

Brief Overview Earth Charter Movement in The Netherlands

In early 2000, the National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) **became closely involved with the Earth Charter Initiative**. NCDO held a leadership role in translating the Earth Charter text into Dutch, producing brochures, posters and videos, as well as organizing EC events to raise awareness about the Earth Charter in The Netherlands. The Earth Charter launch in June 2000, held at the Peace Palace in The Hague, was organized in collaboration with NCDO.



Ruud Lubbers, former Prime Minister of The Netherlands and Earth Charter Commissioner, has played an important role in bringing the Earth Charter to the attention of the public through the different initiatives and projects inspired by the Earth Charter in which he was engaged.

De Aarde, ons thuis

Een duurzame wereld begint bij jezelf en met het betrokken van het Earth Charter, ook wel Handvest van de Aarde genoemd. Het Handvest wordt onderschreven door vele mensen wereldwijd die zich inzetten voor een rechtvaardige, duurzame en vreedzame toekomst. Voor Nederland, dat momenteel sterk in verandering en verrijking is onder invloed van gevoelens van angst en kwetsbaarheid voor terrorisme, globalisering en culturele vervreemding, biedt het Earth Charter een positief perspectief.

Visie en inspiratie

Het Earth Charter is geen onbereikbare droom van wereldvreemde idealisten. Het initiatief heeft geleid tot een document met principes en een beweging die zich komert door voortdurende mondiale dialoog. Zo wil de organisatie transitie bevorderen naar een duurzame levenswijze. Als je het Earth Charter betrokken bent, neem je vier uitgangspunten mee in je persoonlijke leven, je omgeving, op school én op je werk:

1. Respect en zorg voor alle levensvormen
2. Ecologische integriteit
3. Sociale en economische rechtvaardigheid
4. Democratie, geweldloosheid en bevordering van een cultuur van vrede

Partners in Nederland

NCDO's sinds 2002 aanspreekpunt voor het Earth Charter. Bij het beklend maken en uitdragen van het Earth Charter spelen de Earth Charter Commissarissen Avarahan Surenthorp en Ruud Lubbers een belangrijke rol. Vele individuen en maatschappelijke organisaties in Nederland hebben het Handvest onderschreven of zijn betrokken bij activiteiten, zoals Perin Nederland, SSI Nederland en Soka (Gokken Internationaal), Jane Goodall Instituut, Centrum voor Internationale Samenwerking (COS), United Network of Young Peace Builders (UNYP) en de Worldconnectors.

HET EARTH CHARTER

VISIE EN INSPIRATIE

Je kans om in actie te komen voor een duurzame en vreedzame wereld

Universale verantwoordelijkheid

Wat kan je doen?
Het Earth Charter roept op tot handelen en is een gids voor een duurzame levenswijze die tot betrokkenheid, samenwerking en verandering kan inspireren.

Betrochtig het Earth Charter en stimuleer betrokkenheid (onderzoeken) bij organisaties en bedrijven waar je deel van uit maakt, zie hiervoor www.verantwoord.nl.

Leet het niet bij je handtekening, maar word eerst 'engaged' enduser'. Geef aan hoe je van plan bent de doelen en principes van het Handvest in de praktijk te brengen.

Laat je inspireren door aansprekende voorbeelden die je vindt op de website www.earthcharteraction.org/nederland en in het boek 'Het Earth Charter in Actie - naar een duurzame wereld'. Hierin staan korte verhalen hoe het Handvest wereldwijd in de praktijk wordt gebracht. Bestel het boek in het Engels, Nederlands of Spaans bij KIT Publishers: publishers.kit.nl of www.kitpublishers.org.

Meld je aan voor de regionale cursussen van COS Overijssel: DuurzaamDoeJeZelf@cosoverijssel.nl, T. 038 - 4211925, www.handsvandeaarde.nl.

Draag ervan bij het Earth Charter meer bekendheid te geven door het bij eigen activiteiten te vermelden en het ondervragen van gesprekjes te maken. Vraag ouders aan bij NCDO of download het document van de website. Geef het boek 'Het Earth Charter in Actie' cadeau aan vrienden, familie, kennissen en collega's.

Onderzoek of jouw gemeente gemeentewereld is in de Earth Charter. Het is om te beginnen die de wereld, onderwijs, Seneca of Change, de beschikbare is via SSI Nederland, COS Overijssel kan daar bij ondersteunen.

