

BeBrit Extreme Heat Risk Project City Case Study

Maastricht, The Netherlands

About Maastricht

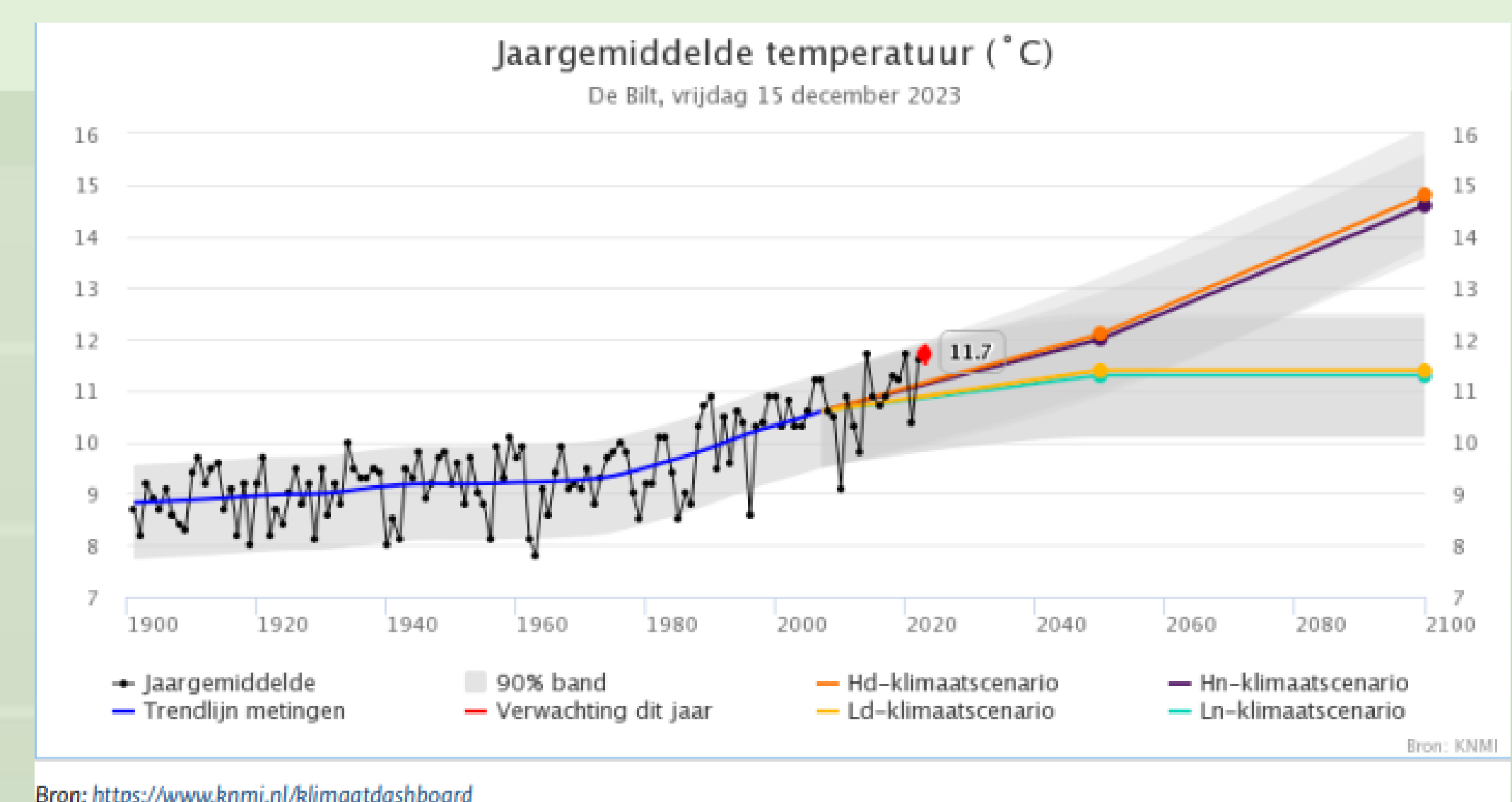
Maastricht is a city located in the southern part of the Netherlands, in the province of Limburg. It sits along the banks of the Meuse River, close to the borders of both Belgium and Germany. With its strategic location, Maastricht has a rich history shaped by its position as a major European crossroads. The population of Maastricht is around 120,000 people, making it one of the larger cities in the Netherlands.



Key Climate Challenges

The impact of climate change is increasingly palpable in Maastricht:

- **Floods** in July 2021, which prompted the preventive evacuation of 10,000 residents due to inadequate water drainage infrastructure.
- **Rising temperatures and heatwaves**, exemplified by record-breaking heat in July 2022



