

# Sustainability projects in the Netherlands

## **Editors**

Monika Chao-Duvis

Rob Kluitenberg

**Photo cover: Bus terminal in Tilburg, the Netherlands**

Design bus terminal: architectenbureau cepezed, Delft; photograph: cepezed | Lucas van der Wee. More information on this project can be found on page 14.

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Rob Kluitenberg

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# Preface

The annual conference of the European Society of Construction Law took place on 24 October 2019 in Delft, the Netherlands. The topic of the conference was: 'Legal implications of climate change: the case for circularity'.

The consequences of climate change are far-reaching and we are faced with them more rapidly than was thought ever before. This problem affects everyone and it is therefore essential that all professional groups contribute to the prevention of disaster.

The choice for this topic was therefore obvious. What can we learn from each other: what solutions to legal problems have been devised in the various European countries, what is still being struggled with? That is what is discussed on 24 October 2019.

The problem of climate change is huge and so complicated that sometimes courage falls. Take a recent report for which the BBC asked attention in September 2019: 'Climate change: Electrical industry's "dirty secret" boosts warming'.<sup>1</sup> Windmills seemed to be a nice part of the solution, but there is a snag there too. Can we not come up with real solutions? Are we doomed? No: we cannot lose heart, we will have to conquer the problem. And many in different industries have taken upon themselves to do their part in this battle. We do see optimism and the will to overcome the enormous problems.

This book bears witness to that optimism and that will. When designing and realizing buildings and other projects, the climate problem is taken into account in many ways. In this book you will find examples which show that solutions are being applied. Take a look at these, follow them and improve them. But above all: I challenge you to come up with more solutions and share them within the beautiful construction industry!

On behalf of the European Society of Construction Law (ESCL) and the Dutch Institute for Construction Law (IBR), I would like to express the hope that both this book - published on FSC paper - and the 2019 conference will be a contribution to beating the climate problem.

Prof. dr. Monika Chao-Duivis  
President of the European Society of Construction Law  
Director of the Dutch Institute of Construction Law

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1 See: [www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49567197](http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49567197).

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