

# GREEN, HEALTHY AND HAPPY

Election Program

**GroenLinks** Gelderland

2023-2027

## **Short version!**

Our main points  
clearly described.

Visit the website for the  
full program.

**[Gelderland.groenlinks.nl](https://Gelderland.groenlinks.nl)**

## **Contents**

Introduction: our leading candidate	3
Our plans in brief	5
Nice plans, but how?	5
Nature, landscape and agriculture	6
Economy	7
Climate and energy	8
Living and space	9
Accessibility and transport	10
Environment	11
Heritage, culture and well-being	12
Diversity and inclusion	13
Leadership, Democracy and finance	14

# Gelderland: green, healthy and happy

## It can be done!

As GroenLinks we are very aware of the challenges facing the province. That is why we have written a program with real solutions. In our view, we will be doing everything we can to achieve the climate goals, to save nature and to become a truly green and healthy province.

And the wonderful thing is: it can be done. As long as we are determined and dare to make choices. For more clean energy and more heat grids. For more healthy and protected nature. For more plant-based foods and cows in meadows. For investments in affordable housing and good public transport.

How exactly we are going to do that and what role the province should take you can read in this program we have written together with many people. This is our strength: we listen to each other and keep talking. Together we look for even better solutions. Of course we will continue to do so for the next four years.

We're going to do it together. It can be done.

Charlotte de Roo,  
Leading candidate  
GroenLinks Gelderland



**Our next top-candidates**



# Gelderland: green, healthy and happy

## Our plans in a nutshell

### Not letting the climate change any further

The earth is heating up because we are using too much coal, oil and gas. That is why, in our province as well, we are generating more and more energy with, for example, the sun and - most importantly! - wind. We need to continue doing so. And we need to help more people and companies save energy.

### Being ready for the future

As the earth is getting warmer, the climate is changing. There will be more frequent periods of drought and heat, while we will also increasingly face heavy downpours. We need to be prepared for this.

### Encouraging more nature

We want more trees, plants and animals. More nature means a healthy environment for us to live in. If you are surrounded by nature, you will be less stressed and stay healthy longer. We need to leave much larger areas of nature alone and protect them better. More nature is also needed in cities and towns, as it keeps them cooler and retains rainwater.

### Knowing our limits

If we want to take care of our nature, we need to consider where we do and do not want to build. We want to build smarter in cities and villages and expand as little as possible into outlying areas. For people from the Randstad who prefer to live somewhere quieter, we need to provide housing together with Drenthe, Overijssel and Noord-Brabant. Gelderland cannot do that on its own.

### Ensuring everyone belongs and can participate

Too often, people are still facing discrimination. Because of their age or skin color, for instance. Also, in many places we don't yet take enough account of people with physical or mental disabilities. And we don't build enough houses for people who do not have much money. This really needs to change, because everyone in Gelderland should feel as though they belong. That also means that everyone should have a voice when important decisions are made.

## Great plans. But how?

On the following pages you can read how we are going to carry out those beautiful plans. How we will ensure that our province can be truly green, healthy and happy. We have divided all of our plans into subjects that the province influences:

- nature, landscape and agriculture
- economy
- climate and energy
- housing and space
- public transport
- environment
- heritage, culture and welfare
- diversity and inclusion
- democracy and finance

# Gelderland: green, healthy and happy

## Nature, landscape and agriculture

### Less nitrogen

Nature suffers from nitrogen emissions. More precisely, from ammonia and nitrogen oxides. Ammonia comes mainly from cows and is deposited close to the place where it is emitted. Nitrogen oxides come mainly from cars and factories and spread much further. You can read about our plans for cars and factories under 'public transport' and 'environment'.

### Fewer cows, more alternative farming

Especially in places where many cows are close to nature reserves, we have a problem. But farmers can actually really help nature. By keeping fewer cows and working their pastures and fields differently. That way the soil can become healthy again, and vegetables and herbs can grow. These attract more insects and other animals. Which means more life. And more healthy food. Farmers have to be helped financially as well as practically. And farmers who want to quit should also be funded.

Cows are only allowed on grasslands that are not suitable for growing food. And they can eat grass from fields that are close by or grass that is left over from other Dutch farmers. Their manure should not be more than what can be spread in nearby fields. In this way, a farm becomes 'circular' and nature is helped. Nothing has to come from far away or be transported to far away.

### More nature

Nature is in a bad shape. Gelderland protects its natural parks. However, most of nature and endangered species are not protected. GroenLinks wants to protect more nature. We also need to look carefully at where recreation is harmful to nature. The province has to express clearly where you can ride your mountain bike or walk your dog, for instance.

