

## ENLENS: Energy Transition Through the Lens of SDGs

1. Title: *Transitional Waters: The Port of Amsterdam and the Energy Transition*
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3. Societal case

To address the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and meet the SDGs, we address the role of the Port of Amsterdam (PoA). The PoA is a logistical and infrastructural space that is shaping the energy transition in the Netherlands and EU: it is the largest gasoline terminal in Europe, while the wind-capacity offshore of Ijmuiden is projected to be the largest globally by 2030 (Offshore Energy Wind Energy Roadmap 2030). In this unique energyscape, transnational investments in fossil fuel infrastructures comingle with renewable energy subsidies, policy, and political pressure while the flows of raw materials, estuarine ecologies, and rising sea levels materialize *in situ* the environmental envelope through which transitional futures become realities. This project is a pilot collaboration between Energy Humanities (FGw) and Energy Policy (FMG) scholars asking: **How do resource and revenue flows materialize in this energyscape to facilitate a sustainable energy transition?** We track the cartographies of finance and materials that connect the PoA with extractive and economic geographies worldwide through archival and field research (May-December 2022). Knowledge synthesis will occur 1) during a one-week residency bringing field experts in dialogue with ENLENS researchers at Ijmuiden (July 2022), and 2) a public facing research event and exhibition (December, 2022).

4. Scientific case

While the growing role of PoA in meeting sustainability goals has received limited attention, the site is uniquely relevant to addressing critical questions of climate, energy, and culture named in SDG7 and SDG4. First, how is just transition envisaged through PoA and offshore energy development? Second, how can transdisciplinary methods address representational difficulties posed by intangible or unreachable sites and infrastructures? We combine inclusive development, environmental humanities, and artistic research to assess how flows of resource and revenue shape socioecological futures from local through to transnational scales. We undertake a situated case study for the larger ambitions of ENLENS, rendering *tangible* and *legible* the flows of power and value that influence transition in the context of the estuarine ecologies and offshore infrastructures of an imagined carbon-neutral horizon. Examining the poetics and politics of infrastructure (Larkin 2018), we adopt historically and materially embedded methodologies to track (1) global flows of energy investment through PoA, (2) map the material ecologies of supply chains and (3) examine how power, finance, and environment influence energy in Amsterdam's transitional waters. Building on projects outlined below, our theory of change embeds artistic research as both an output and a mode of 'open-plan fieldwork' (Lynes 2016) to communicate research through immersive exhibition installations and creative-critical publications.

5. Contribution to the aims and success indicators of ENLENS

A.

This project complements the ongoing work on the ERC Advanced Grant – CLIFF (Climate Change and Fossil Fuel; 2021-2026) examining the conditions under which a global fossil fuel phase out is possible (Gupta) and FieldARTS, an ASCA/NICA funded research residency on artistic and humanistic engagement with port ecologies building on ongoing publications on infrastructures of energy transition (Diamanti 2021). ENLENS provides crucial resources to examine Amsterdam more intensively as a case study alongside the regional and global scale of Gupta and Diamanti’s research. The work on Amsterdam will also be incorporated into the ongoing research on finance and resource flows, but the outcomes of this particular collaboration will be distinct and conclude at the end of the ENLENS grant with public facing exhibitions, panel discussions, a co-written scientific paper, and an arts and culture book collection.

B.

There is limited cooperation between FMG and FGw; although we currently have a NWO financed Leave Fossil Fuel Underground project; this project aims to further develop the relations between the humanities and social science by linking qualitative and quantitative methods, the arts and the sciences especially with regard to finance and energy flows.

C1. This funding will cement partnerships with Framer Framed (2000 euro outside-in artist commission); the Citizen Science Lab at Wageningen (1000 euro in-kind); Sonic Acts (2000 euro in cash artist commission) and Gemeente Velsen. This builds on existing funding from ASCA/NICA (2800 euro in cash) for FieldARTS.

C2. We plan to use the results of this project in our Advanced Environmental Geography course, our Climate Crises course (Gupta), and the NICA core course “Field Philosophy” (Diamanti). rMA and PhD students at ASCA, alongside CLIFF funded MSC students, will also participate in the July workshop for national research credit.

C3. Results from the research will be displayed 1) in a public facing exhibition at Framer Framed in December, 2022; 2) the Sonic Acts festival in November, 2022; 3) co-written academic publication by joint PIs; 4) and an arts and culture book collecting short interventions from participants with The Last Books Press, Amsterdam, in 2022.

6. Budget (FGw: 15,000; FMG/GID: 15,000; Data acquisition: 11,942): **41,942 euro**

FGw

- Arts and culture book – euro 2000
- Fieldwork room and board – euro 5000
- 2 junior researcher / project managers – euro 5000
- Guest speakers – 3000

FMG/GID:

- Junior researcher – Euro 10,000
- Fieldwork for existing staff and workshop – Euro 5000

Data acquisition/preparation

- Purchase of Rystad Energy database use for a year for 5 people – Euro 9000
- 1 year SAT Global license for marinetraffic.com – euro 1942

## References

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Larkin, Brian. “Promising Forms: The Political Aesthetics of Infrastructure” in *The Promise of Infrastructure* eds. Nikhil Anand et al. Duke University Press, 2018.

Lynes, Krista Geneviève. “World of Matter” in *Elemental – An Arts and Ecology Reader* ed. James Brady. Gaia Project Press, 2016.

‘New Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap,’ *Netherlands Enterprise Agency*, 2022.