

How local and regional governments can catalyse water innovations on islands

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Abstract

At the core of Fryslân's provincial policy lies the mission 'Blue Delta,' championing water, circular economy, and local communities, inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Frisian Delta, with its four islands, serves as a focal point for societal innovations, particularly in water and energy, acting as a real-world testing ground.

In collaboration with diverse European islands, leveraging European funding (such as Efrò, Erasmus & Interreg), we've developed the Tipping-Rudder model. As a government, our objective is to catalyze and implement bottom-up ideas related to water. Our paper delves into the context, exploring how local and regional governments, guided by the Tipping-Rudder model, can facilitate these processes. We present examples of this approach on Vlieland and Schiermonnikoog, the sole Dutch islands not connected to the national drinking water network. These examples encompass both the water cycle and the water system, revealing different aspects of water dynamics and the complexities in these vital areas.

In fostering additional international collaboration among islands, our experiences with the Tipping-Rudder model contribute to a shared knowledge base. We envision an ongoing exchange and development of best practices and next practices. This interconnected approach is crucial for addressing shared water-related concerns and collectively advancing solutions on a global scale. In our paper, we will elaborate on specific possibilities for future collaboration.

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