

UNL Food Forest

This four year social impact partnership with Krinkels will see the transformation of an area of grassland at Bavinkelsweg, next to Urenco's site in the Netherlands into a food forest. This sustainable eco-system will increase biodiversity and through its development, crops and visual appeal will positively engage the local community.

Workstreams: environment & transition to net zero; health & wellbeing



A Food Forest (aka forest garden) is an innovative concept based on a natural forest – home to food-producing trees, shrubs and plants such as fruit, nuts, seeds, vegetables, mushrooms and edible flowers. The aim is to enhance the environment and produce free produce year-round for the local community. It may be that the adjacent UNL farm house could be incorporated and used for meetings or workshops in the future.

This food forest will have an educational nature, aiming to make visitors aware of natural farming methods and indigenous crops. In creating it, UNL collaborates closely with a local agricultural school called Zone College. They use the forest as a learning project to educate their students about this environment-friendly way of farming.

The food forest is located in between a local wetlands area called the 'Doorbraak' (Break through) and the UNL site.

www.krinkels.nl



“ Our partnership to develop a food forest will enhance the environment for the community as well as helping to contribute positively to the climate challenge. Together we are working up a design that everyone will see grow and develop over the years. The richly varied eco-system will include circular pathways, areas for wildlife, ponds and waterways as well as over 200 trees and bushes and 20,000 herbs. It's a lasting commitment funded and facilitated by Urenco, and the great thing is that not only will it look good, it will also yield produce which will be shared freely with the local community.”

Mark Lanting
Branch Manager, Krinkels Hengelo

Sustainability Spotlight

This project aligns with the Urenco sustainability strategy, our corporate values and selected UN sustainable development goals.

Environment & transition to net zero:

- Food Forests contribute positively to the climate challenge
- design principles are trees, bushes and herbs that soak up CO2, feed either humans or animals and/or improve biodiversity
- >200 trees and bushes; 20,000 herbs; grassland; circular footpath
- existing features integrated in design; habitat for wildlife, amphibians.

Health & wellbeing:

- from year 3, produce (fruit, edible plants and herbs) will be given to a food bank & local people
- community educational programmes on healthy food choices.

Education & skills:

- project team includes trainee roles.

Community engagement:

- opportunity to engage with local people, charities, industries, regulators
- stakeholders from the municipality applaud the creation of the food forest.

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

