

Tidal economy

Great changes are coming to the South-Western Delta that will impact the physical and socio-economic characteristics of the delta. The quality of the delta is under pressure, physically and socially, and this requires innovative solutions; solutions that ensure the delta remains liveable and sustainable in the future as well. Tidal economy, with the development of the Tidal Terrace Levee as the first step, offers this solution.

The core of the Tidal Economy vision is that the tide offers opportunities for new spatial development, economic development, the development of nature and landscape values, recreation, employment opportunities, and so on. Examples of projects that contribute to the transition to a Tidal Economy are the Sea Tide-ater: a theatre in which people can watch the spectacle of the sea, tide-based wellness: mud baths and algae-based products, saline agriculture, tidal energy: the production of energy using the power of the tide ('blue energy') and the tidal Terrace Levee: a stepped levee that, depending on the tide, can be used for other functions, in addition to safety.

The Tidal Terrace Levee consists of a regular levee, onto the inside and outside of which various terraces are constructed. Various other functions, such as recreation, agriculture and aquaculture can take place on these terraces, while maintaining the function safety. Together with the tide, the foundation height of the terrace determines the development opportunities. The Tidal Terrace Levee forms the link between the water, the levee and the inner area. The result is not just a levee; it is a connecting landscape.

The concept Tidal Economy was produced in collaboration with ARCADIS, Radboud University Nijmegen and Eindhoven Technical University, in the context of the Delta Award 2009. In addition, the Living with Water Foundation and the Delta Water Award 2009 organisation have contributed to the prerequisites for the development.

Read more about Tidal Economy:

- Bidbook (EN)
- Projectplan (NL)
- MKBA en Communicatieplan (NL)

Reactions on Tidal Economy

'The Tidal Economy is a fascinating concept. We're interested in determining whether the Tidal Terrace Levee can be applied in the San Francisco Bay Area. This innovative way of thinking is why those of us who work for the State of California like to work with the Dutch.'

Will Travis, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Annelies Pronker, Roem van Yerseke Hatchery

'Our main activities involve cultivating shellfish on a pilot scale. We would like to expand and develop commercial activities: the terraces of the Tidal Terrace Levee offer the perfect location for this purpose!'

Paul Berends, Process Manager at Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie Project Agency

Tidal Economy is definitely a valuable concept: the power of the delta has yet to be discovered fully.'

Jan Ketelaars, Zeeland Sole Foundation

The name Tidal Economy is a beautiful creation: the association with the continuous coming and going movement of the rising and falling tide gives a feeling of robustness: an economy that can handle setbacks.