It’s Banking. But not as we know it.

Programme, guide and other useful information for the GABV Annual Meeting 2016 in Amsterdam
Dear members and guests,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to The Netherlands for the eighth GABV Annual Meeting. The Alliance itself was launched in 2009 at an event in The Netherlands.

We can reflect on considerable achievements over that time; a period that has seen us grow from nine to 28 member banks and banking cooperatives, delivering among other things a fund investing in the future of sustainability-focused banking, a scorecard to assess the impact of our work, vibrant Communities of Practice and an annual #BankingOnValues campaign that is building a popular movement.

These initiatives when combined will move us towards our collective mission to create a better banking system; one that puts people and communities at the heart of banks’ operations; and one that looks for all of the ways banking institutions can leverage their people, capital and resources to create positive economic, social and environmental impact.

We hope to build on the extraordinary successes of past meetings. We aim to inspire you by showcasing some of the projects we finance at Triodos Bank, challenge and strengthen your organisations through contributions from special guests, and work together to shape a common agenda for the future.

We have built some excellent foundations for our collective work, and as members, we have also innovated within our individual institutions by collaborating and sharing during these events. This meeting represents a powerful opportunity, and an important moment to plan for the years ahead. We look forward to sharing it with you.

Warm regards,

Peter Blom
Chair of GABV and CEO & Chair Executive Board Triodos Bank

Dear friends,

It is great to welcome you all to Amsterdam to participate in yet another inspirational and innovative GABV Annual Meeting. Seven years after its inception, the GABV comes back to its birth place, The Netherlands, signalling the start of a new phase in the life of our Alliance and our ambitions.

I am confident this will be a remarkable meeting. We have developed an exciting agenda with lots of space for interaction and facilitated dialogues on the topics you told us were important to you, both in the general banking sector and the values-based banking arena. We’ve got keynote speakers, expert panels, and innovation labs. We’ve also created time and space for important bilateral conversations, informal dinners, and of course, time to explore this incredible city of Amsterdam.

#BankingOnValues is all about putting people and the communities we serve at the heart of everything we do. For this reason, I invite you to use this event to make time to keep building upon our relationships, our trust, and our friendship.

Thank you to the Triodos team who have worked so hard with the GABV Secretariat to create this excellent event. We hope you enjoy it.

Warm regards,

Marcos Eguiguren
Executive Director, GABV
Saturday 5 March 2016
Harkema, Nes 67, Amsterdam

19:00 – 22:00  Human Capital dinner

Sunday 6 March 2016
De Nieuwe Liefde, Da Costakade 102, Amsterdam*

09:00 – 17:00  Human Capital session

Monday 7 March 2016
De Nieuwe Liefde, Da Costakade 102, Amsterdam

09:00 – 17:00  Human Capital session
De Nieuwe Liefde, Da Costakade 102, Amsterdam

19:00 – 21:00  Informal dinner in Skylounge: not compulsory

Legend
Use this legend to determine the sessions and events you are welcome to join this week.

- Chief Executive Officers
- Executive and Non-executive Directors, and management
- GABV Human Capital Community of Practice
- GABV Leadership Academy
- All welcome

* See page 22 for a map of De Nieuwe Liefde and De Hallen
** See page 21 for a map of Doubletree Hilton and Amsterdam Central Station, tourist information and public transport

Doubletree Hilton
Harkema, Nes 67, Amsterdam

Adress:
Doubletree Hilton,
Oosterdokstraat 4, Amsterdam*

Wifi:
Doubletree - username: hhonors
No password needed
Tuesday 8 March 2016
Doubletree Hilton, Oosterdokstraat 4, Amsterdam

06:30 – 07:45  Breakfast available at Doubletree Hilton

07:45 – 07:50  Meet in lobby for bus transfer to De Hallen
Lobby

07:50 – 08:30  Transport from Doubletree Hilton to De Hallen
Bus

08:30 – 09:00  Welcome and programme outline
Studio 2 De Hallen

09:00 – 10:00  CEO Dialogue – What is Dying and Emerging in Our Regions?
Studio 2 De Hallen

10:00 – 10:15  Refreshments
Studio 2 De Hallen

10:15 – 11:15  CEO Perspectives – Barriers & Opportunities for Growth
Studio 2 De Hallen