Abonneer je op de internationale nieuwsbrief via de website.

Adressen

Informatie en advies over het Earth Charter in Nederland
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E: duurzaamdoejezelf@cosoverijssel.nl
www.handsvandeaarde.nl

Informatie over het Earth Charter in België
Het Dag Hammarskjöld Studiecentrum
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E: veronica.loek-hijs@scart.be

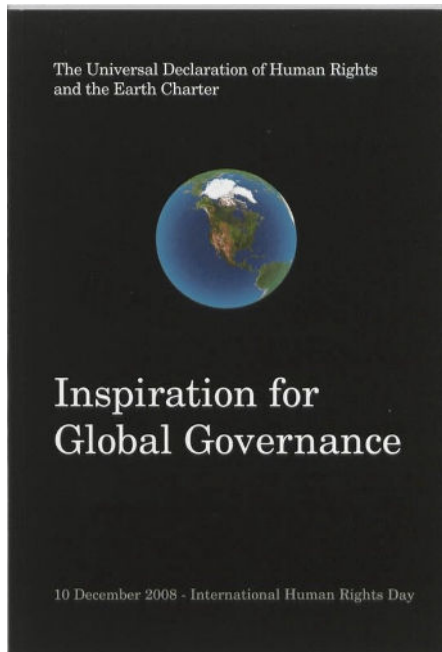
During the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, the then Prime Minister of The Netherlands, **Jan Peter Balkenende** stated, “We should encourage business to make a commitment to accountability not because they have to, but because they want to, inspired by sustainable development. Such inspiration might be drawn from the Earth Charter”.

In 2005, a major Earth Charter event took place at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), organised by NCDO in Amsterdam that brought together individuals involved in the Earth Charter from all regions of the world to share experiences, evaluate progress of the initiative since 2000 and launch a new phase of the initiative. As part of that effort **the book “Earth Charter in Action: toward a sustainable world”** (published by KIT Publishers) was launched in a ceremony **that included the participation of HRH Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands**. An Earth Charter Award ceremony was part of this event.



In the fall of 2008, partly in the context of 60 years UN Declaration on Human Rights, the Earth Charter community gathered again in Amsterdam. At this occasion a new publication was presented and discussed

in which the Earth Charter was presented in the context of 60 years Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

