been for centuries and the water management of the area will be improved. A habitat will be created for protected animal species such as the natterjack toad and the badger. Inhabitants will be able to participate in low-threshold projects (from € 20 deposit) and there will be an annual fund for the area. In addition, there is an educational program for schools and a lot of attention for the archaeological past of the area. In short, an important step towards a climate-neutral Maastricht!

the landscape. What is not consumed, does not have to be generated, so saving energy and combating waste have high priority.

Sustainability stands for maximum investment in energy conservation, clean energy and a climate-proof built environment. Our municipality also plays an important role in this, for example in the local transition to sustainable heat. One of the biggest challenges in the energy transition is to make all homes and buildings gas-free. Ultimately, by 2050, all homes will be connected to an alternative heat source. In order to meet the target, not every household needs to be changed immediately, but the municipality is

We want more smart charging stations with shared cars in the city: electric shared cars will function as batteries for the energy that comes directly from the solar panels on the roof. This will not only reduce the burden on the electricity grid, but will also reduce the need for on-street parking and thus create more space for greenery, bicycle racks and play areas.

obliged to do so. A major challenge awaits us in the coming years. For Maastricht, with its historic inner city, this is perhaps even more complex. Therefore, together with the province and the government, we are bringing the high-temperature residual heat of the Green Grid from Chemelot to Maastricht, and with priority to our historic inner city. We are using inner city sources of high temperature residual heat (Sappi, O-I Manufacturing) as optimally as possible in the surrounding neighbourhoods. In this way we ensure security of supply. We are also working on other sustainable sources of (middle and low temperature) residual heat: for example from the earth or the sewers, or the water of the Maas, but green electricity will also be needed to heat homes. Nuclear energy really does not fit into a truly sustainable energy mix. GroenLinks was the leader in the Netherlands of the Euroregional struggle against the ramshackle nuclear power plant in Tihange. Nuclear power is dangerous and shifts a waste problem for thousands of years to future generations. We therefore accept no new nuclear power plants in the Netherlands and certainly not within a radius of 80km from Maastricht.

A 'fair' energy transition means that people with small wallets can participate in and benefit from the energy transition. We combat energy poverty and ensure that the total cost of living for lower income households does not increase. With countries like Russia in control of rising gas prices, sustainably generated energy in the Netherlands is the solution to a stable and affordable energy bill. This certainly applies to people who have a chunk of their money left over at the end of the month and are forced to opt for an extra sweater and a lower temperature in the house or go into debt to heat their home. Those people deserve just as much a comfortable home and affordable housing costs. So as far as GroenLinks is concerned we shouldn't leave them out in the cold and we should help them make their homes more sustainable. We do this by increasing the use of energy coaches but also by offering (free) so-called small measures such as draft strips or LED lights; because every little bit helps. We therefore also make clear performance agreements with housing corporations: including minimum energy labels, circular construction, the percentage of energy-neutral homes and homes with solar panels.

'Designing together with our residents' means that everyone can actively participate in shaping the energy transition. Energy transition can only succeed if we take residents seriously with regard to their wishes and expectations for the future. We will use citizens' councils, organize neighbourhood meetings, support energy cooperatives and ensure that

no one is dependent on large monopolistic companies. We will ask residents how we can improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods and see how energy transition fits into this. And we want to strengthen local democracy by actively involving residents in the implementation of the transition.

We are committed to an economy that keeps raw materials in the cycle. The municipality is committed to short chains and the reuse of raw materials, sets a good example in its procurement policy and takes measures to reduce the amount of residual waste: in 2030 Maastricht will be a waste-free city, in which everything that is thrown away is on its way to being processed into raw materials for reuse. We are also going for maximum CO2 reduction in the municipal organization. We will use green electricity and install solar panels on all our roofs and on social property (schools, sports facilities, etc.). We also want to work actively to increase sustainability in the chain (suppliers, subcontractors, etc.). Circularity will be a criterion in all tenders. To ensure that these promises are binding, we will have ourselves certified.

The business community is important in the energy transition. On the one hand, they have to comply with legal regulations. We are strict when it comes to compliance with the Environmental Management Act. On the other hand, we are helping SMEs to implement energy-saving measures by expanding the Maastricht Energy Accords. There are many opportunities for generating and storing sustainable energy on business parks. New businesses must meet sustainability requirements.

Maastricht should be a driving force for sustainable startups and social entrepreneurs who work on innovative, creative solutions for sustainability issues. We should make use of innovative ways to generate solar energy: solar panels on carports, facades, bus shelters, fences, sound walls and lampposts.

With Centrum Management and other partners we want to make clear agreements on waste separation, sustainable logistics and measures to prevent energy wastage (patio heaters, open store fronts) in the city center. Festivals and events organized by the municipality, but also Carnival, for example, will be organized in such a way as to minimize the release of waste. In this way Maastricht will become the hub for sustainable entrepreneurs.

We build circularly. Circularity - in which cycles are closed and waste is a raw material - will be a permanent criterion in the allocation of land, tenders and permits. Within the future Environment Act we are setting stricter requirements for the environmental performance (MPG) of new buildings. If roofs have a favorable position in the sun, we will fill them as much as possible with solar panels; if that is not the case, we will opt for green roofs to counteract heat stress and retain as much water as possible. For developers who want to build projects in our municipality, the 'yes, unless' principle applies: they must indicate why green roofs or other climate-adaptive measures are not possible, rather than the other way around.

7. A GREEN, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

GroenLinks wants Maastricht to have a truly sustainable economy: a circular economy. Climate change, the deterioration of biodiversity and a growing shortage of raw materials will change a lot: how we produce/(re)use our electricity, raw materials and food and bring them to our wall socket, in our house or on our plate. These changes not only have a major

impact on our living environment, but also on our economy: it affects the way we work, produce, consume, feed ourselves, move around, and so on.

And sometimes these changes happen very quickly: just take what has changed as a result of the corona crisis: we work more from home, are less stuck in traffic jams and have a greater appreciation and need for a green living environment. Via Zuid-Limburg Bereikbaar we will intensify our large-scale avoid-the-rush-hour program to encourage residents, visitors and employees to take their bikes, work from home or travel to work outside the rush hour. Because that rush hour is fossil and polluting, unhealthy and causes a lot of inconvenience.

The municipality needs an economic vision that gives direction to all these changes. In practice, we look for too long within the existing system for the renewal of the economy, which slows down or hinders the sustainable economy. So sometimes radical steps are needed. Urban distribution without emissions is a good example. So we are also saying goodbye to Maastricht-Aachen Airport. The added economic value of the airport is actually small, the pollution is high, and it costs tens of millions that could be much better employed for larger tasks such as energy transition. Without airplanes, Maastricht Aachen Airport has enormous potential for the large-scale generation of sustainable energy from wind and sun, which can count on a great deal of support from local residents.

GroenLinks opts for a green industrial policy. If companies genuinely want to become more sustainable and do not produce things that are meant to be thrown away, then we warmly welcome those companies to Maastricht. We will support industry, companies and startups that really contribute to a sustainable world. We will make sure that everyone can get a good education and can retrain for professions that the sustainable companies badly need. We will train people with a distance to the labor market for new "green jobs" (such as installers of heat pumps and solar panels, electricians or precision runners). After all, the energy transition and circular economy are the job engine of the future.

Together with entrepreneurs and educational institutions, we want a Green Deal for Maastricht. We want to make agreements about how we are going to make the (knowledge) economy of Maastricht sustainable. What training is needed to achieve this. How we are going to improve the quality of internships and graduation projects in the region, and how we are going to keep recent graduates loyal to Maastricht. Combating school drop-out is also included.

SMEs are the engine of the economy. Maastricht must start offering and creating more opportunities for SMEs and startups so that they can invest more in innovative developments that contribute to a sustainable and circular economy; this can be done, for example, through a fund that provides loans so that each invested euro can be used several times. But entrepreneurship is more than just investing, producing and selling. We want all entrepreneurs in Maastricht to apply corporate social responsibility in their business so that they are and remain future-proof. With the Maastricht Energy Accords, we encourage them to become members of the CSR Netherlands network and exchange local experiences. And of course the entrepreneurs are there for all the inhabitants of our city. We would like to see all inhabitants of Maastricht doing their shopping and drinking a cup of coffee at the local entrepreneurs. You will then know better what you are buying and eating, it is more sustainable (less transport) and helps the local economy.

Educational institutions are badly needed to make the step towards this circular economy. Top scientific research and education in Maastricht will be further expanded in combination with the Brightlands campuses. Not only is this good for employment, but it also keeps Maastricht interesting for students. They provide new influences, new creativity, and enrich the city's culture. But all educational institutions in Maastricht are of great value to our city. After all, this is where generations are trained that we desperately need to start working in the sustainable economy and to shape it further. We want a Green Deal for Maastricht with educational institutions and businesses. We want to make agreements about how we are going to make the (knowledge) economy of Maastricht sustainable and which courses are needed for that. We will also discuss how we can improve the quality of work placements and graduate studies in the region, and how we can keep recent graduates loyal to Maastricht. Combating school dropout is also included in this.

