



Our green
heroes

Welcome to the Northwest Business Environment Awards 2009

Once again the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) is pleased to be supporting these important awards, celebrating regional businesses, organisations and individuals whose commitment to the environment is central to their business operations.

In the past 12 months, England's Northwest has proved its dedication to environmental issues, illustrating that good environmental practice and commercial success can make the perfect partnership. In the current economic climate, this commitment is reaping rewards in terms of real savings, both financially and environmentally.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to enter the 2009 Awards. These businesses are proof of what can be done at all levels, acting as an exemplar to others. The winners and runners up in this brochure should be proud of their commitment to green issues, accelerating the region's move towards a sustainable future.

Steven Broomhead,
NWDA Chief Executive

Environmental Innovation Award

This award celebrates innovation and excellence in developing new environmental technologies, processes or techniques, or in finding new ways to use existing green technologies.

Joint Winner shply.com

Location:

Manchester

The activity:

With 25% of lorries on Britain's roads travelling empty, shply.com allows hauliers to search for work submitted by individuals and businesses along the routes they are already driving... so fewer empty lorries. In 2008, shply.com formed a partnership with eBay to deliver large 'local collect' items.

The savings:

A potential reduction of the 36 million tonnes of wasteful CO₂ generated by empty lorries; and over 500,000 miles of wasted trips saved since June 2008.

The benefits:

Fewer lorries on our roads means a reduction in CO₂ emissions and congestion.

Empty lorries produce around 36 million tonnes of CO₂ every year



Environmental Innovation Award

Joint Winner Earth Exchange Limited



Location:

Leigh, Lancashire

The activity:

The construction industry accounts for around one-third of the UK's total waste. Through earthexchange.com the construction industry can now efficiently streamline and simplify the recycling and reuse philosophy. Users can identify where construction sites are or will be, who is operating there, what and when surplus materials are available, which sites have a deficit in materials, and even the opportunity to match sites with a surplus/deficit of materials.

The savings:

Since July 2008, over 45,000 tonnes of material has been diverted from landfill, over 81,000 tonnes has been exchanged and over 160,000 haulage road miles have been saved (resulting in 250 tonnes of CO₂ savings) – all with an approximate total cost saving of £2.2 million.

The benefits:

earthexchange.com highlights the materials that are actually being generated or currently required, in real time, and is the first time that the construction industry has been offered the chance to make such connections.

Since July 2008, over 45,000 tonnes of material has been diverted from landfill

This is the first opportunity the construction industry has been given to communicate about and exchange materials

Website:

www.earthexchange.com

Environmental Innovation Award



Highly Commended ENERGOS

Location:

Warrington/Isle of Wight

The activity:

Isle of Wight-based ENERGOS, part of ENER-G, began operation of the UK's first gasification plant to run on municipal waste. The small facility generates 2.3MW of electricity from non-recyclable waste, enough to power more than 3,000 homes. It also promotes recycling and self-sufficiency for the local community.

The savings:

Fewer heavy vehicles needed to transport waste to landfill; less reliance on energy provision from the mainland.

The benefits:

With the rising cost of landfill and the lack of land available for new sites, thermal conversion technologies such as this will be increasingly important and have the potential to be rolled out across the UK.

Generates 2.3MW of electricity from non-recyclable waste, enough to power more than 3,000 homes

Website:

www.energus.com

Built Environment Award

Project costing more than £1m

Awarded in recognition of developers, clients, architects and built environment professionals who are breaking new ground by integrating sustainability into their projects.



Winner

Tesco Plc – Cheetham Hill Store

Location:

Cheetham Hill, Manchester

The activity:

In 2007, Tesco boss Sir Terry Leahy set a target – to construct new stores that have a carbon footprint 50% lower than those built in 2006. In 2009, the first such store was completed in Cheetham Hill. The new store includes a sustainable timber frame; roof lights to allow natural daylight in; a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant to generate energy from sustainable sources, such as recycled vegetable oil; a natural ventilation system; recycled materials in signage and fixtures; and a metering system to monitor energy and water use.

The savings:

Energy bills at Cheetham Hill are 48% lower than other stores of an equivalent size.

