

Abstract EEHB 2020

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Title:

The heritage of captains on Wadden Sea islands

Ameland, a Dutch Wadden Sea island, is blessed with many historical buildings, such as captains' houses, which make up picturesque neighbourhoods. Together with the attractions of sandy beaches, these quaint villages attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Ameland also has the ambitious goal to become self-sufficient in renewable energy. Therefore, it is now urgently needed to design strategies for energy efficiency, while keeping cherished values intact.

Our aim is to develop a valuation instrument that will help owners to choose appropriate measures to improve their buildings and that can support the municipality and other stakeholders with the design of strategies to implement the energy transition.

Theoretically, we rely on the Cultural Values Models as developed by Stephenson. This model recognizes that academic disciplines have differing perspectives on cultural values and that not all identified values belong to predetermined categories. Furthermore, Stephenson emphasizes the importance of values held by people living in the context of the landscape.

We investigate heritage values held by inhabitants of Ameland. What aspects of their built environment do they value in particular? How are specific building types, historical townscapes and landscapes evaluated? What impact of energy measures and scenarios do they find acceptable? To this end, we will perform fieldwork and technical enquiries of captains' houses, which are typical heritage buildings for Dutch Wadden Sea islands. Furthermore, we devised a questionnaire, which will be distributed at several events in 2020. Lastly, we will organise two focus groups with inhabitants and analyse the results. This is work in progress, but we expect to find a range of heritage values held by the inhabitants and stakeholders of Ameland. On this basis we will build a heritage valuation instrument, which will commensurate the different values and help Ameland to advance on its route to energy sustainability.