

What your smart city can do

Smart technology makes city dwellers' lives easier and their environment cleaner. Here are some smart city examples:

Smart traffic

Los Angeles, California

What: Automated traffic surveillance and control

Funding: Government grant

Reached commercial viability: Less than two years

Why this matters: Sensors in roads and vehicles provide data that helps anticipate and reduce traffic congestion, which in turn decreases carbon output and productivity loss.



Smart parking

Barcelona, Spain

What: User-centered mobility services

Funding: Public-private partnership

Reached commercial viability: Less than two years

Why this matters: It puts individuals in control—providing them with real-time information on available free parking spots, saving time, and reducing carbon output.



Water conservation

Tokyo, Japan

What: Integrated water management

Funding: Government funded

Reached commercial viability: Two to five years

Why this matters: Cities can curb water loss due to leakage by using sensor technology and replacing and upgrading infrastructure.



Water desalination

Israel

What: Climate change and water security

Funding: Privately funded

Reached commercial viability: Five to ten years

Why this matters: Preparing cities for resilience to climate change (severe drought, rising sea levels, salt water intrusion, etc.) will require the design and implementation of Internet of Things-enabled infrastructure systems.



Smart micro-grids

Borrego Springs, California

What: Grid decentralization and autonomy

Funding: Grants from the US Department of Energy and the California Energy commission, with cost share between San Diego Gas & Electric and other project members

Reached commercial viability: Five to ten years

Why this matters: Micro-grids reduce carbon emissions through clean energy usage and operate autonomously, helping to mitigate grid disturbances.



Green buildings

Amsterdam

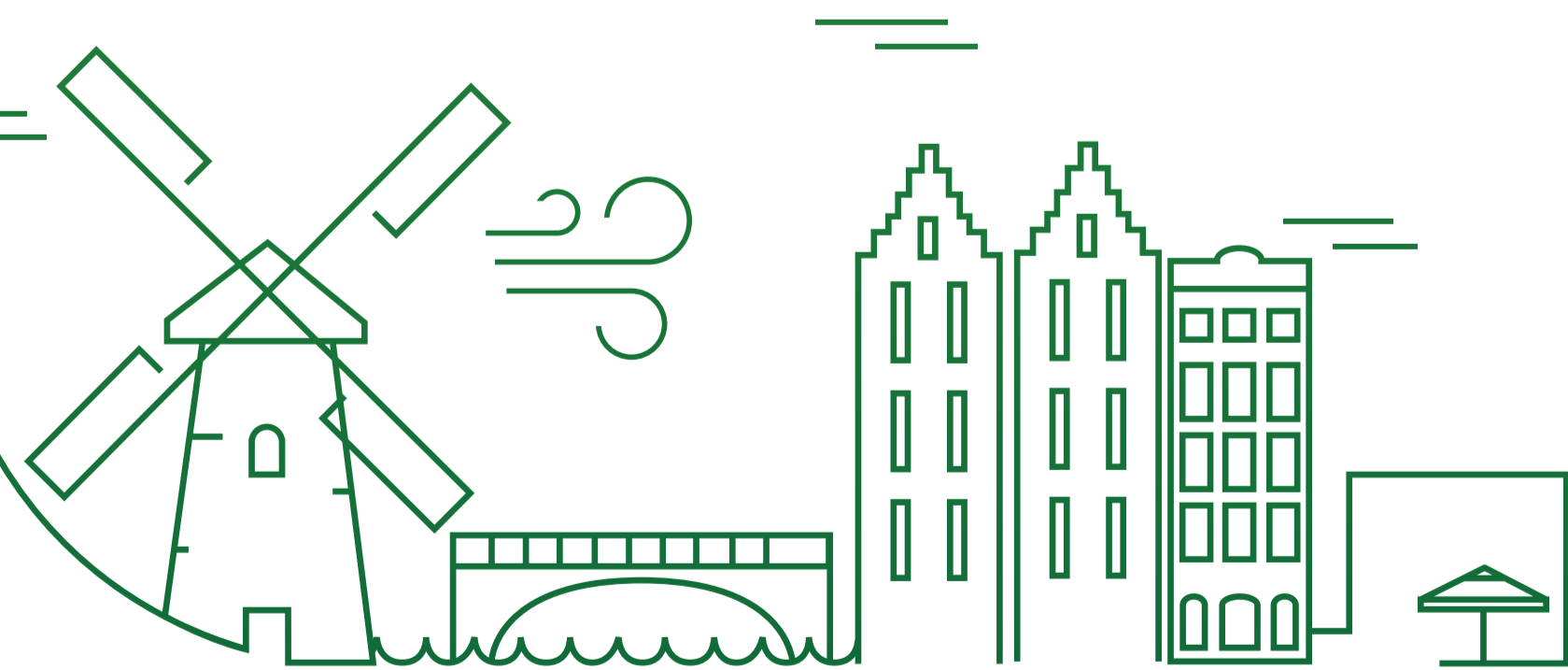
(Deloitte Netherlands' "The Edge" office building)

What: Energy management and efficiency

Funding: Construction loans

Reached commercial viability: Two to five years

Why this matters: Worldwide, buildings consume 42% of all electricity, up to half of which is wasted. Energy costs alone represent about 30% of an office building's total operating costs. Smart buildings use sensors to capture energy use data that's analyzed to detect potential issues, predict upcoming maintenance, and enable optimization of a building's energy systems.



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