The benefits:

A significantly reduced carbon footprint; staff are trained and knowledgeable about the environmental credentials of the store; and it's an excellent model for others to follow.

This Environmental Blueprint for design is now used for all new Tesco stores in the UK

Website:

www.tesco.com

Built Environment Award

Project costing more than £1m



Runner Up

BDP Studio

Location:

Manchester

The activity:

BDP's new Manchester office is packed with environmental innovations including a stainless steel south façade to minimise solar gain; a transparent north façade to maximise light; natural ventilation through louvers; roof lights for natural daylight; 'hoppers' that open at night to cool the exposed concrete slabs – this concrete also absorbs heat during the day; FSC approved timber used for all internal joinery; locally sourced and recyclable building materials; rainwater harvesting for toilets; a 'brown' rubble roof to attract the rare Black Redstart bird and benefit local biodiversity; a green travel plan; and recycling of organic food/waste, glass bottles, cans, plastic, metal, cardboard, confidential waste and paper.

The savings:

Reduced energy use and CO₂ emissions; lower operating costs; lower water and artificial light usage.

The achievements:

The first office building in Manchester to receive a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating; the creation of a high quality working environment; helping to increase the dwindling numbers of Black Redstart in the UK.

This is the first office building in Manchester to receive a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating

The eye catching stainless steel south façade looks good, and minimises solar gain

Website:

www.bdp.com

Built Environment Award

Project costing more than £1m



Highly Commended

ASK Property Developments – No1 First Street

Location:

Manchester

The activity:

First Street's 3 million sq ft masterplan focuses around a 300m tree-lined boulevard and Europe's largest green wall. The remediation of the former gas works has been carried out in a way that minimises the environmental impact on the surrounding area. A strict waste management process was in place; an in-situ process meant that offsite disposal was an absolute last resort, minimising landfill and transport; and stabilising the existing material removes any risk to both human health and Manchester's main aquifer, which passes underneath the site. A 24-hour hotline set up during the construction process received no complaints – testament to the quality of work the contractors, Celtic Technologies, carried out.

The savings:

Less waste to landfill; reduced CO₂ emissions thanks to reduced waste transportation; when the development is complete it will have much lower energy requirements and a smaller carbon footprint than other developments of a similar scale.

The achievements:

Stabilised a previously contaminated area; awarded a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating; home to Europe's largest green wall.

First Street is home to Europe's largest green wall

Offsite disposal of materials as a last resort means less waste to landfill and reduced transportation

Website:

www.askdevelopments.com

Built Environment Award

Project costing under £1m



Winner

Cass Associates – Liverpool Sailing Club

Location:

Liverpool

The activity:

Opened in October 2008 by HRH Princess Anne, Liverpool Sailing Club is in a stunning but remote location and off-grid for all services except water. Cass Associates designed the new club with energy self-sufficiency as a priority. An on-site 6kW wind turbine gathers energy and any excess is diverted into a 2000 litre hot water tank to supply showers, hand basins and electric space heaters – a biofuel generator works as a back up; the large moat acts as security and collects rainwater for flushing toilets and washing down boats; and windows and vents allow for natural ventilation.

The savings:

Since it reopened in 2008, the club has generated its own electricity, stored and recycled rainwater and treated its own waste on-site – activities that will generate cost savings in the long term.

The achievements:

Following a fire in 2000, Liverpool Sailing Club is now back and operating with high environmental credentials including self-sufficiency for a building that is off-grid.

Liverpool Sailing Club is now energy self-sufficient

An on-site 6kW wind turbine generates most of the energy needed

Website:

www.cassassociates.co.uk

Best Environmental Practice Award SME

Winner HJ Berry



Location:

Preston, Lancashire

The activity:

This manufacturer of wooden chairs and tables uses timber from renewable sources, replenishes woodlands with native trees, and only uses electricity from green sources, including a biomass system. It is also socially responsible, providing low rent housing for current and retired employees and getting involved in community activities, including providing a cricket pitch in the village of Chipping and promoting wildlife and conservation in the area.

