

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Global green energy awards issue alert to UK and international energy pioneers – thousands of £s to be won in 2009 Awards

The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy are seeking entries from inspirational and innovative sustainable energy projects around the world. There are 15 Awards to be won (eight in the UK and seven internationally), and entry is free. The Awards will be presented at a VIP ceremony in London in June 2009. Application forms are online now at www.ashdenawards.org.

Analysis of 10 previous Ashden Award-winning schemes showed that in 2008 they are reaching nine million people and saving 1.9 million tonnes of carbon emissions – equivalent to the total domestic emissions of more than 700,000 UK citizens.

Deadline for UK expressions of interest (business, charity, local authority): 28 October 2008

Deadline for international expressions of interest: 21 October 2008

Deadline for UK schools applications: 2 December 2008

In the UK, the Ashden Awards is seeking schemes run by local authorities, businesses, and charities/community organisations (including Energy Agencies). Winners in these four categories will receive £30,000 each in prize money for project development, with a second prize of £15,000. There is also a special category for schools. A 'scheme' submitted for an award may be the entire work of an organisation or a specific part of the work. Eligible schemes must involve the delivery of sustainable energy at a local level and scale. 'Sustainable energy' covers both renewable energy supply (electricity or heat) and reduction of energy demand.

Internationally, the Ashden Awards are looking for local sustainable energy projects based in countries with developing economies. Past winners have used various technologies to deliver a number of benefits to local communities and achieve carbon savings, including fuel-efficient stoves, micro-hydro plants, biogas plants, solar energy systems and water pumps. Many are doing this by boosting local peoples' income, providing employment or training, installing lighting for schoolwork and even improving women's status in their community.

Benefits of winning an Ashden Award include:

- Prize money of up to £40,000 per project.
- The chance to bring sustainable energy solutions into the international arena.
- Continuing development support.
- Engagement with key decision-makers in the sector.
- A documentary film about the award-winning work.
- International publicity.

What does it take to be a winner?

The projects must:

- Be up and running, delivering sustainable energy at a local level for at least one year.
- Benefit the environment.
- Be technically rigorous.
- Have an element of innovation.
- Make a genuine difference to local peoples' lives, both socially and economically.
- Be replicable and help encourage the widespread uptake of local, sustainable energy.

For further information and application forms visit www.ashdenawards.org, or contact Jane Howarth tel. 020 7410 7023. Email: info@ashdenawards.org

Examples of past winners, including short films about their work, are online at <http://www.ashdenawards.org>

Supporters of the Awards include Ashden Awards Patron HRH The Prince of Wales, Prof. Wangari Maathai, former US Vice-President Al Gore, and Jonathan Porritt CBE.

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For further information and stories about previous winners, contact Ilana Cravitz on ilana.cravitz@ashdenawards.org.uk; tel. +44 (0)20 8985 3724; mobile +44 (0) 782 551 0881.

Notes for Editors

1. The Ashden Awards are a UK-based charity (Reg. No. 1104153) working to increase the use of local sustainable energy worldwide. They find, reward and publicise the work of leading sustainable energy programmes working across the developing world and in the UK. Further information, including details on past winners, funders and supporters is at www.ashdenawards.org.
2. Research commissioned by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) found that 10 programmes achieved significant scale and deliver significant benefits for people and the environment. The report, "Scaling Up Low Carbon Energy for the Poor", is online at http://www.ashdenawards.org/reports/low_carbon_energy. The review was carried out by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in collaboration with GVEP International.
3. UK Awards categories

(a) Energy Business Award

For businesses that have made local renewable energy and energy efficiency products and services more accessible. Previous winners such as Kensa (2008), Ecotricity (2007), Solarcentury (2007), Good Energy (2006) and Second Nature (2005) have shown the type of entrepreneurial achievement which this Award recognises. First prize: £30,000. Second prize: £15,000.

(b) Local Authority Award

This award is for Local Authorities that have undertaken effective initiatives and programmes to improve energy efficiency and/or increase the supply of local renewable energy (heat and electricity), and also promoted the wider use of sustainable energy through local planning and policies. Previous winners include Leeds CC (2008), Nottinghamshire CC (2007), Barnsley MBC (2006) and Kirklees MBC (2006). First prize: £30,000. Second prize: £15,000.

(c) Charity and Community Award

For not-for-profit groups, such as Energy Agencies and charities, which have carried out projects or programmes to reduce energy demand and/or increase the supply of renewable energy (heat and electricity) at a local level. Previous winners include Global Action Plan (2008), ENWORKS (2007), Severn Wye Energy Agency (2006) and Community Energy Plus (2005). First prize: £30,000. Second prize: £15,000.

(d) Schools Award

This Award is open to any UK school providing education for pupils aged between 5 and 16 which has developed both an ethos and practice of sustainability, in which the responsible use of energy is a key component. We're looking for schools that can demonstrate they've made actual energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and possibly generated renewable energy. The 2008 Award was won by Ringmer Community College, in East Sussex. The Schools Award carries a first prize of £15,000 and two second prizes of £7,500.

3. Timetable for the Ashden Awards 2009

Tuesday 21 October 2008	Deadline for receipt of international Expression of Interest forms. All forms will be acknowledged within seven days.
Tuesday 28 October 2008 [not schools]	Deadline for receipt of UK Expression of Interest forms (except schools). All forms will be acknowledged within seven days.
Thursday 13 November 2008	Up to 25 international applicants will be invited to submit a full application, and will be sent a form and specific questions. All other Expression of Interest applicants will be notified.
Thursday 20 November 2008	Up to 25 UK applicants will be invited to submit a full application, and will be sent a form and specific questions. All other Expression of Interest applicants will be notified.
Tuesday 2 December 2008 [schools only]	Deadline for receipt of schools' applications (no expressions of interest required). All applications will be acknowledged within seven days.
Thursday 11 December 2008	Deadline for receipt of full international applications. All applications will be acknowledged within seven days.
Tuesday 16 December 2008	Deadline for receipt of full UK applications, and for receipt of references for full applications from schools. All applications will be acknowledged within seven days.
Tuesday 6 January 2009	Deadline for receipt of references for full international applications.
Thursday 8 January 2009	Deadline for receipt of references for full UK applications.
Early February 2009	First meeting of judging panel to select applications for shortlist. All other full applicants will be notified.
February and March 2009	Judges and assessors visit short-listed applicants.
Early April 2009	Second meeting of International judging panel to select up to eight finalists and three finalist schools. All other short-listed applicants will be notified.
April and May 2009	Preparation of publicity and technical information about finalists.
Early June 2009	Finalists interviewed by UK judging panel in London.
Mid June 2009	Finalists to London for Awards ceremony, seminars and publicity activities.