Maastricht's Brightlands campus is the Maastricht Health Campus (MHC), in which the hospital MUMC+, Maastricht University and the MECC play a major role. By now, there are more jobs on the MHC than in the city center of Maastricht! At the same time, this is hardly visible. As far as GroenLinks is concerned, the area deserves an area development that more clearly marks its importance for the city. With more greenery, places to meet, parking more at the borders of the area. But we also want more distinctive architecture. A place that breathes and radiates innovation, inside and out.

Ultimately, the economy is not just a local issue. Maastricht in particular benefits from making its economy more sustainable as part of a strong Euroregional vision. Polluting choices elsewhere, such as the biomass plant in Lixhe, do not fit in with this and therefore require (administrative) resistance from Maastricht. But even more than that, it demands that we act and plan together with our Euroregional neighbors. This approach also means that the public transport infrastructure must be suitable: frequent connections with Heerlen and Sittard on the one hand, and Liège and Aachen on the other, are necessary. Connection to the network of European high-speed trains is also part of this.

8. CULTURAL POWER OF MAASTRICHT

Culture is a very important way to meet each other in Maastricht. Maastricht wants to be a city of culture and there are many cultural institutions and culture makers, but they are not available or accessible to every Maastricht citizen. That has to change. GroenLinks wants culture to be for and from everyone. More and affordable culture can stimulate people to (re)discover their own creativity. Culture can also have positive effects in the social domain. Moreover, we can cooperate much more in a (Eu)regional context. Culture connects people and is also an important source of employment.

More cultural education is essential to promote creativity and connection among young people and to get the cultural heart beating. Cultural education should become a structural part of the regular education offer. Children should come into contact with various art and cultural disciplines and become more involved in cultural activities. More physical places and cultural breeding grounds are needed in the outskirts and neighbourhoods, especially for young people. Cultural (and social) incubators and sanctuaries have traditionally proven to be the drivers of radical change. We therefore want to retain these for the city. The visibility of cultural initiatives and events in the city must also be improved. We do this by placing advertising facilities for cultural performances and activities in all the neighborhoods. After years of silence, the Muziekgieterij was again the first place in our city

with a real new mural. We are going to fill more Maastricht walls with professional murals and poems. In addition, we will designate places where beginning street artists and muralists can practice and experiment freely.

The Theater aan het Vrijthof and the Muziekgieterij are currently still too limited in their possibilities while they are two key players in the cultural field of the city. The Theater should be privatized in order to be able to develop further. De Muziekgieterij is important for the whole of Maastricht and has a broad regional function, even beyond the national borders. This requires high-quality programming and deserves an appropriate financial contribution from the municipality.

Culture makers are among the hardest hit by COVID-19 in our economy. Many culture

Review

Because of the COVID-19 crisis, many culture makers have lost their jobs and are retraining to find other ways to survive. But also the people of Maastricht are in need of conviviality again and have a great need for togetherness and culture. Thanks to a motion by GroenLinks, the municipal executive has started working on the question of facilitating a city-wide culture festival after Corona, where all cultural disciplines can present themselves. This could be the basis for an annually recurring and multifaceted festival that would put Maastricht back on the map as a cultural city in one fell swoop. In short: a festival that brings Maastricht back to life, connects with its people and breathes culture.

makers have given up their profession because they did not have a buffer with which they could absorb the consequences of this crisis. Fortunately, partly at the insistence of

There will be a city pass for lower incomes, youth up to 18 years and students, which will allow free or reduced access to the cultural offering in Maastricht.

We will improve the opening hours of our city library Centre Céramique to better suit the needs of the visitors, and we will stimulate our young readers with reading hours and book loans through the elementary school.

Museums in the city are open to everyone free of charge for one half day per month.

GroenLinks, the municipality has promised to apply the Fair Practice Code in projects subsidized by the municipality. This means that artists receive fair payment. But that is not enough. If we really want to become a city of culture again, stimulation programs must be set up on a large scale. From an economic, cultural and social standpoint, we need to put culture on the map even better. Too much of all the beauty that is produced remains too unknown to the public. We want to help cultural entrepreneurs to be better in the spotlight, without falling into the trap of thinking that only what belongs to popular culture has added value. Because (un)known makes (un)loved!