The savings:

100% of energy consumed in manufacturing is from green energy, cutting CO₂ emissions from 400 tonnes to zero; 100% of wood waste is burned in a biomass boiler; 100% of timber consumed on site is from temperate renewable sources; 100% of all recyclable waste is recycled; 100% of manufacturing is carried out in the UK.

The achievements:

Winner in the CSR category at the National Business Awards 2008; named Best Manufacturing Company and Best SME at the Green Business Awards 2008; and presented with a Green Apple award at the Houses of Parliament; development of SWAT (Sustainable Work Action Team); and this commitment to being 'green' has seen interest in products rise by 25% in the last year.

100% of manufacturing is carried out in the UK

100% of timber consumed on site is from temperate renewable sources

95% of timber is British, the rest is from Europe

Website:

www.hjberryc.co.uk

Best Environmental Practice Award SME



Runner Up Chess Telecom

Location:

Alderley Edge, Cheshire

The activity:

Chess has focused on energy savings solutions, including switching to a green energy supplier; offering online instead of paper billing; recycling all office products, such as paper, cardboard, cans and plastic; implementing simple waste reduction measures, such as reusing scrap paper and setting printers to always print two-sided; introducing a Bike to Work scheme; developing video conferencing software; and launching a customer carbon offsetting scheme.

The savings:

£122,000 saved in paper, printing and postage as a result of web billing; 50% less waste going to landfill.

The achievements:

Awarded ISO14001 accreditation in 2008.

£122,000 saved by introducing online billing

Chess has developed its own carbon offsetting scheme

Website:

www.chesstelecom.com

Best Environmental Practice Award Large Company

Open to both large and small companies in any sector, this award highlights those companies that have made a commitment to environmental improvements part of their business success.



Winner J&J Ormerod

Location:

Bacup, Lancashire

The activity:

This kitchen and bathroom manufacturer has made a wide range of environmental improvements, including installing a wood burning boiler, increasing the amount and type of materials recycled, purchasing more efficient vehicles, training drivers in transport efficiency, fitting lighting sensors and automatic machine controls to reduce energy consumption and target inefficient practices, and implementing staff awareness campaigns.

The savings:

Since 2006 the company has saved over 6,220,000kWh of natural gas and electricity; over 14,600 litres of diesel; 892 tonnes of raw materials; 2,497 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill; resulting in £695,800 in savings.

The benefits:

One new job created and £1.75 million increased sales.

6,221,000 kWh of natural gas and electricity saved

£695,800 cost savings since 2006

£1.75 million increased sales

Website:

www.jjopl.com

Best Environmental Practice Award Large Company



Runner up Shop Direct

Location:

Speke, Liverpool

The activity:

When GUS and Littlewoods merged to form Shop Direct in 2006, a commitment to tackling climate change was born. Eight projects were developed to reduce energy use, including 'Wake on LAN', which automatically turns off PCs in the evenings and at weekends; a partnership with Phillips to implement the widespread use of LED lighting; and a staff awareness campaign with the opportunity to gain the Chartered Institute of Environmental Awareness Certificate.

The savings:

Since 2006 annual electricity consumption in the head office has reduced by almost 20%, which equates to £42,200 in savings, and CO₂ emissions have reduced by 270 tonnes; 90% of waste at the National Distribution Centre is recycled; and energy demand at the data centres has decreased by 100kW over a six month period.

The achievements:

Awarded The Carbon Trust Standard in 2008 in recognition of CO₂ reductions over three years.

£42,200 cost savings since 2006

Awarded The Carbon Trust Standard in 2008

Website:

www.lwsdg.co.uk

Sustainable Procurement Award

Public

In recognition of commitment and excellence in sustainable procurement and innovative supply chain management, with a focus on buying sustainable services, products and materials.



Winner

Cumbria County Council

Location:
Cumbria

The activity:

Cumbria County Council is committed to local procurement. Over £1.2 million is spent on foods grown, reared and manufactured in Cumbria, including beef, lamb, organic milk, bread, vegetables, eggs and pastries; all foods are distributed by Cumbrian companies; the council adheres to ethical construction methods; there is an increased use of environmentally sound products and a proven commitment to Fair Trade.