### Welcome wolf

The wolf is welcome. We want to connect nature reserves with each other, so that there is really room for predatory animals such as the wolf. Farmers should receive subsidies for fences to protect their animals. The wolf gives deer and boar a natural enemy again, so that they do not have to be hunted. We are against hunting for fun anyway.

### Don't cut down trees

We should not cut down trees to make roads safer. A much better solution is to redesign unsafe roads so that you drive slower. We don't really want to cut down trees anywhere, but sometimes it is necessary, for example to build houses. For every tree that has been cut down we want to plant three new trees in a different location.

### Collecting and retaining water

Due to climate change, we get more drought and more downpours. The old habit is to drain that water quickly, however it is much more efficient to keep the water in our area. Preferably as deep, clean groundwater, but also shallow in the soil and in places where we can build up a water supply. In drier periods we could use this water.

When it is really hot, the shade of trees and greenery offers more cooling than areas with many buildings, stones and asphalt. To make villages and cities cooler and greener, water is also important. We want regulations for how much green and water there should be in a village or city. Anyone who wants to make their own garden or street greener should be able to get help or funding.

# *Gelderland: green, healthy and happy*

## **Economy**

### **Green and social**

It is high time to invest in a new economy. An economy with good jobs and fair incomes for all. While doing so, we should not further deplete the earth and we have to use natural resources responsibly. That way we ensure that later generations will not run out of these natural resources.

Gelderland has many innovative entrepreneurs who can help in this process. Companies work ethically and sustainably, deserve support from the province, with loans and subsidies. This also applies to employee cooperatives, which are companies where employees are co-owners.

So we do not give loans or subsidies to large distribution and data centers that ruin the landscape and create few jobs. We are also against the Railterminal Gelderland (RTG) at the Ressen junction (exit 38 of the A15). As far as GroenLinks Gelderland is concerned, this will not receive a subsidy.

### **Green Jobs**

GroenLinks wants the province to help in all kinds of ways with retraining people to greener jobs, for example installing solar panels or insulating houses. Companies should also be supported if they want to switch to 'green' activities.

### **Nature-friendly tourism**

Nature suffers from too much tourism. We must prevent no one from being able to enjoy nature in the future. If it is really necessary, some nature reserves should therefore be able to be closed to, for example, cars, cyclists or dogs. For farmers who want to keep fewer cows, nature-friendly tourism is a good way to make money.

### **There's no such thing as waste**

We keep working from the view that waste does not exist. When building houses and building roads, raw materials have to be 100% reusable. And we help municipalities in their task of reducing residual waste to 30 kg per household per year.

### **Cooperation with Germany**

An important part of our province borders Germany, people and things are constantly going back and forth. Differences in laws and regulations between our neighbors and us create problems. For residents and businesses close to the border, it is important that we work well with Germany. Especially when it comes to the green economy and employment.

# Gelderland: green, healthy and happy

## Climate and energy

### Tackling energy poverty

Everyone should be able to live comfortably in a well-insulated house. And everyone should be able to pay the energy bill. GroenLinks wants to ensure that you can borrow money more easily and interest-free to make your home more sustainable.

### Clean energy for all

We want everyone to be able to use clean energy. That is why we support participation in energy cooperatives - for example, becoming co-owner of a wind turbine - with attractive schemes. People with little money should even be able to take part without an investment. Together with municipalities, the province ensures that part of the profit ends up in a special fund, intended for, for example, poverty reduction, libraries, electric shared cars in the countryside or recreational nature. We want 50% local ownership of new built energy generation facilities.

### More wind energy

GroenLinks wants more wind turbines. The province can and should take care of that. If necessary, by forcing a municipality that does not want a wind turbine, even though it is possible.

### Get rid of gas faster

The province has to assist municipalities to build local heat grids. This will allow us to make the transition from gas faster and this should be affordable and available for everyone. GroenLinks wants these heat grids to be in public hands. For every city, village center or rural area, we look at whether a heat grid is possible and what the best heat source is. Consider, for example, a waste plant that can supply residual heat to such a heat grid. The province can help with advice, financing and reducing risks.

### Large energy users

GroenLinks no longer wants to support companies that do not take energy-saving measures; companies will have to demonstrate annually that they have taken actions to reduce energy usage. GroenLinks wants to impose additional social requirements on companies that receive subsidies from the province: they should contribute to local society.

### Smart with energy

More and more renewable energy sometimes means that the power grid becomes overloaded. The province has to ensure that the power grid is expanded faster. But we should also ensure that we generate renewable energy close to the location of the energy demand. Combined parks are smart as well: wind turbines and solar parks with one joint connection to the power grid. Because wind and sun usually alternate in generating energy.

