

GROENLINKS

NIJMEGEN

Our green, fair, and liberal city



A green city where people take care of one another. Where everyone can be truly themselves, to work, grow, and prosper. And where everyone has a suitable and cosy place to live. For us this is not a fairy tale, but an achievable ideal. In Nijmegen we have been fighting against climate change, poverty, and tolerance for years. We face opposition from national governance and capitalism. But our solutions to overcome these challenges are creative and smart. That means we can locally make a big difference.

As GroenLinks ("GreenLeft") we believe that leftist and green ideals are a perfect match. Exactly those ideals are what we translate into action in Nijmegen. Sustainability, for instance, is not a hobby for the wealthy. Therefore, we support those who cannot pay for a necessary green adjustment to their home. Because exactly those who have limited cash, need low living costs. Exactly those who have health issues, need to live in a green and healthy city. Our plans for a sustainable and green city take into account everyone's needs and allow everyone to participate fully in society. Our solutions are creative and stretch themselves to the limit of what is possible. Our call to our fellow Nijmegen residents therefore is: dare to choose for really green and really leftist solutions. For sustainability, fairness, and liberty. For the most Nijmegen Nijmegen that we can be!

"We can make a city without discrimination, with equal opportunities for all, where we banish poverty, combat climate change, where we adjust to the wishes and needs of nature and not vice versa. We can show Nijmegen that this is possible, that we can make a difference." - Quirijn Lokker, party leader of GroenLinks Nijmegen.

OUR GREENEST NIJMEGEN



In the Nijmegen of GroenLinks...

... you are close to nature. We have so much greenery and forests that we can adapt to heat and extreme rainfall. Our liveable streets are first of all for those who live here, not for those who drive through them. Those who cycle or walk get the first say. And cars? We share those as much as possible and prioritise electric vehicles. In our ideal city there is collective awareness of the impact that all of us have on our changing climate. And we collectively combat global warming. You can see this from the way we build, to the way we consume and work. Our residents buy sustainable and healthy products that are affordable to all. An ideal picture? Certainly! And we know how to get to this point.

... we do it like this

In order to continue striving towards our ideal city we need to radically shift our relations between humans, city, and nature. Our viewpoint is not that our city is surrounded by nature, but that that nature is weaved within our city. To realise this view those who walk, bike, and make use of public transport should be priorities. We also incentivise everyone to power their lives with renewable energy. Preferably this energy comes from local sources owned by our residents. We have zero tolerance for dirty air, dirty industrie will be greenified, and we help sustainable entrepreneurs. We take care of and protect the animals of our city.

"Not everyone knows this: the buses in this city already drive on green gas, created from our own biodegradable waste. Soon we'll transition to electric buses and we can reapply this green gas to heat our own homes. Every step we make is forward."

OUR FAIREST NIJMEGEN



In the Nijmegen of GroenLinks ...

... you live, work, and live in a cosy, healthy, and green environment, together with others. This starts with enough appropriate and affordable homes for everyone. Homelessness is not the problem of the homeless: it demands a collective solution. A roof above your head is our first priority, so we'll ensure you have one. And working is about more than making money. It is about doing what gives you meaning, about your personal growth and developing yourself. That is a basic right. If your starting position frustrates a fair chance, we'll help you on your way. Young people especially deserve our extra attention. As GroenLinks we are convinced that poverty is a solvable problem. Those who need care and support in order to participate in our society and live an enjoyable life, will get the exact help they need. People with a disability get the support that they are entitled to.

... we do it like this

We compensate for neoliberal national policies with local left-wing support! In order to be the most social city in the country Nijmegen needs to strengthen its involvement in the housing market. And we need to reassess where the city can strengthen its involvement in helping people reach their equal opportunities, whether that is through work or through other meaningful use of their time. Such a process is not about following rules and procedures, but about putting the life and needs of every single unique human being front and center.

"As city we need to recognise that someone in need is not just a person in poverty or unemployment. We need to look at someone's entire life, and dare to choose for smart and unconventional solutions to recentre that person."

OUR FREEST NIJMEGEN



In the Nijmegen of GroenLinks...

... you are free! To be who you are. To be different from others, to find yourself, and come in contact with others like or unlike you. To celebrate and share your heritage. To be yourself and love who you love, no matter what your gender or sexual identity you belong to. Your identity cannot and should not be limited by others. In Nijmegen we collectively ensure that everyone belongs to our community. And that we are open to newcomers to our town. Everyone here feels safe, everywhere in the city. This includes our digital lives, and protecting any data the municipality may collect on you. Your data may not travel from our servers, but you travel wherever you please: a physically accessible city is common sense to us. This also requires a lively cultural sector. The arts help us shape, celebrate, and contemplate our lives. Culture belongs to us and is for everyone. A free city also means that you get to participate and decide over important issues concerning our city. The city belongs to us all.

... we do it like this

To live in an even freer city, the city will increase and change the way it holds dialogues with inhabitants over their city, neighbourhood, and future. The city will strengthen its response to racism and discrimination, and increases opportunities to celebrate difference. We will admit to the difficult chapters in our collective history, in order to learn and progress. And if even one person in Nijmegen feels unsafe, then this is a collective problem. Security and freedom go hand in hand, and it is the city that needs to ensure these hands remain joined.

"A company that refuses to hire an intern because she wears a hijab, or because the intern is gay? Or a club that refuses entry to people of colour? That is completely unacceptable!"