We will make cultural entrepreneurship even more possible. A flexible policy that listens carefully to culture makers is crucial to this. After all, they know what they want and what is needed to achieve it.

Better cooperation and stimulating the mutual connection within the cultural field is of great importance. In this way the cultural entrepreneurs can strengthen their joint position towards the municipality so that they too are heard, and not just the café and hotel owners.

Finally, GroenLinks has an eye for the monumental heritage in our city, from the Fortifications to the City Hall, from Saint Servatius to the castle of Borgharen, from Eiffel to Maastricht Station. Not just because all those beautiful places and buildings are beautiful to look at. But precisely because they are the backdrops in which our cultural DNA has been recorded throughout history. They give us the message that we are all passers-by, who have the city on loan, and they instruct us to take good care of it. They give us pride and give us the opportunity to meet. They connect young and old, newcomers and native Maastricht people, from left to right, from progressive to conservative. GroenLinks wants to work on preserving, experiencing, and giving meaning to these monuments. For those who built them, for those who have experienced them, for ourselves and for our children and grandchildren. In short: for the whole(some) city.

9. OUR PROGRAMME POINTS

THE GREEN CITY

- Everyone is entitled to have green space in the neighbourhood: we want every citizen to have a green public area nearby for relaxation and physical exercise. All these green areas are linked together as much as possible by green strips and water. In this way we also limit heat stress in the city.
- Every renovation or adjustment to the public space will result in more green space, biodiversity and climate resilience. In other words: every adjustment must also make our municipality greener.
- We will plant 10,000 trees, also on the Market Square! We want a green Square plan for the city and designated places for 'Tiny Forests' to enhance biodiversity. When the municipality cuts down a tree, we plant two back. To cut trees with a circumference wider than 25 cm, a permit is needed, both for the municipality and private individuals and companies.
- Together with citizens, associations and companies, we are going to work on the best and greenest possible layout of their immediate surroundings. CNME (centre for nature and environment education) is an indispensable partner in this and where possible we will intensify the collaboration.
- Birds, butterflies, bees and other insects are of great importance to our living environment. We therefore will take biodiversity into account in the management of public green spaces. Our parks, verges and other green spaces will be cared for and laid out according to the principles of ecological management. This will also be reflected in our mowing policy.
- For protected species (such as beavers, rooks, bats and wall lizards) we will develop management plans to strengthen their habitats and, where possible, to prevent or reduce tensions in their coexistence with humans.
- When building for people, we will do so nature-inclusively. This includes providing greenery and space for birds, insects and bats.
- The STOP principle is 'here to stay'! Road safety is essential for children and adults alike. To ensure this, we will gradually reduce the maximum speed in built-up areas to 30 km/h. Where possible we will make roads one-way. Mopeds and scooters will have to use the streets again. This usually requires major reconstructions, for which there has been a lack of money in recent years. We therefore want to triple the annual mobility budget to € 1.5 million per year. We are counting on government policy and budget to get to work.
- In the area between Via Regia- Noorderbrug-Terblijterweg on the north side and Tongerseweg-Kennedybrug-Akersteenweg on the south side (the so-called rib structure) we are changing our public space into zones with green space, clean air and space for cyclists and pedestrians. In the area between the ribs, car-free areas are created where recreation, meeting people, playing, sport and relaxation are central.
- We invest in bicycle infrastructure. In this way, we make cycling more attractive and our citizens are seduced to leave their polluting cars at home more often. Express cycle paths will be built to provide cyclists from outside the city with a comfortable and safe route into town. We are strengthening the inner-city cycling network by connecting all the city districts with the most important facilities.