The savings:

£3.5 million cost savings; 150,000 food miles; and by 2012, CO₂ emissions will be 25% lower than 2008 levels.

The achievements:

Around 1000 jobs supported through local food distribution alone; 58% of supply chain based in Cumbria; BREEAM 'Very Good' rating for all new buildings; and one of only two counties in England to be Fair Trade accredited.

58% of supply chain based in Cumbria

£3.5 million cost savings

Website:

www.cumbria.gov.uk

Sustainable Procurement Award Public



Runner Up Lancashire County Commercial Group School Catering Service

Location:

Chorley, Lancashire

The activity:

Lancashire County Commercial Group has adopted sustainable food procurement practices, including the increased purchasing of local food, reducing the number of deliveries, choosing higher animal welfare standards, using purchasing power to influence suppliers' behaviour and raising awareness within the authority. It has also helped supplier days and collaborated with other authorities to allow smaller ones to benefit from the purchasing power and contracts already set up.

The savings:

Reduced food miles, packaging and waste; actively supporting local businesses; helping smaller authorities to take advantage of cost savings through LCCG's buying power.

The benefits:

A greater regard for animal welfare and ethical/fair trading; more opportunities for smaller and local suppliers to bid for business; new contracts won, helped by this sustainable standpoint; and raised awareness within the local authority, schools and supply base on the importance of sustainability.

The 573,000 eggs bought every year are all free range, supporting smaller, local suppliers

Website:

www.lancashire.gov.uk

Sustainable Procurement Award

Private



Winner

United Utilities

Location

Warrington

The activity:

The activities undertaken are wide and varied and include appointing a full-time supply chain professional; buying more sustainable products; training buyers and holding supply chain 'surgeries'; an 'Our Champions' scheme with prizes for those who make an outstanding contribution to lowering carbon emissions; and seeking out suppliers with sustainable products and services. Progress on the sustainable supply chain is reported every month using the government's Flexible Framework.

The savings:

Reduced carbon footprint of suppliers since 2008 by changing from daily deliveries to weekly deliveries and reducing packaging; less waste to landfill by choosing recyclable products and reducing consumption; and potential savings of £1 million a year through switching to recycled plastic for ducting.

The achievements:

Sustainability is embedded in the Corporate Responsibility and Supply Chain policies; over 75% of employees are now fully engaged with the issues; its Flexible Framework score had risen from 1 to 14 by April 2009; and, along with five other utility companies, a new scheme is being developed to help suppliers measure and manage their own carbon footprint.

Ambitious sustainability targets have been set for the next six years

All employees have personal objectives for achieving sustainability targets

Website:

www.unitedutilities.co.uk

Sustainable Procurement Award

Private



Runner up

Arena and Convention Centre Liverpool

Location:
Liverpool

The activity:

ACC Liverpool has been designed with the environment in mind – wind turbines, rainwater harvesting, heat pumps and motion detection lighting are just some of the technologies in place. An extranet reduces the need for paper handouts; recycled materials are used for stationery, merchandise and marketing materials; and a green advice page on the website offers advice for event organisers. A 'Green Dream Team' manages and implements these green policies internally.

The savings:

A reduced carbon footprint thanks to renewable energy; less waste to landfill through recycling schemes and an on-site compactor; and increased use of online updates so less paper and printing of information.

The benefits:

Achieved a BREEAM 'Very Good' rating; and event organisers can now 'green' their events with advice from ACC Liverpool's website.

A Green Dream Team develops and implements sustainable ideas

Online advice helps event organisers to 'green' individual events

Website:

www.accliverpool.com

Media and Communications Award

This award seeks to encourage and reward either high quality reporting in the media or the best communication campaigns or materials.



Winner United Utilities

Location:

Warrington

The activity:

In 2008, the in-house press office launched the 'Tap Into Water' campaign to get customers to choose tap water over bottled water. Three billion bottles of water are consumed every year – the containers can take up to 1000 years to biodegrade and 33,000 tonnes of CO₂ is released in their transportation. On the other hand, tap water requires no packaging and costs less than 1p per litre. Media activity included press packs, an outdoor water 'pub' with pumps that tapped directly into the mains, ex-Coronation Street barmaid Lucy Evans pulling pints of tap water, window stickers for restaurants and lobbying of Northwest MPs to raise awareness of the issue.

