

## **SITE VISIT 6 – DE NIEUWE AFSLUITDIJK**

### **Organisation**

De Nieuwe Afsluitdijk. A partnership between Rijkswaterstaat, the province of Fryslan, the province of North-Holland, municipality of Harlingen, municipality of Sudwest-Fryslan and the municipality of Hollands Kroon.



### **Description of site visit**

The Afsluitdijk is a 32 km long dike separating the Waddensea and the IJsselmeer and connecting the provinces of North Holland and Fryslan. The Afsluitdijk was built between 1927 and 1932 and has proven to be an internationally renowned icon in the field of watermanagement. The visit will focus on Kornwerderzand, a key hub on the Afsluitdijk. It was built during the construction of the Afsluitdijk as a working island. It was also a defensive stronghold of the Netherlands during the second World War. Since then, Kornwerderzand has developed to become an important passage for most of the shipping traffic in the north of the Netherlands. De Nieuwe Afsluitdijk recognizes the importance of Kornwerderzand to the Afsluitdijk. Several plans have been developed for Kornwerderzand with regard to recreation, tourism, nature and sustainable energy. It will be the location of innovative projects such as the Fish Migration River, a Hydrodynamic power plant and a recreational experience center.

### **What is innovative about it?**

The national government and the region are working together to reinforce the Afsluitdijk and make it more appealing. Apart from making the dike stronger to sustain changing climate conditions, De Nieuwe Afsluitdijk is also looking for new opportunities and innovations related to sustainable energy, recreation, tourism and nature.

New ways of producing energy are being tested on the Afsluitdijk. Among these projects are Blue Energy and Hydrodynamic power. Blue Energy is the technology used to generate power from the difference in salt concentration of salt and fresh water. The Afsluitdijk is the first location worldwide where the technique is being applied in practice. Hydrodynamic power is currently being applied in Den Oever, where a test location has been set up. Power is generated in this system by placing turbines in the water and using the tidal movements and currents. Ultimately these turbines will be used in the sluices at Kornwerderzand. Kornwerderzand will also be the site of a fish migration river, making it possible again for fish to migrate from the salty Waddensea to the fresh waters of the IJsselmeer.

### **Time/accessibility/other information**

The visit is planned for three hours. A bus will depart from Leeuwarden to Kornwerderzand on the Afsluitdijk at 09:00 hours. Participants will be informed about the new plans related to the Afsluitdijk at this time. After the presentation, which will be given in the project office, the group will have the opportunity to visit several important sites related to the plans, such as the sluices of Kornwerderzand. Departure is planned around 12:30.

The maximum number of participants for the site visit is 60 people.