- Where necessary, we will create additional bicycle parking spaces and citizens will have the opportunity to convert car parking spaces into bicycle parking spaces. We will invest in a big underground or indoor bicycle parking facility in the city centre west of the Meuse River, for example in the basement of Entre Deux.
- In 2021, thanks to GroenLinks, a bicycle parking standard was introduced for the first time. In the coming years we will tighten this standard. At the same time, we will encourage shared transport concepts such as MaaS (Mobility as a Service) to further reduce the number of necessary car parking spaces.
- We understand that illegally parked bicycles are an eyesore for many residents. In a bicycle town like Maastricht, bicycles are part of the street scene and not every illegally parked bicycle is a problem. Sidewalks should of course remain passable, especially for the blind, visually impaired and disabled. Enforcement alone will not solve that problem. Together with Zuid-Limburg Bereikbaar (South Limburg Accessible) we will continue to invest in behaviour change campaigns. Where possible we will significantly expand the number of bicycle parking spaces. Enforcement on illegally parked bicycles is then the final step in cases where illegally parked bicycles are truly undesirable, in the way or dangerous. Of course alternatives must be available. (in the first place around the station and in the core shopping area).
- The public space belongs to all of us. In 2021 the Maastricht car parking standards were lowered. Based on these new standards, we will make an inventory of the current number of parking spaces in the city and eliminate the superfluous parking spaces to make room for cyclists, pedestrians, greening or children playing.
- The demarcation of the paid parking area will be based on a parking pressure study and through a clear and transparent participation process.
- We will increase the parking rates. In neighbourhoods where there is no space according to the parking standards, no new second parking permits will be issued. In other neighbourhoods, the second parking permit will become significantly more expensive. The use of (electric) car sharing concepts in the neighbourhood or alternative parking locations for a possible second car will be stimulated. At least in the inner city, paid parking will be introduced in the evening hours.
- In 2025 the centre of Maastricht will be a zone for Zero Emission City Logistics (ZES). Together with entrepreneurs, flows of goods to and from that zone will be better bundled and transported entirely with zero-emission vehicles.
- In the city centre we will establish an environmental zone, overlapping with the ZES zone. The cameras of the ZES-zone can thus serve twice as effectively. In the city districts, residents will choose for themselves whether they want a car-free or an environmental zone. In this way we will stimulate the transition to cleaner transport.
- The rush hour is polluting, unhealthy and causes a lot of inconvenience. Via Zuid-Limburg Bereikbaar (South Limburg Accessible) we will intensify our large-scale rush hour program in order to help residents, visitors and employees to take the bicycle, work at home or travel to work outside the rush hour.
- Every kilometer not taken by car counts. We therefore will build large-scale parking facilities from which you can continue your journey by train, bus, boat, bicycle or on foot. We do this at logical locations, not strictly at the edges of the city or municipal boundaries. Near the Brusselse Poort shopping centre or on Trega South along the Noorderbrug are obvious locations. But we will also talk to our (Dutch and Belgian) neighbors about possible locations on their territory.
- GroenLinks is a strong supporter of the Tram Vlaanderen Maastricht, based on the expectation that it will bring visitors and employees from Flanders to our city quickly, comfortably and sustainably, and will therefore lead to much less car traffic from that region. We eagerly await the quick resolution of any problems in Flanders, because in Maastricht everything is ready to proceed with the construction of the line on our territory. Alternatives

were rejected years ago (train, by the NMBS) or regressive compared to the current situation ('trambus'). If the streetcar project fails unexpectedly, we fear decades of stagnation in improving cross-border public transport. Our residents and those of the Flemish region deserve better.

HOUSING IN MAASTRICHT

- All new construction should consist of a fixed percentage of social housing and a fixed percentage of homes in the middle segment (purchase and rental).
- Housing is not a commodity. That is why we are introducing a self occupancy obligation and an anti-speculation clause for new owner-occupied homes.
- We will set a rent ceiling and a maximum rent increase for new rental homes in the free sector.
- To alleviate the housing shortage in the short term, we provide temporary housing.
- We will continue to encourage and facilitate the conversion of vacant commercial and office buildings into homes.
- We will tackle the exploitation of tenants. A landlord's license is required to rent out a house or room. Anyone who exploits tenants, fails to provide decent living conditions or discriminates in the admission of tenants will lose his or her license.
- We will build on a large scale for students. In this campus-like set-up, specific facilities, such as sports and cultural facilities, can also be realized. These campus locations must also offer cheap rooms. At the same time, we will limit the number of rooms where this leads to inconvenience.
- Rules must be set for the number of buildings in which rooms may be rented out and requirements must be set for the facilities in those buildings for garbage and bicycles.
- We believe that landlords should be encouraged to work much more than they do now with the quality mark "pleasant living". This would make it clear to students looking for a room which landlords they can trust.
- The GroenLinks lobby for lifting the levy for social housing corporations has already worked in part because it is being further reduced. This means that the room for investment for corporations is growing. GroenLinks believes that this investment leeway should be used in particular to make social housing more sustainable. Accessibility, life-course resistance and social safety of these homes could immediately benefit. Moreover, this reduces the likelihood that tenants will no longer be able to pay their gas bills.
- It is time to really break down the last barrier in Maastricht, not only by building more housing near the station but also making housing above the railroad a serious option. That real estate development could finally join both sides of the tracks and realize the vision of City & Rail.