National Climate Adaptations for Heat-Proofing

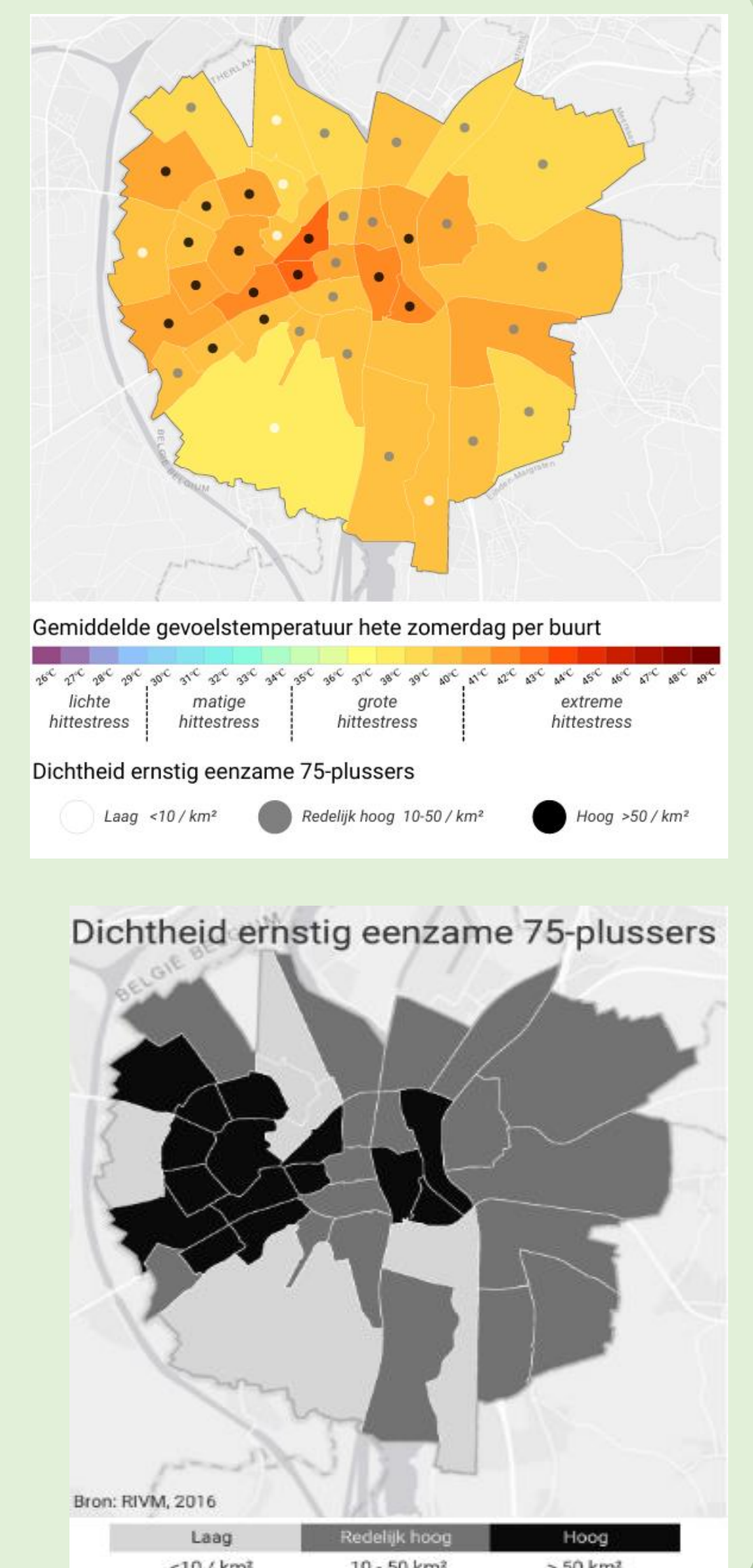
The risk of extreme heat in the Netherlands is increasing. In 2022, the Heat Menu was developed to show what steps a municipality can take to become "heat-proof", at the **health, building and region** levels.

- The **Heat Menu** provides an overview of all the health, building and region effects of heat that lie within the action of municipalities. It provides into the negative effects or problem and goals to ensure the municipality is heatproof against this. There are measures that a municipality can take, and more information
- The **Integrated Heat Action Plan Guide** is a step-by-step plan for municipalities on the theme of heat. All steps are clearly explained, and there are tools for each step
- The **Brochure Menu Heat** provides an overview of the method. It shows in clear steps how the Integrated Heat Action Plan Guide is structured and provides experiences from the ten pilot municipalities.



Heat and Loneliness Map

- The summer of 2018 in Maastricht was the warmest in recent centuries and the summer of 2019 had the hottest week on record: it was warmer than 40 degrees for the first time
- On such hot days, people can suffer from heat stress, therefore the Climate Adaptation Services, TAUW consultants and the climate covenant Netherlands produced a Heat and Loneliness Map. This was made possible through collaboration with VNG, Province Overijssel and Province South-Holland
- The Heat and Loneliness Map shows where the risks of heat stress are greatest in the city and then seek cooperation with the social domain in tackling heat risks



What can other cities learn from the Netherlands and the city of Maastricht?

Many lessons can be learnt from the Netherlands climate adaptation plans for extreme heat:

- Tackling extreme heat explicitly in climate adaptation plans and recognizing that it is a cross-cutting risk
- Providing clear and detailed guidance for municipalities (based on 10 pilot cities) on what to do in their municipality (health, buildings and region) and supporting the production of Local Heat Plans
- The Heat and Loneliness Map links social and physical domains of heat stress to help locate the most vulnerable groups

What can be improved?

- More cities producing Local Heat Maps and research to understand barriers (what is hindering production)
- Production of a Heat Protocol focused on Emergency and relevant hospital departments
- National and local coordination of cool spaces, especially during KNMI Code Red for heat

Wim Pulinx & Andrea Armstrong
info@silentspringconsultants.com
Silent Spring Consultants

www.bebritproject.com