



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday 19 June 2008

## **Ground-breaking heat pump business wins a first-prize in world's leading green energy awards**

**Cutting carbon emissions, saving fuel costs for customers and winning a prestigious award is the triple-winning success story for Kensa Engineering Ltd in Cornwall. With escalating fuel prices and widespread concern over climate change, growing numbers of consumers are looking for renewable sources of energy. Kensa designs and manufactures easy-to-install ground source heat pump kits that are widening access to this green technology.**

The Award was presented to Kensa Engineering tonight at the Ashden Awards ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society in London alongside three other UK winners. Handing out the awards, Sir David King, former chief scientific advisor to the government, said: "I've had my spirits raised by what I've seen here at the Ashden Awards. Climate change is the biggest challenge we have ever had to face. We need individual actions like these."

The Ashden Awards is a UK-based charity that works to increase the use of local sustainable energy worldwide. They find, reward, and publicise the work of leading sustainable energy programmes working in the UK and across the developing world.

**Kensa Engineering Ltd** is a thriving business working on the site of an old tin mine in Truro, Cornwall, and supplying ground source heat pumps. It is the first British company to supply kits for small-scale ground source heat pumps that even non-specialists can install. The installation kit includes a pre-coiled 'slinky' pipe to collect heat from the ground and a manifold board providing all the plumbing connections needed. Kensa provides detailed advice and telephone support to customers, to ensure that the installation goes smoothly. It also supplies larger and specialised systems to commercial property developers and others.

The Ashden Award judges said the Award was given to Kensa for 'manufacturing an effective, high-quality sustainable technology for a wider, non-specialist market and creating local jobs in a deprived area'.

Kensa's Richard Freeborn, on receiving the Award, said: "Business is all about people, not just technology. The relationship between the viability and profitability of a company are often tenuous –

but it is the value of the people that determines the value of the business. Kensa has nurtured and developed some of the finest people in the renewable energy business. They carry the future with them – and I now give my thanks for all their help.”

Second prize business winner, receiving £15,000, is employee-owned **Dulas Ltd**, based in mid Wales, that has over 25 years’ experience in designing and installing renewable energy systems. One of its most successful products is a life-saving solar powered fridge to store vaccines in tropical countries.

The other three UK winners were:

Local authority category: **Leeds City Council** rolling out energy efficiency across its social and private housing stock;

Charity and community category: **Global Action Plan** training workplace ‘Environment Champion’ teams to get energy-saving messages across to over 86,000 employees.

Schools category: **Ringmer Community College**, Lewes, East Sussex with 200 out of 800 students opting to be ‘eco reps’ and leading a host of energy saving initiatives.

Second prizes were awarded to:

Local Authority: **Arun District Council, West Sussex**

Charity and Community: **Energy Agency, South Ayrshire**

Schools: **Sandhills Primary School, Oxfordshire**

**HRH The Prince of Wales**, Patron of The Ashden Awards, personally congratulated the winners at a separate meeting. A Clarence House spokesperson said: "The Prince of Wales was deeply encouraged to learn of the solutions demonstrated by the Ashden Awards that can reduce our dependency on a carbon economy. His Royal Highness was particularly impressed by the local sustainable energy initiatives recognised and promoted by the Awards, which not only meet the needs of communities, but tackle climate change and further sustainable development."

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**For further information on the 2008 Ashden Awards UK winners and finalists (including case studies), contact:**

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**Download online photos:**

Awards ceremony: [http://www.ashdenawards.org/winners\\_2008\\_photos](http://www.ashdenawards.org/winners_2008_photos)

Winners with HRH The Prince of Wales [http://www.ashdenawards.org/winners\\_HRH\\_2008](http://www.ashdenawards.org/winners_HRH_2008)

International projects: <http://www.ashdenawards.org/photos>.

**Download broadcast quality film footage of projects and the Awards ceremony:**

[http://www.ashdenawards.org/broadcast\\_films](http://www.ashdenawards.org/broadcast_films)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

- 1 The Ashden Awards are a UK-based charity that work to increase the use of local sustainable energy worldwide. They find, reward, and publicise the work of leading sustainable energy programmes working in the UK and across the developing world. For further information, including details on past winners, funders and supporters go to: [www.ashdenawards.org](http://www.ashdenawards.org) The 2008 winners were announced at the Ashden Awards at 7pm on Thursday 19 June at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7, hosted by Anna Ford and addressed by Sir David King and Wangari Maathai.
- 2 First prize winners receive £30,000 and second prize winners receive £15,000 to expand their sustainable energy programmes. The School prizes are £15,000 and £5,000.
- 3 Project summaries and case studies are available from the Ashden Awards Press Office. Photographs for each project are available on the Ashden Awards website [http://www.ashdenawards.org/media/uk\\_photos/2008](http://www.ashdenawards.org/media/uk_photos/2008)
- 4 The international winners from Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Tanzania, and Uganda are in the UK for the ceremony. To interview projects please contact international press officer: Ilana Cravitz tel: + 44 (0) 20 89 85 37 24 mob: + 44 (0)78 25 51 08 81 [ilana.cravitz@ashdenawards.org](mailto:ilana.cravitz@ashdenawards.org) Press release on the international winners is at: [http://www.ashdenawards.org/media/international\\_winners\\_2008](http://www.ashdenawards.org/media/international_winners_2008)
- 5 Entries for the 2009 Ashden Awards opened on 19 June 2008. Initially, expressions of interest should be lodged by 21 October 2008 for UK Awards, 28 October 2008 for International Awards and 2 December 2008 for UK Schools Award.