### Better storage of energy

The province wants to stimulate new ways to store energy locally, for example with a neighborhood battery or with basalt stone. Such storage should certainly also be provided at large generation locations.



# Gelderland: green, healthy and happy

## Living and space

### Affordable housing

The province, together with municipalities, can ensure enough homes for people who don't have much money. As far as GroenLinks is concerned, 65% of new homes are for people who have a small to average income. We believe that in every municipality at least 30% of the houses should be social rent. Where this is not the case, the province has to ensure that more than 30% of new constructions built by corporations comprise social housing.

### Green living

It is important that everyone has enough green spaces nearby. Even if you live in the city. We want to connect nature in the city with nature outside of it. We also want trees, plants and flowers in all neighborhoods, but also green roofs, façade gardens and green balconies. Every new house or new building should be within walking distance of public green space, such as a park.

### Also shopping, working and relaxing

The province determines what is built where, but it needs to look at things in perspective: where construction takes place, we must also provide walking, cycling and public transport facilities. We have to look at the entire picture of a neighborhood, especially with new construction: can you live, work, shop and relax here? Then GroenLinks is in favor.

### Smart (re)building

Building, building, building... is not enough! We need to make better use of the living space that is already there. Because many people live in houses that do not suit them well. For example, it can be a problem if an older couple lives in a house where they cannot get up the stairs, while a young couple with children lives in a small apartment. With the problems that exist now, building is not the only solution.

We have to be creative: we can split homes so that more people can live in big houses. We can also add floors on apartment buildings for example. And if we build cheap, small houses for the elderly, houses will be freed up for families.

### Building together, living together

GroenLinks wants people to be helped if they want to buy a piece of land together to build - sustainable! - houses. This is called collective private clientship. We also want to stimulate residential groups. If more people live together in groups, we need fewer new homes.

### Room for nature

GroenLinks prefers to build where there are already houses, rather than build in places where there is now a lot of nature. This is possible in many existing cities and villages as well. We see opportunities to build higher near train stations, for example. If we do have to build in new locations, that should only be allowed if it does not cause damage to nature.

### Set boundaries

We mainly want to build houses for people who already live or work in Gelderland. There are more and more of them, also because we are getting older. But Gelderland is also popular with people from the Randstad. In order to have enough space for them, we have to work together with Noord-Brabant, Overijssel and Drenthe.

# Gelderland: green, healthy and happy

## Green accessibility and public transport

### For everyone

Public transport should be close to and affordable for everyone. Especially for people with a low income, people with disabilities, young children and the elderly. With more and better public transport, we have to use cars less. That saves energy, makes people healthier and better connected. The province needs to invest heavily in this.

### 'Stop-taxis'

GroenLinks wants more 'stop taxis'. Especially in sparsely populated areas and neighborhoods where a normal bus is currently not available. The 'stop taxi' transports people from a stop to a bus station or train station within a radius of 15 km. The journey can also be from stop to stop if there is no bus at that time.

### Clean public transport

GroenLinks wants to make all public transport electric, or emission free.; including care transport, pupil transport, etc. After 2030, all buses will run without emissions. All diesel train connections should become electric as soon as possible. Battery trains will probably also be needed for this. So that an overhead line is not necessarily needed between Arnhem-Doetinchem-Winterswijk, Apeldoorn-Zutphen-Winterswijk, Zutphen-Hengelo and Arnhem-Tiel.

### More and better train connections

We want to strengthen public transport to Germany. We don't yet give up the Nijmegen-Kleve railway line and the Nijmegen-Emmerich bus can continue to Doetinchem. A bus should run between Aalten and Bocholt as well. There should be trains to the Randstad 6 to 8 times per hour. Harderwijk should be an Intercity station. The Elst-Geldermalsen connection can be much better due to a faster transfer in Tiel. The local trains Amersfoort-Ede and Ede-Arnhem can be combined into one line. We also continue to fight for more high-speed trains in Europe.

### Cleaner and safer traffic

GroenLinks is happy with the 30 km/h inside and 60 km/h outside the built-up area. That is safer and cleaner. There are still many collisions with animals. That is why we want a test with 60 km/h at night. For public transport, a lower speed is inconvenient. The province has to work with municipalities on more free bus lanes without thresholds. Traffic across the rivers can be cleaner as well: we want cleaner marine fuel, and stricter regulations for the degassing of ship's holds.

We are fans of cycling and walking! Leisurely, but also to shops or other facilities. The province has to ensure safe cycle paths, especially now that it is becoming increasingly crowded there. Crossing provincial roads by cyclists and pedestrians can be safer by making cars drive slower and making safe crossing possibilities. We also construct bicycle tunnels and bridges where necessary. For pedestrians, we want to improve walking routes and make more water taps and toilets. And we make sure the ferries stay to cross our rivers!

