



Agriculture & Horticulture  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD



# New Project

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## PE/PO 011

GrowSave; an Energy & Resource  
Efficiency Knowledge Transfer  
Programme for the PC Sector

<b>Project Number:</b>	PE/PO 011
<b>Project Title:</b>	GrowSave; an Energy & Resource Efficiency Knowledge Transfer Programme for the PC Sector
<b>Project Leader:</b>	Chris Plackett
<b>Contractor:</b>	FEC Services Ltd
<b>Industry Representative:</b>	Colin Frampton; Chris Need – Roundstone Nurseries Ltd
<b>Start Date:</b>	01 June 2012
<b>End Date:</b>	31 May 2014
<b>Project Cost:</b>	£122,389

**Project Summary:**

This project will continue and develop the work of the current GrowSave project (CCP023b) which currently delivers energy communications and knowledge transfer to HDC members. The work proposed here will ensure that growers continue to get up-to-date impartial information about energy saving techniques and technologies and how they can be successfully used in their businesses.

The project will use a variety of delivery mechanisms including the dedicated GrowSave website, printed material (including newsletters, factsheets and HDC News articles) and grower meetings/workshops.

The work described in this proposal will continue to primarily centre on the needs of both ornamental and edible crop production. However, it is recognised that some of the areas covered are also of significant value to other HDC crop sectors. In some cases this value also extends to other AHDC Levy Co's such as BPC and HGCA.

To respond to this the focus of the project will move towards the more general energy information needs of all growers of horticultural crops. Where appropriate, the project will also work with other relevant AHDB sectors to pull in some of the energy topics that are of wider relevance to all growers and farmers. Should this result on additional work which is outside the scope of this proposal, additional

funding will be sought to cover it from the relevant HDC Sector Panel or AHDB Levy Co.

**Aims & Objectives:**

(i) Project aim:

To provide UK based growers of protected crops (both edible and ornamental) with a comprehensive source of impartial energy saving information.

(ii) Project objective(s)

To provide

- Easy access to the most up to date information on energy saving techniques for protected crop production in the UK
- Benchmarking data for energy use, weather conditions and crop yields that will allow growers to set themselves realistic improvement targets
- Impartial information on energy developments from R&D and commercial developments both in the UK and other countries
- Case study examples of energy efficiency / sustainability best practice in the PC sector
- Where possible, to extend the scope of GrowSave to other resource inputs (e.g. water use efficiency)
- Where possible, to make energy efficiency information as accessible as possible for all sectors of horticulture and the wider AHDB.

**Benefits to industry**

- (i) **Improved energy efficiency** – by having ready access to the most up to date and reliable information, growers will be able to implement energy saving technologies and techniques safe in the knowledge that energy savings can be achieved with minimal risk.
- (ii) **Lower energy costs** - practical implementation of the advice and information given means that growers will reduce their energy consumption below current levels and therefore make cost savings.
- (iii) **Less dependence on traditional fossil fuels** – the information given to growers will allow them to both use fossil fuels more effectively and economically introduce renewable energy. This combination of actions will reduce the current level of dependence on fossil fuels.
- (iv) **Improved environmental performance** – reductions in the use of fossil fuels will lead to reduced emissions of one the major greenhouse gases, CO<sub>2</sub>. This will therefore improve the environmental performance of the horticultural industry of the UK.

Overall the project will benefit all growers in the PC sector by helping them to reduce input costs and thereby secure their long term financial viability.

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