11:15 – 12:00  Interactive session with the Human Capital Community of Practice
Studio 2 De Hallen

12:00 – 12:45  Lunch
Studio 2 De Hallen

12:45 – 13:00  Gather for return bus
Studio 2 De Hallen

13:00 – 14:00  Transport from De Hallen to Zeist
Bus

12:00 – 13:00  Lunch served in Doubletree Hilton
Hilton

12:45 – 13:00  Meet in lobby for bus transfer to Zeist
Lobby

13:00 – 14:00  Transport from Doubletree Hilton to Zeist
Bus

14:00 – 14:15  Refreshments
Triodos Bank Zeist

14:15 – 15:15  Triodos Bank Innovation Showcase
Triodos Bank Zeist
James Vaccaro – Mikel Garcia – Dan Hird
Anne Marie de Blieck (see page 14 – 16)

15:15 – 15:50  Refreshments and welcome to external guests
Triodos Bank Zeist

15:50 – 16:00  Gather in Plenary room
Triodos Bank Zeist

16:00 – 17:20  Panel Discussion
Triodos Bank Zeist
Innovation and Impact: The Next Generation of BankingOnValues
Frank Elderson – Thomas Rau – Tamara Vrooman
Jesse Fripp (see page 14 – 16)

17:20 – 18:15  Drinks and informal conversations
Triodos Bank Zeist

18:15 – 20:15  Stand-up dinner
Triodos Bank Zeist

20:15 – 21:15  Return transport from Zeist to Amsterdam
Bus

Tuesday 8 March 2016
Triodos Bank, Nieuweroordweg 1, Zeist

De Hallen Studio’s
Hannie Dankbaar Passage
1053 RT Amsterdam

Triodos Bank Nederland
Utrechtseweg 44
3704 HD Zeist
Wednesday 9 March 2016
De Hallen Studio’s, Hannie Dankbaarpassage 18, Amsterdam

06:30 – 07:45  Breakfast available at Doubletree Hilton
                Doubletree Hilton

07:45 – 07:50  Meet in lobby for bus transfer to De Hallen
                Lobby

07:50 – 08:30  Transport from Doubletree Hilton to De Hallen
                Bus

08:30 – 09:05  Start-up and Inspiring Stories by the
                GABV Leadership Academy
                Studio 2 De Hallen

09:05 – 09:20  Presentation about the launch of the
                Massive Online Course
                Studio 2 De Hallen
                Dr Katrin Käufer – Juan Pablo Meza – Janina Zajic

09:20 – 09:40  Looking Back, Looking Forward: The GABV2020 Ambition
                Studio 2 De Hallen
                Marcos Eguiguren, Executive Director, GABV

09:40 – 10:50  Six interactive sessions to explore the GABV strategy
                Studio 2 De Hallen

10:50 – 11:15  Refreshments
                Studio 2 De Hallen

11:15 – 12:00  Plenary summaries of the interactive sessions
                Studio 2 De Hallen

12:00 – 12:30  High level implications for the GABV
                Studio 2 De Hallen

12:30 – 13:30  Lunch
                Halte 3

13:30 – 14:45  Innovation Lab Workshops*
                Studio 1 De Hallen

14:45 – 15:00  Refreshments
                Studio 2 De Hallen

15:00 – 16:00  Plenary feedback on the Innovation Lab Workshops
                Studio 2 De Hallen

16:00 – 16:15  Gather for special tram
                Studio 2 De Hallen

16:15 – 16:45  Transport from De Hallen to Doubletree Hilton
                Tram

16:45 – 18:20  Time for informal conversations
                Doubletree Hilton

18:20 – 18:30  Gather in lobby for boat trip to EYE
                Doubletree Hilton

18:30 – 19:00  Transport to EYE
                Boat

19:00 – 21:25  Dinner EYE
                EYE Amsterdam

21:25 – 21:30  Gather for return boat
                EYE Amsterdam

21:30 – 21:45  Return transport from EYE to Doubletree Hilton**
                Boat