### Less air traffic

GroenLinks is opposed to the opening of Lelystad Airport. We absolutely want to prevent low-flying routes over Gelderland. We are also concerned about air pollution and noise from military air traffic in general and from Deelen air base. Teuge Airport must cause less noise and reduce emissions to the environment. We also want fewer parachute flights there. We also want less parachute flights there.

# Gelderland: green, healthy and happy

## Environment

### Clean air

GroenLinks wants stricter regulations for air quality based on the new standards of the World Health Organization. We also need to measure more and tackle violations more harshly. There also have to be regulations for burning wood. Clean air is of vital importance!

### Use less energy

What you don't use, you don't have to generate. Saving energy is extremely important. GroenLinks wants companies to be encouraged and helped to use less energy. The province can do a lot by granting permits, supervising and enforcing that companies save energy. But also thinking along about solutions per company.

### Dangerous transport

Along (express) roads and important railway lines, there are often major risks to the environment when accidents occur during transportation of dangerous goods. GroenLinks wants the province, together with the central government and municipalities, to draw up a plan to reduce these risks.

### Orange fields and meadows

We see every year, still, that on some fields and meadows all flowers and wheat are lost by poison, glyphosate for example. This is very bad for plants and animals. GroenLinks wants the province to eradicate this pesticide itself. In consultation with farmers, but also by making regulations. We cannot allow the use of glyphosate to continue if we want to restore and improve nature.

### Measuring real emissions

It is often calculated instead of measured how much pollution a company emits, while the real emissions are of course much more important. GroenLinks wants to measure better and more, whenever possible together with citizens (citizen monitoring networks). So that we can also punish the real polluters.

### Dumped (drug) waste

Drug waste is often dumped in nature. The clean-up is paid for by the owners of the land on which the waste was dumped. That's not fair. GroenLinks believes that the Province of Gelderland and municipalities should set up a fund for this.

We cherish the quality of the groundwater and the water in the ponds. In sand extraction basins, material is often dumped to fill up lakes again. In our view, this should only be allowed with very clean material. And we shouldn't use material that we import from abroad.

It is important that Gelderland's water is safe for everyone to swim in. According to the guidelines, the swimming water is checked at least 1 or 2 times a month in the summer, but in busy locations this should increase to up to two times a week. We want to publish the information about the quality of the swimming water via an app and on signs near the water.

# Gelderland: green, healthy and happy

## Heritage, Culture and Welfare

### Heritage – protecting and showing

Gelderland is beautiful! With its castles, mills and farms. We even have world heritage: the Roman Limes and The New Dutch Waterline. We have to properly maintain all these monuments, while dividing the tasks: the national government should take care of the national monuments, while the province focuses on smaller monuments and local heritage.

We want museums and monuments to be accessible to everyone. Projects with monuments that also have other goals, such as education, are extra important to us.

Heritage also includes old techniques for agriculture and nature management, which may be more sustainable. Anyone who wants to apply this again today deserves support.

It is important to pay attention to the past and learn from it. The province supports the commemoration of the Second World War and should also commemorate the history of slavery annually from 2023 onwards.

### Culture – in every municipality, for everyone!

GroenLinks believes it is important that all forms of culture are well supported, with enough money and help with the content. We want large theaters and playhouses to help the smaller stages. Doing so will ensure that performances are not only given in the cities, but everywhere.

Teaching about culture is an important part of education in primary and secondary schools. Libraries play a major role in this and should be supported. For example, they are important in efforts to encourage reading in both young people and adults.

Every municipality in Gelderland has a local source for culture and creativity. The Province of Gelderland is setting up a targeted program to support municipalities and local cultural organizations.

Young people often have big ideas and talents and also a lot of energy. In Gelderland, a youth stage theater should be active!

### Well-being – working on happiness is something you do together

A vibrant social life ensures more happiness and a pleasant living environment. GroenLinks wants to strengthen social activity in villages, districts and neighborhoods. And connect the countryside and the cities more.

We continue to invest in the countryside of Gelderland: preserving and supporting culture, public transport, education, housing and new sports clubs.

GroenLinks also wants to continue to support the 'Livability Alliance'. This includes, for example, the Rural Youth Gelderland (PJG), Spectrum partner with élan, Zorgbelang Inclusief and the Vereniging Dorpshuizen Kleine Kernen.

Programs for integration and refugee reception also need additional support from the province.