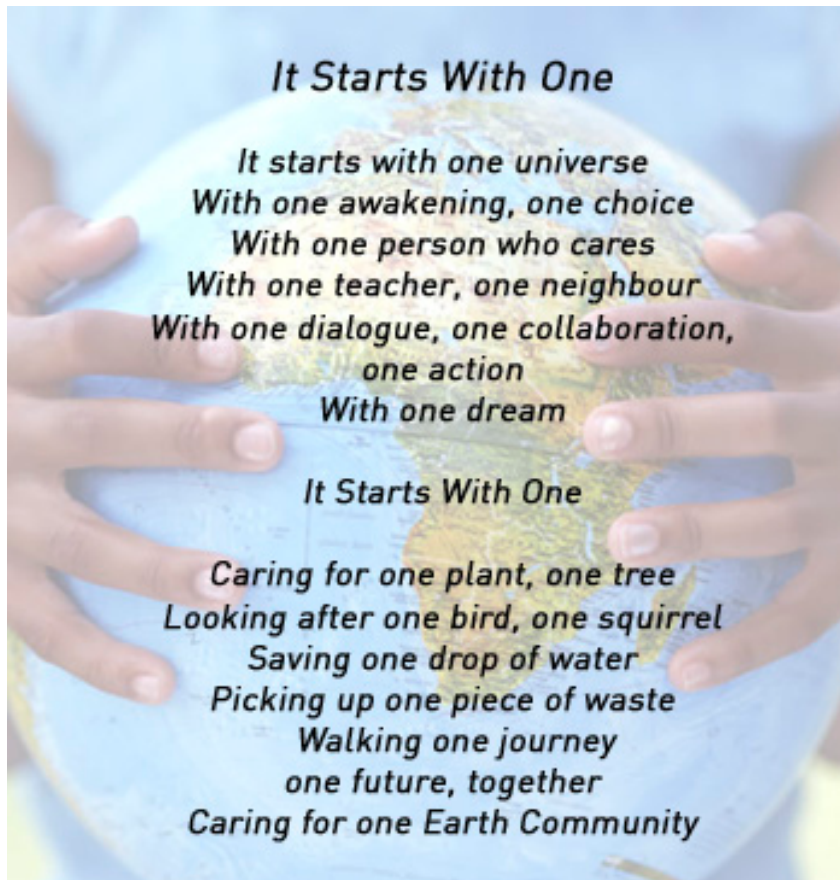


In 2010, the celebration of 10 years Earth Charter took place on **29 June in The Peace Palace in The Netherlands**. It brought together members of the ECI Council and Commission in a special meeting to examine the Earth Charter text. It brought together **a large community of Earth Charter Young leaders from all parts of the world**. Queen Beatrix was our special guest; she received the first copy of **the book [“The Earth Charter, a framework for Global Governance”](#)**, edited by Klaus Bosselmann.



Another special guest to the EC+10 event was Karen Armstrong, she presented her new thoughts on '12 steps to compassion'. The slogan 'It Starts with One' inspired a special poem – written by ECI Council members Steven Rockefeller, Kartikeya Sarabhai and Alide Roerink together with our communications

advisor Fernanda Baumhart (Brazil), and several online video's reaching out to new audiences.



Unfortunately, NCDO, as the focal point for ECI in The Netherlands, could not continue its work because it had to close doors right after The Rio+20 Conference at the end of 2012. The good news is that new initiatives were taken by several people and organisations so that the Earth Charter network in the Netherlands continued. Earth Charter Commissioners **Ruud Lubbers and Awraham Soetendorp** continued their efforts to reach out with the Earth Charter to new audiences and actors. **Alide Roerink and Ama van Dantzig became part of the ECI Council.**

Ruud Lubbers initiated the [Earth Charter Friends network](#) in The Netherlands, together with ECI Council member Alide Roerink. The new network started in 2013 and is still alive with almost 60 members in 2020.



Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, Earth Charter Commissioner, also played a very active role in promoting the Earth Charter particularly through the various inter-faith and **spirituality efforts** and initiatives that he is part of. In 2008, the Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values was set up and it worked for several years as the lead organization of the Earth Charter Religions Task Force.



In **2015, the international celebration of 15 years Earth Charter** was organised on 28 and 29 June, this time at the green environment of Estate **Zonheuvel in Doorn**. Several representatives of Earth Charter Affiliates from all parts of the world, and especially from Europe gathered to exchange methods and

experiences working with the Earth Charter in education and global citizenship campaigns. Steven Rockefeller presented his essay on The Earth Charter and Democracy and a dialogue on the Earth Charter and the SDGs was introduced by Kartikeya Sarabhai. Kartikeya also launched the 'Earth Report' on the Earth Charter and Gender Equality. Other inspiring parts of the program, next to a wonderful walk through the woods where musicians performed and the exhibition Seeds of Hope could be followed: the **viewing of the film 'The Journey of the Universe'** guided by Mary Evelyn Tucker, a plant action of a 15 year old maple tree and playing the Earth Charter Game in a yurt.



FESTIVAL

In September 2013, Earth Charter Friends participated in 'Springtij, a sustainability festival which is yearly organized on **the island of Terschelling** in the North of the Netherlands. Many prominent sustainability leaders who actively advocate for the sustainability agenda in the Netherlands were present, and shared the newest insights and best practice experiences. The main topic of the brainstorm sessions was the current challenge to make sustainability part of the mainstream agenda. Business, finance, government, academia and civil society representatives contributed. **Ashok Khosla**, former Chair of the Club of Rome

and former Chair of IUCN Council, and Earth Charter International Affiliate in India offered a presentation at this event.

Top 100 Young Sustainability Leaders

A list consisting of 100 young front-runners in the Netherlands in the field of sustainability was launched in November 2013 in Amsterdam. The list, which was fully published by one of the largest Dutch newspapers, is an initiative of the Earth Charter Endorser '**DJ100**'. Together with Earth Charter Affiliate NCDO, DJ100 organized a launch party in a club in Amsterdam. During this event, which was attended by around 150 innovators in the field of sustainability, attention was paid to the principles and the global network of the Earth Charter.