* See page 14 for more information about the sessions and presenters of the Innovation Lab Workshops. Don’t forget to sign-up for the sessions on Tuesday/Wednesday morning at the desk in the Hilton or the desk in De Hallen (max 8-10 per group).
** EYE IJpromenade 1, Amsterdam – See page 22 for map and return transportation back if you choose not to join the group by boat.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06:30 – 07:45</td>
<td>Breakfast available at Doubletree Hilton</td>
<td>Doubletree Hilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>07:45 – 07:50</td>
<td>Meet in lobby for bus transfer to De Hallen</td>
<td>Lobby</td>
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<td>07:50 – 08:30</td>
<td>Transport from Doubletree Hilton to De Hallen</td>
<td>Bus</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:30 – 09:15</td>
<td>Checking in: Reflecting on Innovation, Purpose and Plans</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<td>09:15 – 09:30</td>
<td>Two inspiring stories by CEO's</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<td>09:30 – 10:30</td>
<td>Sharing examples of Embedding Values in Business Plans</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<td>10:15 – 10:20</td>
<td>Gather in lobby for transport to De Hallen</td>
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<td>Transport to De Hallen</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>GABV Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<td>12:30 – 13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Studio 1 De Hallen</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30 – 14:45</td>
<td>Dialogue: Items raised from sessions on previous days</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30 – 14:45</td>
<td>Learning Journey at De Hallen</td>
<td>Filmhallen &amp; Hallen</td>
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<td>14:45 – 15:15</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:15 – 15:45</td>
<td>Musical interlude</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<td>15:45 – 16:00</td>
<td>World Press introduction by Lars Boering</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<td>16:00 – 16:30</td>
<td>Summary &amp; re-cap</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<td>16:30 – 16:45</td>
<td>Gather for bus</td>
<td>Studio 2 De Hallen</td>
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<td>16:45 – 17:15</td>
<td>Transport from De Hallen to Doubletree Hilton</td>
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<td>Time for informal conversations</td>
<td>Doubletree Hilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:20 – 18:30</td>
<td>Gather in lobby for boat trip to Artis</td>
<td>Lobby</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:30 – 19:30</td>
<td>Journey through the Amsterdam canals</td>
<td>Boat</td>
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<td>19:30 – 21:50</td>
<td>Dinner in Artis</td>
<td>Artis Aquarium</td>
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<tr>
<td>21:50 – 22:00</td>
<td>Gather for return bus</td>
<td>Artis Aquarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:00 – 22:15</td>
<td>Return transport from Artis to Doubletree Hilton</td>
<td>Bus</td>
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Global Alliance for Banking on Values

Founded in 2009, the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) is an independent network of banks and banking cooperatives with a shared mission to use finance to deliver sustainable economic, social and environmental development. The Global Alliance comprises 28 financial institutions operating in countries across Asia, Africa, Australia, Latin America, North America and Europe; serving 20 million customers; holding up to USD 100 billion of combined assets under management; and powered by a network of 30,000 co-workers.

Learn more www.gabv.org

Triodos Bank

Founded in 1980, Triodos Bank has become a reference point for sustainable banking globally. Triodos Bank is an independent bank that promotes sustainable and transparent banking. It does not see any conflict between a focus on people and the planet and a good financial return. Instead it believes that they reinforce each other in the long-term.

Triodos Bank has branches in The Netherlands, Belgium, the UK, Spain, Germany and an agency in France. It is a global authority in the field of microfinance in developing countries, Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

Triodos Bank co-founded the Global Alliance for Banking on Values.

Learn more www.triodos.com

Useful Information

Questions about the programme
Christelle Sprokel M +31 (0)6 – 52 01 29 76

Questions about logistics
Mandisa Oosterling M +31 (0)6 – 10 35 04 78

Hotel Doubletree Hilton Amsterdam:
Oosterdokstraat 4, Amsterdam
+31 (0)20 – 530 08 00

Pharmacy: BENU Apotheek
Geldersekade A 84, Amsterdam
+31 (0)20 – 624 04 45

Doctor: Huisartsenpraktijk C. de Bruijne
Geldersekade 89, Amsterdam
+31 (0)20 – 624 30 52

Hospital: Onze Lieve Vrouwen Gasthuis
Oosterpark 9, Amsterdam
+31 (0)20 – 599 91 11

Taxi: AMS Taxi
+31 (0)20 – 260 00 58

Wificodes Venues

Triodos wifi netwerk:
username: TB-Guest
password: Alicante

Doubletree:
username: hhonors
no password needed

De Hallen:
username: DHS_Guests
no password needed
Information about external guests
Tuesday March 8

