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## Sustainable Urban Fringes from a regional perspective



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## structure

- Project Sustainable Urban Fringes
- Sustainable development
- Governance
- Tools: building networks; creating synergy
- Conclusions

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## About SURF

Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) is a 3 year project 2009 - 2012, bringing together partners and experts from across the North Sea Region to exchange information and develop a common approach towards urban fringe development.

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## Who are the Partners?

- 13 partners
- 5 countries
  - UK
  - Netherlands
  - Belgium
  - Germany
  - Sweden



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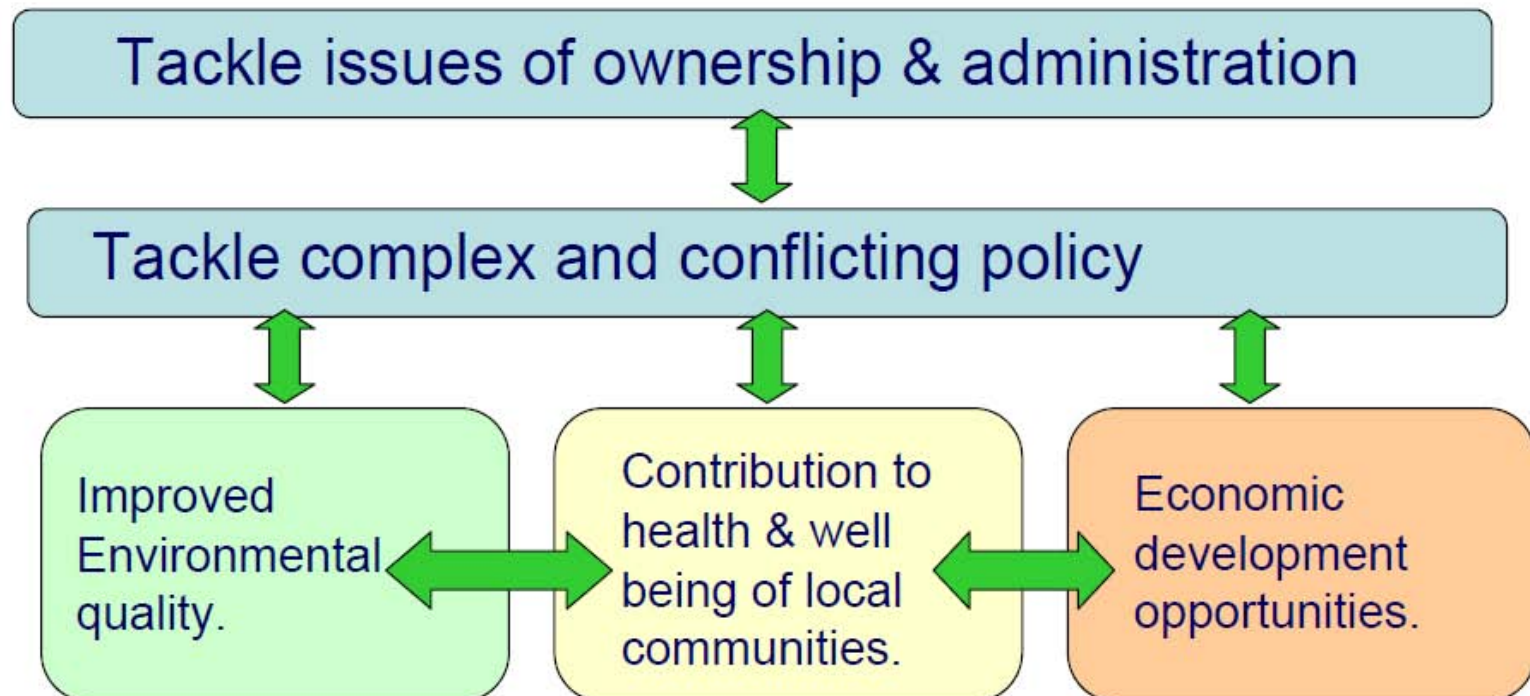
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# Objectives SURF





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## Progress SURF

- Partners (nearly) finished with projects and project reflections
- Final conference Aberdeen June 2012
- Autumn 2012 -dissemination of lessons learned
- Draft Toolkit Sustainable Urban Fringes distributed for feedback by partners