Earth Charter The Netherlands Network meeting in The Peace Palace

On December 19th, 2013, Earth Charter Netherlands organized the meeting "The Earth Charter in Action" at the Peace Palace in The Hague, where the Earth Charter was launched 13 years before. The network meeting focused on business and centered on the following question: How can you, as an individual, make an active contribution to the solutions to global issues using the Earth Charter? Participants were given the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences on how they use the Earth Charter as a compass for their actions and were inspired by plenary contributions by Ruud Lubbers (Earth Charter Commissioner and former Prime Minister of the Netherlands), Volkert Engelsman (CEO Eosta), Ralien Bekkers (UN Youth Representative for Sustainable Development), Jan van de Venis (Chair, Stand Up for Your Rights, lawyer, and World Connector), and Abraham Soetendorp (Earth Charter Commissioner). Eveline Fokker provided the musical entertainment and Ama van Dantzig (Dr. Monk) was responsible for moderating the event. AVANS College co-organized a series of events around the Earth Charter to accompany the first Earth Charter Center for ESD executive programme offered in the Netherlands.

Earth Charter Day 2018

On 18 July 2018, some 65 people from all parts of the Netherlands gathered in Doorn at Landgoed Zonheuvel to celebrate the Earth Charter Day and pay a tribute to the late Earth Charter Commissioner Ruud Lubbers. The ceremony involved the presentation of **a special book with personal memories of 34 friends of Mr. Lubbers.**

Herewith a video that captured this special moment <https://youtu.be/CISlUxkTNGs>



INHOUDSOPGAVE

HERINNERINGEN VAN VRIENDEN VAN HET EARTH CHARTER AAN RUUD LUBBERS	INHOUD
ALEXANDER RINNOOY KAN 35	1 A Alide Roerink Geschiedenis van het Earth Charter
ALIDE ROERINK 36	1 B Ruud Lubbers Het Handvest van de Aarde: Inspiratie voor wereldwijde governance (2012)
AMA VAN DANTZIG & LYNN ZEBEDA 39	1 C Jos van Gennip Ruud Lubbers en de Worldconnectors
ANNE-MARIE RAKHORST 40	2 HERINNERINGEN van vrienden van het Earth Charter aan Ruud Lubbers
AWRAHAM SOETENDORP 41	3 A Het Handvest van de Aarde
BART KUIL 44	3 B De VN Global Goals voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling (SDGs)
BRIGITTE VAN BAREN 45	
CAROLINE LUBBERS 46	
DIRK VAN DER VEN 48	
EGBERT ROOZEN 49	
ERIK THIJIS WEDERSHOVEN 49	
GERBEN VAN STRAATEN 51	
HERMAN MULDER 54	
IGNAZ ANDERSON 54	
JAN PRONK 56	
JAN VAN DE VENIS 58	
JAN-WILLEM VAN DEN BRAAK 58	
JORIS VOORHOEVE 63	
MIRIAN VILELA 64	
NICO ANTEN 66	
PAUL VAN SETERS 68	
RINDERT DE GROOT 69	
RUDY RABBINGE 71	
SANDRA VAN BEEST 72	
SHERLIEN SANCHES 73	
STEVEN ROCKEFELLER 75	
SYLVIA BORREN 76	
TERESA FOGELBERG 78	
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Earth Charter 2020 taking new roots in the Netherlands & Tree planting ceremony

In a way, the land of the Zonheuvel Estate already welcomed our Earth Charter Netherlands community in 2015, when we planted our first Earth Charter tree. But now, since August 2019, the estate welcomes us to come and root with them, to keep our office in their building. Zonheuvel (which translates as Hill of the Sun) has a special history, beautiful gardens and is surrounded by old forest. We are very happy with their invitation. By planting two new trees, we mark our connection, and give back to the land.



At the Zonheuvel Estate in 2015: Jan Willem van den Braak (Chair Zonheuvel), Ama van Dantzig (ECI Council member), Ruud Lubbers (EC Commissioner) and Egbert Roozen (EC Friend and Director VHG) plant this sugar maple, in the presence of many other members of our worldwide community. The first Earth Charter tree in the Netherlands, under the motto One Earth Community, One Common Destiny.



At the Zonheuvel Estate in February 2020: Planting the Linde-tree in the cooperative vegetable garden (photo by Emiel Janssen)