Facilitator

Tom Cummings – Strategic Leadership Adviser at Leading Ventures and Senior Adviser to the GABV, The Netherlands
Tom has served as Global Head of Learning and Organisation Effectiveness for Unilever and ABN Amro Bank and as Project leader/Adviser on Planning and Learning in companies such as Shell, Compass Group and Fortis. Tom’s work involves him as a designer and catalyst in hundreds of projects and board retreats, working with people who wish to engage with complexity and want to learn how to move between and across different perspectives. Tom is a Board member for the Tallberg Foundation, the International Bateson Institute, and Progressio Foundation.

Innovation Showcase

James Vaccaro – Director of Corporate Strategy, Triodos Bank, UK
James has worked at Triodos Bank since 1998. In previous roles, James started and managed Investment Management in the UK branch, incorporating Corporate Finance advisory services, and was the Managing Director of Triodos Renewables. James is currently a member of the Global Steering Committee for the United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative and a trustee of the Finance Innovation Lab.

Mikel Garcia-Prieto – Managing Director of Triodos Bank and President of Triodos Foundation, Spain
With an industrial engineering background, Mikel García-Prieto has been linked to Triodos Bank from its foundation in Spain. Mikel previously held various senior positions, such as Deputy Risk Director, Business Banking Director, and Director of Madrid Regional Office.

Anne Marie de Blieck – Manager Team Arts & Culture, Public and Medium Sized Enterprises, Triodos Bank, The Netherlands
Anne Marie works in the Loan Department of Triodos Bank, Dutch branch. The teams are active in the field of acquisition and loan structuring for Arts & Culture and Public, and Medium Sized Enterprises. Before Anne Marie joined Triodos Bank, Anne Marie worked for Fortis Bank.

Dan Hird – Head of Corporate Finance, Triodos Bank, UK
Dan has built the Triodos corporate finance business since 2008 to become a UK market leader, advising clients in the social and environmental sectors on risk capital raising and other corporate transactions such as social impact bonds. Dan is a chartered accountant and before joining Triodos, he worked at KPMG Corporate Finance, ran his own corporate finance business and spent six years as Finance Director of two mid-sized private companies in the retail and manufacturing sectors.

Plenary Session Triodos Bank

Frank Elderson – Executive Director of De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB), The Netherlands
Frank Elderson is currently responsible for Pension Funds’ supervision, horizontal supervisory functions, Banking Resolution and Legal Affairs. Frank is a member of the Plenary Session of the Single Resolution Board. Before joining DNB’s Executive Board, Mr Elderson served as Head of the ABN AMRO supervision department (2006-2007), Director of the Legal Services division (2007-2011) and DNB’s General Counsel (2008-2011). He received his professional training as an attorney with Houthoff Advocaten & Notarissen from 1995 to 1998.

Thomas Rau – Founder of Turntoo and RAU Architects, The Netherlands
Thomas Rau is an entrepreneur, architect, innovator, inspirer and visionary. His motto is ‘guided by the future’. He allows himself to be inspired by what is needed in the future and not by what is feasible at present. Rau has been an influential voice in the national and international debate about sustainability, the use of renewable energy sources in architecture and how to act in the light of the current scarcity. In 2011 he founded Turntoo, a company focused on developing new business models for the economy of the future. Both RAU Architects and Turntoo are among the first companies in the Netherlands dedicated to the circular economy, creating some of the original examples of circular economy concepts and business models.
Tamara Vrooman – President and Chief Executive Officer, Vancity, Canada
Vancity is Canada’s largest community credit union. As CEO of this credit union, Tamara harnesses the strength of Vancity to fulfill its vision of redefining wealth for members and communities. Before joining Vancity, Tamara served as Deputy Minister of Finance for British Columbia from 2004 to mid-2007, and as Secretary to the Treasury Board, as well as Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer for the Ministry of Health.

Jesse Fripp – General Manager of the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance, Switzerland
AKAM is the lead agency within the Aga Khan Development network delivering impact capital and micro-small business finance. Mr. Fripp has over 20 years of experience in leading implementation of financial and economic inclusion efforts in transition and conflict economies, including a central focus on alternative delivery channel models. Previously, Mr. Fripp was Managing Director for Capacity Solutions with Enclude (formerly ShoreBank International Ltd/Triodos Facet), and also served in senior management roles with BearingPoint and Global Communities/Vitas Finance, including as founding CEO of a small business finance company in Eastern Europe.