Finally, as far as GroenLinks is concerned, we help with the construction and design of places for joint activities, such as community center rooms (cooking and meeting), studio spaces (creative design) and repair cafés (jobs and sharing tools together).

# Gelderland: green, healthy and happy

## Diversity and inclusion

### Stop discrimination

Discrimination is still common. For example: you don't get a job because an employer thinks you're too old, or you're not allowed to go in because you're dark-skinned. Or you are scolded because as a man you walk hand in hand with another man. The province has to do everything it can to combat discrimination.

In recent years, it has become increasingly common for Jewish people to face hatred and sometimes even violence as a result of hate. GroenLinks wants the province to pay more attention to the Holocaust, the consequences of anti-Semitism and Jewish history and culture.

GroenLinks also rejects hatred directed at Muslims. The province wants to help programs that combat discrimination and help programs that prevent destruction of mosques and threats against asylum seekers and status holders.

### Attention to the history of slavery

We want the province to pay special attention to the end of slavery 150 years ago in 2023. In this regard Ketikoti (July 1) is an especially important day. GroenLinks also wants attention for the liberation of the Dutch East Indies and the independence of Indonesia, which is celebrated on 15 and 17 August.

### Equal opportunities

Everyone should be able to take part in life. Gelderland has to be a truly inclusive province. There is room for improvement. Often someone is only seen as 'that person with a disability', or 'that person with dark skin', while someone is much more and has all kinds of qualities.

The province must actively show that everyone belongs and should be given equal opportunities. This also applies to working for the province. And for organizations that want to get funding from the province.

People who move to the Netherlands to work should be given opportunities to develop and build a life here. The province offers help to highly educated people from abroad who are going to work for large companies or the university. We have to offer the same assistance to people from abroad who are practically trained, or who have had no training at all.

### Comprehensible information

GroenLinks wants everyone to understand the province's information, so letters and leaflets should be written in simple and clear language. Sometimes it is necessary to distribute information in different languages.

Information should also be available on paper, because not everyone is able to work with computers or phones. Calling or visiting the province has to remain possible. Real human contact is important.

# *Gelderland: green, healthy and happy*

## **Leadership, Democracy and Finance**

### **Clear role of the province**

The province is more than an intermediary between the government and municipalities. For example, it can intervene in case of problems that are too big for municipalities. The province can also ensure that the interests of residents, nature and the environment are kept in mind before decisions are made. It has to be clear in which cases the province can play this role.

The Province of Gelderland often works together with municipalities and water authorities. At the same time, the province keeps an eye on how they carry out their task. This is a double role that needs to be regulated clearly.

### **Everyone joins the conversation, everyone decides**

The province must use citizens' councils more often, in which a group of residents is put together by drawing lots who can participate in deciding on important topics. In addition, they receive all the information and guidance they need to participate in the decision-making process, and they are paid for their time.

If someone wants to speak during a meeting of the Provincial States, you should not necessarily have to come to Arnhem. You have to be able to attend digitally.

### **Helping small municipalities**

In Gelderland there are major differences between municipalities. The larger cities have more money and people to carry out their plans, whereas this is more difficult for smaller towns. GroenLinks wants the province of Gelderland to help smaller municipalities.

### **Looking at the long term**

In the coming years, strong governance is needed. There are major problems that require a solution: nature, landscape, housing, traffic and the environment, to name a few. That means that we have to spend money on that. Some require funding over a long period of time, others need support for a much shorter time. By taking this into account and planning far in advance, we can save a lot of money in the long term.

### **Fair taxes**

GroenLinks believes that the strongest shoulders should bear the heaviest burdens. The taxes and levies that the province determines should factor in someone's income.

Taxpayers' money has to be used to achieve certain goals. An example is a tax on land use: those who use more land have more impact on nature and should therefore pay more. This can help with other problems, such as the shortage of groundwater. In this regard, a groundwater levy -where you pay more if you use more- is a good idea. In order to reduce private and freight transport by road, a provincial tax for vehicles is needed, according to GroenLinks.

For GroenLinks it is important that all provincial taxes are fair and have a clear purpose.

### **Piggybank**

Gelderland has a large piggybank. GroenLinks therefore wants to use part of the piggy bank for buying up agricultural land. To help farmers who want to stop their business, or want to downsize.

*Gelderland: green, healthy and happy*

**On 15 March 2023,  
Elections for the Provincial Council.**

**Your vote counts too!!**

Here you will find more information and the list of GroenLinks candidates you can vote for:

[Groenlinks Gelderland \(verkiezingsprogrammagroenlinksgelderland.nl\)](https://www.groenlinksgelderland.nl/verkiezingsprogramma)

[Home | GroenLinks Provincie Gelderland](#)