

## Design Competition Energy-producing Greenhouses



The Dutch greenhouse horticulture sector is economically important, innovative and vigorous. The sector is fully aware of the social effects and economic threats associated with the use of high levels of fossil energy. To remain vigorous, sustainable and publicly respected in the long run, rigorous steps are now needed for the transformation into sustainable greenhouse horticulture. The greenhouse horticulture sector wants to change to a system in which the use of fossil fuels is replaced by renewable energy sources the whole year round. Many different energy sources could be used, such as solar energy, photovoltaic power, geothermal energy, hydropower and wind power. The rate of innovation and development of demonstration projects must be increased. It is time for decisive action towards sustainability.

The Energy-producing Greenhouse Design Competition is a joint initiative by the Dutch horticulture industry and the Dutch government. The competition organisers are looking for pioneering and innovative ideas for greenhouses that produce more energy than they consume and which enable sustainable and profitable crop production.

The Design Competition should deliver innovative solutions ready for use in greenhouse horticulture. Ruud Lubbers chairman of the independent jury takes a positive view of the greenhouse horticulture sector, which is taking concrete steps to reduce environmental and social impacts: "It is now time for new ways of thinking about the use of energy in greenhouse horticulture. No longer think of greenhouses as consumers of fossil energy, but as producers of renewable energy." The competition organisers are challenging the horticulture industry, growers, universities, institutes, civil society organisations and other interested parties to prepare and submit ideas, concepts or proposals. The Design Competition is open to entrants from around the world.

The greenhouse horticulture sector is looking for innovative concepts or designs for greenhouse-plant systems which are fully independent of fossil energy all year round, or even supply energy themselves. These innovative concepts should aim, in time, to deliver commercially viable cultivation systems. The design competition is an invitation to develop integrated and innovative greenhouse-plant systems and to test and demonstrate these systems in practice. The Energy-producing Greenhouses design competition is an invitation to take part in a competitive and creative design process for a sustainable and energy-producing greenhouse horticulture, with possibilities for experimental research and demonstration. High standards will be applied in the selection of the entries. The independent jury consists of experts in the field of horticultural production, energy and transition processes. The winners of the design process and pilot project stage will be in a position to shape the transition of the greenhouse horticulture sector on a commercial basis.

The Jury will evaluate the entries after the deadline for submissions on 12 January 2006. Entrants with the most promising proposals will be invited to develop their ideas, in a number of stages, into preliminary designs. Further selection will be made with a view to building and testing prototypes. The organisers expect that eventually a number of trials will be held, leading to a major breakthrough in the reduction of the use of fossil energy and the application of renewable energy technologies. Substantial financial support will be available for each stage.

For more information: [www.kasalsenergiebron.nl](http://www.kasalsenergiebron.nl) or mail to [aanbesteding@minInv.nl](mailto:aanbesteding@minInv.nl).