Names and information on the innovation lab workshops Wednesday March 9th

Innovation lab 1: Influencing the policy debate
How do (small) GABV members get a seat at the table in relevant policy debates at home and in EU/Basel? Content to cover one or two case studies of non-banking example of how ‘small’ voices have made themselves heard with policy makers.

Hosted by: Linda van Goor – Independent Adviser Regulatory Communication, The Netherlands
Linda has been working with Europe’s financial sector since 1991. From 2007 to 2013 she worked in Brussels to review and draft legislation regarding the supervision of financial groups. In this capacity she also represented the European Commission in the relevant Basel platforms. Gaining from her background as an academic professor, she is passionate about educating and training people to better understand the dynamics of the European idea.

Innovation lab 2: Fintech – the pros and cons and what it means for values-based relationship banking
The challenges and opportunities of data-driven technological solutions, new banking models and the role of values and relationships in the future system.

Hosted by: Jellie Banga – Chief Operating Officer Triodos Bank, The Netherlands
Jellie has been Statutory Member of the Executive Board of Triodos Bank N.V. since September 2014. Jellie is Chief Operating Officer and was appointed to the Executive Board as non-statutory Member in 2013. Jellie is a Member of the Board of Stichting Triodos Sustainable Finance Foundation and a Member of the Advisory Board of Stichting Lichter.
Innovation lab 3: Philanthropy versus banking: what are the different roles of money
Roles of loan/gift/investment money in transitioning to a different economic model.

Hosted by: David Carrington – Vice Chair of the Supervisory Board of Triodos Bank, UK
Next to a member of the Supervisory Board of Triodos Bank, David is a Non-Executive Director of Big Society Capital in the UK. David is an independent consultant working on the funding and governance of charities and social enterprises, in particular the development of social investment, and has over 40 years’ experience of senior management positions in the charity sector and board membership of civil society organisations.

Innovation lab 4: What can GABV banks do for SMEs?
Entrepreneurs, particularly of small businesses and startups, expect more than a loan or investment. They look for advice, guidance and a sparring partner. How can banks fulfil that role without losing their independence and in a financially feasible way? And what is the role of different types of investors/institutions in filling the credit need?

Hosted by: Daniël Povel – Director Business Banking, The Netherlands
Daniël is responsible for the service of corporate clients and lending to sustainable companies and projects in The Netherlands. In this capacity he is the Chairperson of the Dutch Credit Committee. Previously, Daniël was Director of Triodos Investment Management’s Energy and Climate business line, where he was responsible for financing and investing in renewable energy projects across Europe. Before Daniël joined Triodos Bank in 2006, he worked for eight years for a major Dutch commercial bank.

And hosted by: Elwin Groenevelt – Chief Executive Officer Qredits, The Netherlands
Elwin holds a bachelor’s degree from the Amsterdam Academy in banking and finance. After 14 years in commercial banking he founded Qredits in 2009. Qredits is the only nationally operating microfinance organisation in The Netherlands offering microcredit business loans (up to €50,000), SME loans (up to €250,000), mentoring and innovative training tools that have been translated into four languages. Since 2013 Elwin is Treasurer of the Board of the European Microfinance Network.

Innovation lab 5: Influencing the wider financial system
How can GABV members retain their challenger role to influence the wider financial system as they grow and by default become more part of the system? What is the role of central banks in nurturing that role?

Hosted by: Rens van Tilburg – Director Sustainable Finance Lab, The Netherlands
Rens van Tilburg is a member of the Sustainable Finance Lab and the Director of the SFL-secretariat at the University Utrecht School of Economics. Prior to that Rens worked in the European and Dutch parliament, for advisory councils of the Dutch government in the field of innovation and at SOMO, a research consultancy. He is an economist by training and has published extensively on the stability and sustainability of the financial sector.

Innovation lab 6: Impact-based capital raising
How can value-based banks raise more capital? What is the role of family offices?

