



PRESS RELEASE – diary date

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Global green energy awards: UK finalists for Ashden Awards 2009 selected

On 11 June 2009, local sustainable energy champions from around the UK will compete for the Ashden Awards 2009 (1) at a ceremony in London (2). Finalists offering climate change solutions will take part – from Birmingham, Coventry, Devon, Herefordshire, Milton Keynes, Scotland, Surrey, and Yorkshire. International schemes will also be recognised for their work. The contenders will present their work to their peers and other experts at the Ashden Awards Imperial College Conference on 10 June (3).

This year's eight UK finalists in four categories demonstrate massive potential for growth and replication:

UK Business Award finalists

Architects put environment at heart of building design

A firm delivering low-energy architecture in close consultation with their buildings' end users has beaten 2006 building regulations standards by at least a third on both energy and CO₂.

Business booms for carbon-cutting pumps

A fast-growing company has installed nearly 800 heat pumps for heating and cooling buildings in just six years. By using renewable heat from the earth they are saving tens of thousands of tonnes of CO₂ per year compared with gas boilers and conventional air conditioning.

UK Charity Award finalists

Galvanising communities to adopt low-carbon lifestyle

A local Energy Agency runs the gamut of inspirational and practical support to communities, reaching households, businesses and local groups through tailored programmes.

Low carbon show-homes demonstrate how to green older houses

A network of pioneering owners of hard-to-treat, low-carbon homes shows how to reduce carbon emissions by 60%, inspiring more than 36,000 visitors.

UK Local Authority Award finalists

Insulation scheme blanketing metropolitan borough

Ward by ward, a local authority is offering to provide and install free cavity-wall and loft insulation to every home that can use it. So far the scheme has created 140 jobs and installed insulation in more than 21,000 households.

Boosting local renewable energy businesses

A county council scheme stimulating rural regeneration has created 55 jobs and safeguarded 16 more by supporting both supply and demand for renewable energy. So far it has led to 109 renewable energy installations, with a capacity of over 2 MW in SMEs, community organisations, and homes.

UK Schools Award finalists

Antarctic expedition inspires carbon-saving headteacher

The head of a 270-pupil primary school has worked with the whole school community to change behaviour and achieve sustainable carbon savings, including an overall reduction in electricity use of 48%.

Scottish school embraces sustainable energy

A 900-pupil secondary school has taken big steps to reduce energy use over the past 10 years, from auditing and changing regular building maintenance and upgrades, to installing a wind turbine and solar thermal system. Pupils enjoy cross-curricular learning on sustainable energy and lead campaigns at school and in the community.

ENDS

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

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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
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).

Footage from the Awards ceremony and high-res photographs will be available on the Ashden Awards website.

3. Finalists will be available for interview in London during the week of 8 June. There will be presentations and films about their work at the Ashden Awards Imperial College Conference on Wednesday 10 June. To attend, contact Kat Huxtable (details as above).