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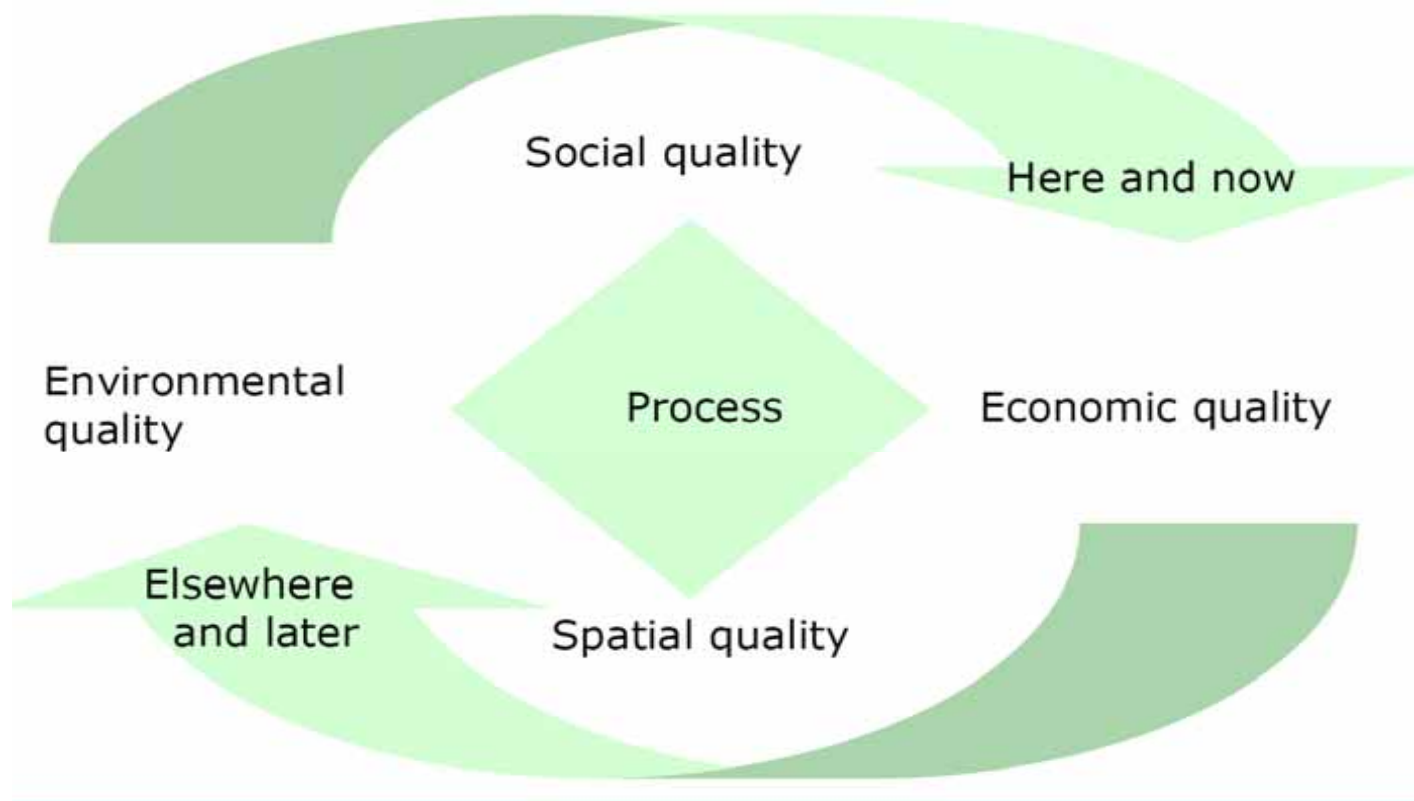


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# Sustainable development in urban fringes





Combine qualities here / now – elsewhere / later

Elsewhere	<i>Attention for effects outside area</i>	Elsewhere / later <i>Sustainable</i>
Here	Here / now <i>Quality of life</i>	<i>Future proof</i>
Quality	Now	Later







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## Social quality

- Socio-economic security
- Social cohesion
- Social inclusion
- Social empowerment

(Van er Maesen and Walker, 2006)

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## Socio-economic security and social cohesion



- Health
- Income sufficiency
- Income security
- Employment security
- Neighbourhood and community design

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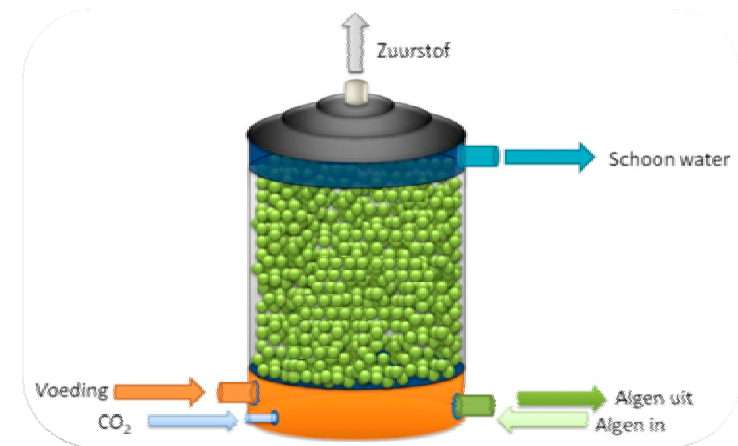
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## Environmental quality

- Fossil fuel reduction
- Renewable energy
- Closed material cycles
- Room for water
- Nature / biodiversity



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## Spatial quality

- Functional value
- Aesthetic value
- Future value

(Nota Ruimte / Dutch Spatial Planning Strategy, 2004)

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## Aesthetic value: visual link urban - rural



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## Functional value: multiple land use