Hosted by: Laurie J. Spengler – President & Chief Executive Officer Enclude, UK
Enclude is a global advisory firm dedicated to building inclusive, sustainable and prosperous local economies. Ms. Spengler has 25+ years’ experience in strategy and transaction services, specifically capital raising, M&A, and private equity transactions. Previously, Ms. Spengler was founder and CEO of Central European Advisory Group a regional advisory firm she sold to her management team in 2005. She also worked as an attorney with the New York, Brussels and Prague offices of White & Case.

And hosted by: Margaret McGovern – Co-Founder Pymwymic, USA
Pymwymic is the “Put Your Money Where Your Meaning Is Community” of European families, philanthropists and investors who support for-profit companies in creating global solutions. Margaret has served for six years as CEO. As an entrepreneur turned investor, Margaret has participated in several early and mid-stage impact investments, and particularly supports the growth and mobilisation of women investing for impact.
Innovation lab 7: New currencies and value-based banks
If energy generation became decentralised, electricity would become a currency: what would that mean for value-based banks?

Hosted by: Jacco Minnaar – Director Energy and Climate, Triodos Investment Management, The Netherlands
Jacco is responsible for managing and developing new and existing investment activities in the renewable energy sector. Jacco has 20 years of experience working in the financial sector and investment industry. At Triodos Investment Management Jacco worked as Fund Manager Triodos Fair Share Fund and Regional Manager Africa and Latin America, responsible for both equity and debt investments. Before joining Triodos Investment Management in October 2006, Jacco worked as Manager of the Financial Markets Development Program of International Finance Corporation (IFC) in the Mekong region.

And hosted by: Gerrit Buist – Counsel to the Centre for Energy at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Gerrit is actively involved in the development and financing of decentralised and border crossing sustainable energy systems in Europe and North-America. Gerrit is partner in EPG in Chelmsford (UK) since 2008. EPG is a partnership geared at structuring, organising and financing sustainable and decentralised energy projects and systems. In 2008 Gerrit was the co-founder of the Center for Energy at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The Center is an academic organisation for research and education on behalf of the end user and focused at sustainable energy where local clean energy meets finance.

Maps

**Hotel DoubleTree Hilton – Oosterdokstraat 4 Amsterdam**

From and to the Central (train) Station, it’s a three minute walk to the Doubletree Hilton.

**Tariffs for public transport tickets:**
A two-day ticket (48 hrs): € 12,50
A three-day ticket (72 hrs): € 17,00
A four-day ticket (96 hrs): € 21,50
You can purchase this ticket at the GVB shop at the Central (train) Station

**Breakfast at the Doubletree Hilton is served:**
From 07:00 – 11:00 at the weekend
From 06:30 – 10:30 during weekdays
De Hallen Studio’s – Hannie Dankbaarpassage 18, Amsterdam

HR Group walk to De Hallen to join the CEO session on Tuesday

Eye (IJpromenade 1) – pontje – Centraal Station Amsterdam – Doubletree Hilton (Oosterdokstraat 4)

Eye to Doubletree Hilton: In case you missed the boat transport, you can take the ferry to Central Station and from there back to the hotel. The ferry is free of charge.

About Amsterdam

Amsterdam is the capital city and most populous city of the Kingdom of The Netherlands. Its status as the Dutch capital is mandated by the Constitution of The Netherlands though it is not the seat of the Dutch government, which is The Hague. Amsterdam has a population of 831,279 within the city proper, 1,326,384 in the urban area and 1,599,737 in the metropolitan area. The city region has an approximate population of 2,431,000. The city is located in the province of North Holland in the west of the country, and is also North Holland’s largest city. It comprises much of the northern part of the Randstad, one of the larger conurbations in Europe, with a population of approximately 7 million.

Amsterdam’s name derives from Amsteldamme, indicative of the city’s origin as a dam of the river Amstel. Originating as a small fishing village in the late 12th century, Amsterdam became one of the most important ports in the world during the Dutch Golden Age (17th century), a result of its innovative developments in trade. During that time, the city was the leading center for finance and diamonds. In the 19th and 20th centuries the city expanded, and many new neighbourhoods and suburbs were planned and built. The 17th-century canals of Amsterdam and the 19–20th century Defence Line of Amsterdam are on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
The Global Alliance for Banking on Values is an independent network of banks and banking cooperatives with a shared mission to use finance to deliver sustainable economic, social and environmental development.