LIVING & CARING TOGETHER

- Every resident is entitled to a friendly and personal approach from the municipality. We have to get rid of impenetrable phone blockades and "computer says no" answers. Or from information and communication that is unclearly worded.
- We recognize that low literacy is a big issue in Maastricht. That is why we make sure that letters and websites of the municipality are readable and understandable for everyone. In order to achieve this, the municipality hires low-literates as co-reader.

- Applications for benefits will no longer (only) be assessed on the basis of legal guidelines, but employees of the Social Services take the time to consider specific situations of applicants.
- Sociale Zaken Maastricht Heuvelland and the Social Services will continue to work on the basis that there is no quid pro quo in social assistance. Maastricht citizens in the Participation Act are entitled to personal and tailor-made help and guidance on their way to suitable work, voluntary work, education or a daytime activity. This may involve a gentle hand or a push in the back, but always with respect for the individual.
- For GroenLinks, good employment and good pay (at least 120% of the minimum wage) is the starting point. The municipality has an exemplary role in this, not only by applying it itself, but also by propagating it to other employers in the city.
- We are in favour of experiments with a basic income, whereby the obligation to apply for a job is dropped and we expand the possibilities of additional income. We are mapping out the legal possibilities for this.
- Essential voluntary work and informal care should lead (automatically) to an exemption from the obligation to apply for a job. If necessary, the local government will carry out random checks on voluntary work and/or informal care.
- The local government should help self-employed people who are forced to be self-employed and have received support from the local government during the Covid-19 period to find employment, preferably in the sustainable sector, the public sector and the construction industry.
- We support the national plea to increase the minimum wage to 14 EUR whilst maintaining linkage with benefits like AOW (national old age pensions act). We will continue to carry out this lobby with dozens of other municipalities in the coming period.
- Within the covering network of Integral Children's Centres (IKCs) where "normal" school activities are combined with pre- and early school activities and after-school activities such as homework and sports, we continue to ensure that all children can take advantage of their opportunities.
- Children of asylum seekers are also - in anticipation of their procedure - entitled to good education in our city!
- For young people with behavioural problems we guarantee short term care, with the aim of returning to school (for example, a rebound facility) and agreements are made with the business community about internships / apprenticeships for (early) school leavers and mentoring and coaching projects.
- In recent years, we have seen that, particularly in the better-off districts, people do know how to find help. But that is not the place where help is most needed. So, we will have to concentrate more on the neighbourhoods where help is most needed.
- We don't just train staff in public area(s) in recognizing confused or worrying behaviour. Also schools, family members, members of a sports club will get ways to learn to recognize confused behavior, and they will have a place where they can go with the signals.

GET RID OF POVERTY AND DEBT!

- There are people who are ashamed of their debts or money worries, but not talking about these poverty problems does not help them. There is no shame in living in poverty. We can only solve that taboo if we teach our children to treat classmates living in poverty with respect and compassion. By making debt problems a subject of discussion, we want to be able to spot people at risk of going wrong at an early stage, stand beside them and prevent small debts from developing into an insoluble situation. At school, we pay attention at an early stage to dealing with money and preventing debts.

- GroenLinks wants those on welfare in Maastricht to be given the opportunity to live together without having their welfare payments immediately reduced. In this way, attention can be focused on living together and further developing the relationship. We give them six months to see if they 'like' living together. Without it having an effect on their financial situation.
- We want cooperative agreements between the municipality, housing corporations, energy suppliers, employers and social workers to be able to intervene quickly in risk situations.
- There must be low-threshold support when applying for all kinds of facilities, allowances and regulations. This can be done through budget circles, debt assistance buddies, the neighbourhood service points, the klapper project, etc. We also give debt relief workers the opportunity to offer tailor-made solutions through, for example, a bureaucracy-free budget.
- Poverty policy becomes an important part of area and neighbourhood plans and is shaped in cooperation with residents. This means that we apply the principle that policy is designed according to what is needed at district and neighbourhood level. We invest more in local initiatives in the field of poverty prevention and more is invested in those neighbourhoods where the problems are greatest. Local public places where we find people with problems with poverty, such as schools, community centres and food banks, are used more often to direct people to the municipal supply of income support. The neighbourhood teams play a central role in this.
- Menstrual poverty becomes a spearhead within the poverty policy. We do not accept that people do not have enough financial possibilities to buy (menstruation-related) hygiene products, resulting in school or job loss. Therefore, we want the municipality to join forces with schools, sports clubs, community centres and food banks and guarantee that menstrual products are available free of charge at certain locations in the city.

