

# Start contract

**District heating Watergraafsmeer**

**Affordable, sustainable, and owned by us**

**This is the start contract for the heat network in Watergraafsmeer. The heat network is developed by the local cooperative MeerEnergie. We are very pleased that you have also decided to sign the start contract! By signing this start contract, you are choosing a sustainable, transparent and affordable alternative to gas. An alternative by and for the neighbourhood.**

**Name:**

**Street:**

**Postcode:**

**E-mail:**

**Owned or rental property:**



## MeerEnergie

**Living natural gas-free in Middenmeer**

### The first step

The Netherlands is replacing gas-based heating with carbon-free heating. Amsterdam aims to be a natural gas-free city by 2040. In the Middenmeer district in Watergraafsmeer, we can use residual heat from a data center at the Amsterdam Science Park to heat our own neighbourhood. In the future, we can use this local energy source to sustainably heat our homes and tap water and become independent of commercial energy suppliers. By signing this start contract, you support the development of the heat network and choose to heat your home with residual heat in the future.



### Local cooperative MeerEnergie

The heat network is an initiative of the local cooperative MeerEnergie. MeerEnergie collaborates with the Municipality of Amsterdam and infrastructure specialist Firan in developing this heat network. MeerEnergie belongs to its members; it is a not-for-profit organisation and aims to provide a fair, transparent and affordable alternative to natural gas for all local residents. MeerEnergie is planning to start a heating company in collaboration with Firan.

If you sign this start contract, you agree to sign a connection and supply agreement once the heat network is in operation, unless the rules on cancellation apply. In that case, the start contract will be no longer valid. Once the heat network is installed, MeerEnergie will connect your home to the heat network by installing a heat exchanger, and heating pipes will be laid inside your home leading to the unit. After that, the heat network will provide you with hot tap water and heating.

### What are you signing?

By signing this start contract, you declare that you will sign the connection and supply agreement as soon as the heat network is in operation. The draft version of the documents that apply to the connection and supply of heat can be found on the website. If you prefer a paper version, please let us know.

By signing this start contract, you automatically become a member of MeerEnergie. For this, you pay once €10,- registration fee and after that you pay a contribution fee of €10,- per year. As a member of MeerEnergie, you have voting rights in the General Members Assembly. The final connection and supply agreements will be available three months before the start of the construction of the heat network.



### TIP

For more information and frequently asked questions, refer to the Meer-Energie brochure and/or our website.



### Rules on cancellation

Homeowners, tenants and landlords can rely on the following rules on cancellation:

1. If the monthly costs at the start of the heat supply from district heating are higher than the prevailing rates for alternatives in your situation, for example central heating boiler or all-electric heat pump. This applies to the monthly variable and fixed costs and only for legally and practically possible alternatives;
2. If the landlord, homeowners' association (VvE) or tenant, other than the signatory, does not agree to sign the connection and supply agreement (for example, if the tenant has signed the start contract, but the landlord does not want to sign the connection and supply agreement, or if a homeowner has signed a start contract, but the VvE does not agree);
3. If the property is sold before signing the connection and supply agreement.

### What to expect as a homeowner or landlord?

- Reliable connection and supply of sustainable, affordable heat as soon as the heat network is in operation;
- If your boiler needs replacement between signing the start contract and connecting to the heat network (probably between 2028 - 2035), MeerEnergie will assist with a joint solution with a rental or second-hand boiler in collaboration with a partner;
- Opportunity to participate in a joint purchasing action for induction cooktops;
- Contribution towards modifications to your fuse board (up to €100). In some of the homes, this modification is necessary to install an induction cooktop;
- Selling your home? The new owner will receive the same conditions as you (if they want to).

### What to expect as a tenant?

- Reliable supply of sustainable, affordable heat as soon as the heat network is in operation;
- MeerEnergie will arrange everything needed for the connection with your landlord.



### Rates

The heating company plans to install the district heating between 2028 and 2035. Not everyone will be connected to the grid at the same time. MeerEnergie ensures that residents can prepare themselves well in time. The heat rate for the calendar year in question will be determined no later than three months before the first homes are connected.

### Monthly costs

The monthly rates for the heat network are based on what is needed to keep the heating company running smoothly and on comparable costs that residents would have on average for other heating systems, such as a central heating boiler or an all-electric heat pump.

The Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM), which represents the interests of consumers, also sets a maximum for heat rates for district heating.

### MeerEnergie can also provide the following at an additional cost:



**Additional adjustments in your home**



**Adjustments for electric cooking**

**When starting the heat supply, the heating company charges a one-off contribution to the connection costs (which will be between €1500 and €2500).**

**For rented homes, the one-off contribution to the connection costs is normally paid by the landlord.**

## Sign the start contract



**We are very pleased that you want to sign the start contract. By signing the start contract, you indicate that you want to switch to the heat network in the future. Together with your neighbours you make our heat network possible.**

Date of signing

Signature resident/owner

**Thank you for your support and welcome to MeerEnergie! Tell your neighbours that you have signed. We need enough signed start contracts to gain the trust of financiers and subsidy providers.**