

Heerlen

Press release

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Mine water for heating and cooling

LEF takes over Mijnwater B.V.

The Municipality of Heerlen has sold Mijnwater B.V. to the Limburgse Energie Fonds (Limburg energy fund, LEF). The transfer of all shares also marks the end of the pioneer phase. Charles Claessens, chairman of the executive committee responsible for sustainability, had this to say: 'The city has taken on a risk by investing in technological development. The challenge now is to actually invest and innovate, to make the knowledge gained accessible to the general public. Our commitment to working together has paid off.'

The 'Mijnwaterproject' (mine water project) was 'born' in Heerlen in 2003, when it was found that mine galleries filled with water could be a source of sustainable energy. Years of research, innovations, and tests have since led to an application that can be used in places that have no mine galleries. In turn, this has ensured that the knowledge we have can be applied in the rest of the province and further afield.

Unique and successful

The provincial government has been closely involved from the start. Ger Koopmans, a member of the Provincial Executive, is very pleased with the result so far achieved. 'Independent research has shown that mine water is a unique, strong resource that can support our national energy transition. As far as I am concerned, this is an important part of what Limburg has to offer for the "Regio Deal," a regional, social assistance programme launched by the Dutch government.' Fellow Provincial Executive for Energy and Sustainability, Rob Ruers, added, 'Gas and other fossil fuels are being phased out extremely quickly. And our region is once again providing the energy that keeps people warm.'

A major energy supplier

Louis Hiddels is the director of Mijnwater B.V. He knows better than anyone that the company is now ready to grow into a major energy supplier. 'Our team has the knowledge to help both current and new districts and neighbourhoods to go gas-free. This has already been achieved in many homes, businesses, and schools in the region. We're going to roll this out at many more locations in Heerlen and the surrounding area.'

Using existing funds for more projects

LEF is eager to help Mijnwater grow. 'LEF has seen Mijnwater's potential and how it's ready to take on the next step,' says Philip Tan, the director of LEF. 'We're the ideal partner. We believe in the scalability of Mijnwater and will be fully committed to achieving growth. In this way, Mijnwater can play a key role in helping the Netherlands to go gas-free.'

Editor's note:

The Limburgse Energie Fonds (Limburg energy fund, LEF) was established by the province of Limburg and is funded by the European Investment Bank and the European Strategic Investment Fund (EFSI). It supports projects in energy saving, renewable energy generation, and energy transition and circular projects. It may also provide asbestos-removal services for these projects. The fund has 90 million euros of capital.