The results:

A huge amount of press coverage and public and political support came from the campaign – Gordon Brown and David Cameron both pledged their support and a motion was launched to end bottled water consumption in the House of Commons. Regional press has run 70 articles so far, the Manchester Evening News devoting three front pages to the campaign, and television channels including the BBC, Sky News, Channel M and 12 commercial and radio stations all picking up the story.

Website:

www.unitedutilities.co.uk

Media and Communications Award

Runner Up Morris & Spottiswood

Location:

Warrington

The activity:

An internal environmental awareness campaign led to external PR for this fitout, housing and maintenance company. 'Green Week' was all about getting employees involved in issues of sustainability. Text messages, competitions, posters and workshops helped to get the message across to employees, suppliers and subcontractors. External PR highlighted this green commitment, the decision to choose hybrid company cars and Morris & Spottiswood's appointment of Enviros as its environmental consultant.

The results:

Over 600 employees, along with suppliers and subcontractors were targeted with 'Green Week'; coverage across the Northwest press, including a double page feature in the Liverpool Daily Post Business Magazine. As a result of this coverage, other organisations got in touch to learn more about the company's environmental efforts.

Website:

www.morrisandspottiswood.co.uk



Environmental Leadership Award

This award recognises outstanding environmental leadership, those people or groups whose dedication and enthusiasm energises others.



Winner Colin Nineham

Organisation:

Eden Community Recycling Ltd

Credentials:

For nearly thirty years, Colin Nineham has shown exemplary leadership and commitment to recycling in Cumbria. In 1980, long before recycling was widely recognised, Colin set up a paper recycling point at his workplace. The public also started to use it and Colin serviced the site in his spare time – any proceeds from the paper went to the local hospital. In time, can and glass recycling were added and Colin continued to sort and bail items by hand. Such was the scheme's popularity that in the 1990s a second site was added, along with textile and aluminium foil recycling. Volunteers were also drafted in to help out. In 2000, plastic recycling was added to the mix – a first for Cumbria, and then drinks cartons in 2005. All this made Eden Community Recycling the most comprehensive service in the Northwest. Due to demand, in 2006, the company developed a new Multi Medium Recycling Unit (MMRU), which continues to bring innovative recycling services to Cumbria.

Website:

www.edenrecycling.co.uk

The Judges

Environmental Innovation

Pages 1 – 7

Mark Atherton, Director of Environment and Energy, Northwest Regional Development Agency
Mark Bacon, Director of Enterprise and Business Partnerships, Lancaster Environment Centre
Peter Greifenburg, Consultant
Clive Gaskell, Regional Environment Planning Manager, Environment Agency
Keith Hendry, Managing Director, APEM Ltd

Built Environment

Pages 8 – 15

Roger Burton, Director, JM Architects and Chair of RIBA Practice Committee
Chris Finley, Head of Planning and Development, Salford City Council
Richard Tracey, Land Regeneration Manager, Northwest Regional Development Agency

Best Environmental Practice

Pages 16 – 23

Geoff Dollard, Northern Regional Director, AEA Group
Paul Henley, North West Policy Manager, Federation of Small Businesses
Simon Colvin, Senior Associate, Pinsent Masons LLP

Sustainable Procurement

Pages 24 – 31

Dominic Lee, Divisional Director, NHS NW Collaborative Procurement Hub and Chair, Sustainable Procurement Forum
Ian Brown, Head of Corporate Procurement, Manchester City Council
Barbara Morton, Sustainable Procurement Advisor, Defra

Environmental Champions

Pages 32 – 37

Suzanne Hughes, Corporate Affairs Manager, Environment Agency
Peter Mearns, Director of Marketing, Northwest Regional Development Agency
Marie Mohan, Operations Director, Common Purpose
Derek Norman, Chair of Regional Environmental Protection Advisory Committee

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