EVERYONE IN OUR CITY BELONGS!

- We do not allow exclusion in our city! The municipality works together with the Antidiscrimination Service Limburg (ADV Limburg) to fight sexism, racism and discrimination.
- We will guarantee that everyone in the city can reach public places taking into account the monumental character of several places in the city (such as the Fortifications). This means that it does not matter if you are in a wheelchair, have a walker, have a visual or hearing impairment. The 'UN convention for people with disabilities' is the guiding principle.
- We will make an effort to ensure that the municipality's workforce reflects the local community.
- GroenLinks wants all Maastricht care institutions to have the Roze Loper certificate. The municipality moves for this by setting requirements in tender procedures that elderly and home care institutions have an LGBTI+-friendly policy and that they possess the Roze Loper certificate for LGBTI+-friendly care. Currently, not a single Maastricht care facility has this certificate.
- We believe that the online care counter QueerCare of the COC (Dutch centre for LGBTI+ rights) should be able to continue developing in the coming years and therefore deserves the support of the municipality.
- We want the municipality to more actively encourage EU students to register with the municipality and that they also vote in the (municipal) elections.
- We remain committed to diversity in the workplace, in terms of sexual orientation, age, culture, educational level, gender, and physical limitations as the norm. The previously signed Diversity Charter forms the starting point for this.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- We want to give high priority to the project 'Maasoevers Maastricht' in order to make our city safer from flooding.
- We not only want to make our city safer from flooding, but also make the Meuse more safely navigable, create more contact between city and Meuse along the Griend.
- We are creating a two-way bicycle connection to the north (rive droite), and generating energy in Bosscherveld and at the Borgharen weir.
- We make use of innovative ways to generate solar energy: solar panels on carports, facades, bus shelters, fences, sound walls and lampposts.
- We want the high-temperature residual heat from Chemelot's Green Grid to be brought to Maastricht, and with priority to our monumental city centre. We will use inner city sources of residual heat (Sappi, O-I Manufacturing) as optimally as possible in the surrounding neighbourhoods. In this way we ensure security of supply. We are also working on other sustainable sources of (middle and low temperature) residual heat: for example from the earth or the sewers, or the water of the Maas. However, green electricity will also be needed to heat homes.
- Nuclear energy really does not fit into a truly sustainable energy mix. GroenLinks was the leader in the Netherlands of the Euroregional struggle against the ramshackle nuclear power plant in Tihange. Nuclear power is dangerous and shifts a waste problem for thousands of years to future generations. We therefore accept no new nuclear power plants in the Netherlands and certainly not within a radius of 80km from Maastricht.
- The smart charging plaza with shared cars on the Alexander Battalaan will be replicated in the city: electric shared cars will function as batteries for the energy that comes directly from the solar panels on the roofs. In this way we not only reduce the pressure on the power grid, but also reduce the need for on-street parking and thus create more space for greenery, bicycle racks and play areas.
- With 'carrot and stick' we ensure that companies participate in the energy transition. We are strict about compliance with the Environmental Management Act. At the same time, we are actively helping SMEs to implement energy-saving measures by expanding the Maastricht Energy Accords.
- All business parks must become more sustainable. There are many opportunities there for generating and storing sustainable energy. New businesses must meet sustainability requirements. Maastricht is the driving force behind sustainable start-ups and social entrepreneurs working on innovative, creative solutions for sustainability issues. This will make Maastricht the hub for sustainable entrepreneurs.
- Together with Centrum Management and other partners, we will make clear agreements on waste separation, sustainable logistics, and measures to prevent the waste of energy (patio heating, open storefronts) in the city centre.
- If roofs have a favourable position in the sun, we will choose to fill them as much as possible with solar panels; if this is not the case, green roofs will be chosen to prevent heat stress and retain as much water as possible. For developers who want to build projects in our municipality, the 'yes, unless' principle applies: they must indicate why green roofs or other climate-adaptive measures are not possible, rather than the other way around.
- We will make clear performance agreements with housing corporations, including minimum energy labels, circular construction, the percentage of energy-neutral homes and homes with solar panels.
- As a municipality we have an exemplary function. We therefore aim for maximum CO2 reduction (and/or CO2 equivalents) within our own organization. We will use green electricity and install solar panels on all our roofs and on social property (schools, sports

facilities, etc.). We will also actively work to increase sustainability in the chain (suppliers, subcontractors, etc.).

