



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Attn: Education Editor, Features/Environment Editor**

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### **Ashden Awards 2009: UK's top green energy contenders announced**

**Today, the world's leading green energy Awards scheme announced that sustainable energy pioneers from the UK, Africa, Asia and Latin America have been chosen as finalists for the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy 2009. In total, the projects stand to be awarded more than £350,000, to be used for scheme improvement and expansion. The winners will be announced at a ceremony hosted by HRH The Prince of Wales in London on 11 June.**

There are eight UK finalists in the 2009 Ashden Awards, two in each of four categories.

#### **Business Awards**

**Architype** is an architectural practice with 25 year's experience in putting the environment at the heart of its design, going way beyond the standards stipulated. In the past five years Architype's significant project portfolio has saved an average of 35 percent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to current building regulations. Energy use is reduced by designing buildings that require minimal heating, cooling and lighting, through insulation, passive solar gain, natural ventilation and well-placed windows.

**Geothermal International** installs ground source heat pumps in the UK, specialising in large commercial and public sector buildings. More than half the energy used in commercial and public sector buildings in the UK is for heating and cooling. Heat pumps are a low-carbon technology that can provide both heating and cooling from a single installation by pumping renewable heat between the earth or water and the building. The firm provides a one-stop shop for the technology – from geological assessment of the site through to borehole drilling and ground loop and heat pump installation.

## Charity Awards

**Marches Energy Agency's** Low Carbon Communities (LCC) programme works with households, businesses and groups within a community to deliver lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Over 1,400 technical measures have been carried out that reach 2,000 people directly, saving over 1,700 tonnes a year of CO<sub>2</sub>. 19,000 people have been reached indirectly through wider awareness activities. The pioneering communities that have adopted this approach have already reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by up to 5% a year. More communities nearby are set to start the low carbon journey this year.

The **Sustainable Energy Academy** is showing how carbon emissions from homes can be radically reduced: it has set up a network of 'Superhomes', mostly built before 1919, whose owners have installed measures to reduce their carbon emissions by 60% or more. SEA provides training and support to enable owners to open their homes to the public a few times a year, thus providing real demonstrations of how to achieve significant carbon savings. To date 28 homes belong to the 'Old Home Superhome' network, and over 36,000 people have visited them.

## Local Authority Awards

**Devon County Council**, whose Renewable Energy for Devon (RE4D) scheme is boosting a green rural regeneration in Devon by stimulating both supply and demand for renewable energy. This multi-partner project has led to 109 renewable energy installations in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and community organisations, and a further 18 in domestic properties. These have a total installed capacity of over 2 MW, avoiding around 1,300 tonnes/year of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. RE4D has provided £0.25m in grants and helped secure £0.81m of other funding. Fifty-five jobs have been created and a further 16 safeguarded through the scheme.

**Kirklees Council** in West Yorkshire has launched a ground-breaking scheme to roll out home insulation across the region. 'Kirklees Warm Zone' (KWZ) is unique because it offers cavity-wall and loft insulation free of charge to all households, which greatly increases take-up rates. By April of this year, 67% of households (115,000) had been visited, and more than 25,000 have received insulation measures. Nearly 100 full-time jobs and 60 part-time roles have been created as a result of the scheme. Installations are proceeding at a rate of 600 measures every week, making this easily the UK's largest insulation scheme.

## Schools Awards

**Ashley CofE Primary School** After witnessing climate change first-hand in 2007 when leading an education team to learn about its impact on the Antarctic, Richard Dunne, head teacher of Ashley School in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, (3) returned home determined to embark on an ambitious carbon-cutting programme at his school. Pupils have risen to the challenge, working alongside

governors and staff to make the school an inspiring success story: electricity consumption in the school has been cut by over half in the first year of the programme, and is continuing to go down.

**Currie Community High School** is a 900-pupil secondary school near Edinburgh that has taken giant strides in reducing energy use over the past 10 years. The first school in Edinburgh to install a wind turbine, it also has a solar thermal system, and pupils enjoy cross-curricular learning on sustainable energy. The school is the first in Scotland to make it to the Ashden Awards finals, where it will compete for prize money of up to £15,000 in the Schools category, supported by WWF.

## ENDS

**For further information on the 2009 Ashden Awards UK finalists and to schedule interviews, contact Kat Huxtable, Ashden Awards Press Officer:**

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Photos online: <http://www.ashdenawards.org/photos>. Film footage of projects on request.

### Notes to editors

1. The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy were founded in 2001 to encourage the greater use of local sustainable energy to address climate change and alleviate poverty. Since then they have rewarded nearly one hundred winners across the UK and the developing world. The Ashden Awards work to show-case and celebrate best practice, encourage the expansion and replication of winners' work, raise awareness of the potential of local sustainable energy, and advocate on their winners' behalf. For further information, including photos, films, and case studies on past winners, go to [www.ashdenawards.org](http://www.ashdenawards.org). The Ashden Awards Patron is HRH The Prince of Wales.
2. The Ashden Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday 11 June in central London. To report/film from the event contact Kat Huxtable (details as above). **For security reasons, journalists must register in advance and bring photo ID.**
3. UK finalists are available for interview. There will be presentations and films about their work at the Ashden Awards Imperial College Conference on Wednesday 10 June. For further details, to set up interviews, or to attend contact Kat Huxtable (details as above). The Conference will be streamed live on the Ashden Awards website.
4. Six international Ashden Awards and an Award for Outstanding Achievement by a previous international winner will also be made at the Ceremony on 11 June. See [www.ashdenawards.org](http://www.ashdenawards.org) for details.