- Combine functions where possible
- Separate functions where necessary
- Use underground and / of roofs



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# Future value: robust and flexible

- Consistent and clear main structure
- Details flexible and adaptable, depending upon societal developments or needs from stakeholders

5.2 Visie op de stadsranden van de Netwerkstad



Ruimtelijke visie





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## Economic quality and competitiveness

- Suitable businesses; room for entrepreneurship
- Urban area = market for urban fringe entrepreneurs AND source of raw materials, financing opportunities and labour

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## sectors

- Urban agriculture
- Care
- Shops & services
- Creative industry



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## Process quality: involve stakeholders in decision making



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## Evidence for synergy between qualities

- Spatial quality as a factor for location choices of businesses (Assink and Groenendijk, 2009)
- Zoning and neighbourhood design as a physical condition for social sustainability (Van Dorst, 2006)
- Green space as a factor that can improve health and social cohesion and can reduce health care costs (Maas, 2009)

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## Governance: trends (1)

### From:

Separation between urban  
planning and rural planning

Separation of functions

Top down planning

Blue print planning

### To:

Integrated urban – rural  
planning

Multifunctionality and  
interaction of functions

Participatory planning

Flexible planning

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## Governance: trends (2)

### From:

Competition between stakeholders: win – lose

Reactive planning

Focus on here and now; short term financial benefits

Government is leading

### To:

Cooperation between stakeholders: win – win

Pro-active planning

Focus on later and elsewhere: sustainable developments

Public private partnerships: cooperation between government, NGOs and businesses.





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## GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE UF

*Two main elements:*

- Building networks
- Creating synergies between various qualities

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## Building networks

- Neighbourhood forum, Hamburg
- Regional vision development, Twente
- **Green knowledge portal, Twente**
- Cooperation between authorities and higher education, West Flanders
- Weusthag Foundation, Hengelo
- Design review panel, Aberdeen

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# Green Knowledge Portal Twente

- Regional network organisation
- Partners: entrepreneurs, governments, educational and research institutes
- Aim: involve educational institutes on all levels in working in regional rural and urban fringe issues





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- <http://kenniswerkplaats.eu/groene-kennispoort-twente>



**Groene Kennispoort  
Twente**

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## CREATING SYNERGY

- Gids Buitenkans, Enschede
- Improve green space on business areas, Almelo
- Regional Branding, West Flanders
- Business models for urban agriculture, West Flanders
- Business involvement in parish plans, Bradford
- **Provincial quality chamber, East Flanders**
- Green and blue services, Enschede

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# PROVINCIAL QUALITY CHAMBER

- Aim: strengthening spatial quality and environmental sustainability in projects in the urban fringe and rural areas.
- Members: civil servants with different disciplines, and external experts.



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## PQC: procedure

- Presentation by project initiator
- Multi-disciplinary recommendations from PQC team
- No legally binding recommendations, but possible advantage in legal procedures



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- [http://www.oost-vlaanderen.be/public/economie\\_landbouw/landbouw/plattelandsbeleid/kwaliteitskamer/index.cfm#.T7AclrM9V9s](http://www.oost-vlaanderen.be/public/economie_landbouw/landbouw/plattelandsbeleid/kwaliteitskamer/index.cfm#.T7AclrM9V9s)

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## CHARACTERISING THE TOOLS

- Focus on interactive processes and network management
- Plus a focus on integrating spatial, economic and social qualities
- Ecological quality mostly translated into local issues such as (green) space. Little attention to more global aspects as energy, C2C, etc.

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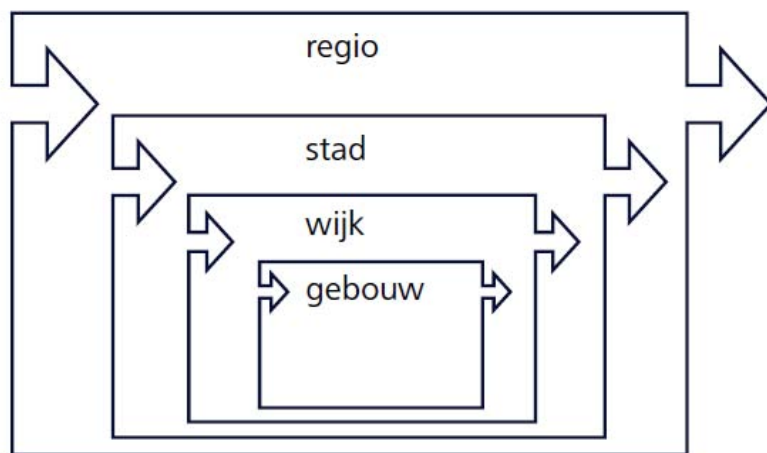
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# THE CHALLENGE



*ecologische en technologische kringlopen*

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## CONCLUSIONS

- Urban fringes have become a prime area of attention
- The issues and urgencies show a variety of situations
- Urgent need for effective governance approaches
- Interesting tools are in development
- ***Integrating all qualities in a multilevel, multi-actor approach remains a challenge***

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