A GREEN, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- We will build circularly. Circularity - in which cycles are closed and waste is a raw material - will be a fixed criterion in land allocation, tenders and permits. Within the future Environment Act we are setting stricter requirements for the environmental performance (MPG) of new buildings.
- Circularity will be a criterion in all the municipality's tenders. To make sure that these promises are not non-binding we will have ourselves certified.
- Festivals and events organized by the municipality and popular celebrations such as Carnival should be organized in such a way that the release of waste is minimized.
- Together with entrepreneurs and educational institutions, we want a Green Deal for Maastricht. We are going to make agreements about how we are going to make the (knowledge) economy of Maastricht sustainable. Which training courses are needed to achieve this. How we are going to improve the quality of internships and graduate studies in the region, and how we are going to keep newly graduated students in Maastricht. The fight against school drop-out will also be part of this approach.
- As far as GroenLinks is concerned, the Maastricht Health Campus deserves an area development that more clearly marks the importance of the area for the city. With more greenery, places to meet, more parking at the edges of the area, but also with distinctive architecture. A place that breathes and radiates innovation, inside and out.
- We want to preserve cultural and social breeding grounds and sanctuaries for the city. They especially contribute to the radical changes that are needed. For non-profit initiatives that are unable to pay market rents for municipal real estate, we will create a subsidy.
- We want all entrepreneurs in Maastricht to apply corporate social responsibility in their business so that they will be future-proof. Through the Maastricht Energy Accords we encourage them to become members of the CSR Netherlands network and exchange local experiences.
- We want a fund that pays out loans to SMEs and start-ups, so that every euro invested in innovative projects that contribute to a green economy is spent multiple times.
- We want to promote local shopping. People know better what they are buying and eating, it is more sustainable (less transport) and helps the local economy. We want to stimulate this by rewarding the purchase of products at local entrepreneurs with citycoins. These can be used to buy other local products or to pay for a visit to a cultural performance.

THE CULTURAL POWER

- Better cooperation and stimulating the connection within the cultural field is of great importance. A structure must be created for this purpose and in this way the cultural scene will also strengthen its position towards the city.
- A cultural recovery fund will be set up to offer cultural makers the possibility of a restart after the Covid-19 crisis.
- There will be a city pass for lower incomes, youth up to 18 years and students, thus allowing them free or otherwise reduced access to the cultural offerings in Maastricht.

- We invest in our reading culture! We will improve the opening hours of our city library Centre Céramique to better suit the needs of the visitors, and we will stimulate our young readers with reading hours and book loans through the elementary school.
- Cultural education will become a structural part of the regular education offer. Children can thus come into contact with several art and culture disciplines and be involved in various cultural activities. Funding for the schools can be arranged through the Huis voor de Kunsten (House for the Arts) and the coordination through Kumulus.
- Cultural development among young people is additionally supported and facilitated, for example by structurally offering cultural activities for and by young people in community centres and the like. The offer is tailored to the needs and wishes of these young people.
- When granting subsidies to (amateur) associations and foundations, we will impose the condition that new programming must attract more young people.
- Locations for cultural activities in neighbourhoods will have to be included in area development and zoning plans.
- Art and cultural policy will also be included as an important part of economic and (Eu)regional policy. It is important to stimulate the creation of a value chain in the sector.
- Cultural incubators and sanctuaries will be facilitated wherever possible.
- There will be more affordable studio spaces for artists. This is how we keep artists in Maastricht.
- We will fill more Maastricht walls with professional murals and poems. We will also designate places where beginning street artists and wall artists can practice and experiment freely.
- In the various neighbourhoods, advertising pillars or other advertising facilities will be set up to make cultural activities visible.
- The Theater aan het Vrijthof will be privatized.
- The Muziekgieterij is important for the city (and region) and deserves high-quality programming. The stage will receive the necessary subsidy to be able to fully develop itself.
- Kumulus will work with the cultural field and Trajekt to develop projects for the social domain.
- We will restore the annual subsidy for highlighting the Open Monuments Day, thereby once again living up to the status of second monument city in the Netherlands.
- We will continue our efforts to preserve, experience and give meaning to the monuments of our city such as the Town Hall, Saint Servatius, Borgharen Castle and the Eiffel building. They make us proud and give us the opportunity to meet each other. They connect the whole city.