



WATER MANAGEMENT

SAFETY
SUFFICIENT WATER
CLEAN WATER

ZUIDERZEELAND REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

For more information on water management,
go to www.zuiderzeeland.nl

Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority ensures that there is neither too much, nor too little
water in the Flevoland polders. Moreover, the Regional Water Authority treats waste water.

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WATER MANAGEMENT Not too dry and not too wet. And of course good quality. One of the Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority's tasks is to ensure that the water in the polders meets the required standards. It is responsible for all surface waters in Flevoland: all the water in all the drainage channels and ponds/lakes. This means that the Regional Water Authority must ensure that water levels are neither too high, nor too low, and that the water is treated and stays clean.

TOWN AND COUNTRY

Although Flevoland is protected by dikes, water still penetrates the polders. But this is a good thing, as water is required by farmers, belongs to the landscape, is attractive in towns and is a focus for recreation. The art is to ensure sufficient water: not too much and not too little. Rain provides the polder with water. Rainwater that falls on roofs and roads enters the sewers, which transport it to a sewage treatment plant (STP), where it is treated. The water that falls on farmland seeps into the soil and is drained via various types of drainage channel. Pumping stations stand at the end of these waterways, ready to pump this water out to the peripheral lakes.

WATER LEVELS

It is of course nice to know that excess water is effectively drained, but at the same time, the polder must not dry up too much. If ground water levels drop too far, this can damage farmers' crops, for example. It

is therefore essential to define what the best water level is for each sub-area. The Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority expresses this in so-called water-level decisions. These describe the predefined water level for a specific area. Different standards apply to farmland than to, for instance, urban areas or conservation areas. By opening or closing weirs (a type of partition in drainage channels), and by running the pumps at higher or lower speeds, the Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority can regulate water levels very accurately. Using STPs, which receive water from the sewers, Zuiderzeeland treats waste water so it is clean enough to be pumped back into the surface waters.

MAINTENANCE

Aquatic plants and vegetation can disrupt the flow in ditches and waterways, and the Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority avoids this through mowing. But we are

not the only party responsible for this: land users, farmers, highway managers and conservation area managers also bear responsibility for maintenance. The Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority carries out several checks a year to ensure this is being done properly. This check is called a 'survey'. In the event that maintenance is not carried out to standard, then the Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority can issue warnings and even fines.

DREDGING

Drainage channels gradually silt up, due to wind-blown soil and leaves from the land. The Regional Water Authority regularly monitors depth to determine when to dredge. Dredgings are removed or dumped on adjacent land.

BANK MAINTENANCE

Most drainage channels are constructed using partitions of wood, concrete or other materials. These 'walls' also require

maintenance, of course, and sometimes need replacing. For the last few years, the Regional Water Authority has focussed increasingly on nature along the banks. International regulations demand that nature is given more room, which means that, at the transition between land and water, banks must where possible become less abrupt. This makes them more nature-friendly, and allows plants and animals living in the transitional zone to thrive.



Safety, sufficient water, clean water
Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority

