

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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GREEN OSCAR AWARD WINNERS REVEALED

The winners of the "Green Oscars", The City of London Corporation's Sustainable City Awards were announced last night in London's Mansion House. The judges, selected from the great and the good of the green world, were impressed by the level of the winners' commitment to tackling climate change, their passion for sustainability and their achievements of tangible improvements to their company's environmental performance.

Says Simon Mills, Sustainable Development Co-ordinator, City of London Corporation, "Many of the winners are small companies. It's easier for large businesses to tackle these issues as they have resources to spare. For SMEs life is harder, especially in today's economic climate, it takes commitment, grit and determination for environmental champions to make a significant impact. This year's entries have shown that SMEs are leading the way in sustainability, that it's not enough to tick boxes in the annual report but that real commitment is needed to achieve change."

Small family run Beales Hotel beat bluechip companies including Sainsburys, Royal Mail, GlaxoSmithKlein and Avis Rent a Car, to win top prize, The Sustainable City Award Trophy. Beales Hotel is one of the oldest family businesses in London, dating back eight generations to 1769. The firm was chosen by the judges as it takes environmental and social responsibility seriously and in addition to an ambitious programme to source produce locally, has achieved a 60% reduction in landfill waste, 40% reduction in water use and a huge reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. Judges felt Beales Hotel is a shining example of what can be achieved when small businesses take their environmental responsibilities seriously. The other eight category winners are as follows:

CATEGORY WINNERS:

Resource Conservation

In association with the Society for the Environment, the Worshipful Company of Launderers and the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators.

- Reed is one of the UK's leading recruitment, training and HR consultancies, employing 2,700 staff across the country. Judges were impressed by the systematic approach that Reed has taken and the commitment shown by staff at all levels within the organisation.

The judges felt Reed had achieved an incredible result by reducing its energy consumption by almost a quarter over the last three years.

Sustainable Travel and Transport

In association with Better Transport, EAST Journal and the Worshipful Company of Carmen.

- The London Borough of Bromley is the largest London Borough with the highest level of car ownership and use in the country. A small team of three, within the School Travels Plan office, convinced parents to walk rather than drive to school with incredible results. They achieved the highest reduction in car usage across all the London Boroughs with a huge dip in carbon dioxide emissions. The judges felt that their success deserved recognition and that other councils across the country will learn from their achievement.

Access to Goods and Services for disadvantaged communities

In association with The City Bridge Trust and the Worshipful Company of Patten Makers (Greater London only).

- New Horizon Youth Centre supports over 2,000 young people preventing them from ending up on the streets. The centre enables some of the most disadvantaged young people in the country to develop the skills, confidence, self esteem and motivation to move into adulthood and become active participants in their communities and society in general. Through its work in conserving the most precious resource of all, the country's young people, judges felt that the New Horizon Youth Centre is an inspiration to us all.

Sustainable Procurement

In association with London Remade.

- One Planet Products is a buying club that enables housing associations, contractors and developers to buy and use high quality sustainable building products affordably. In assisting organisations to make the right choices, One Planet Products has tremendous influence over the behaviour of a large number of organisations, and those they provide services for.

Sustainable Buildings

In association with the BRE and the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors.

- White Young Green, winner of the Sustainable Building Category, is an international multi-disciplinary consultant to the built, natural and social environment. Their expertise in sustainable design and construction is illustrated by the £1.25 million Cockermouth School

Eco Centre, designed in consultation with pupils, parents and teachers to minimise its environmental impact, it acts as a showcase for sustainable design. The judges felt that the way in which sustainable development was woven into the fabric of this project from the very start is an inspiration for others to follow.

Sustainable and Responsible Investment

In association with UKSIF.

- Opportunity International, also winner of the 2008 British Council for Officers Leadership for Sustainability Award, has a mission to provide opportunities for underprivileged people. It enables them to transform their lives by creating jobs, reducing vulnerability, stimulating small businesses and strengthening communities. They provide financial services to those excluded from formal financial systems and have over one million active loan clients, 86% of whom are women.

Adapting to and mitigating Climate Change

In association with the CarbonNeutral Company and the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers.

- The Berkeley Group is one of the UK's foremost development companies and a leader in the business of urban regeneration, with over 95% of its developments taking place on brownfield land. In 2007 the group adopted a tough climate change policy which set out to address the climate change impact of its product and operations. As the built environment is the single largest contributor to the UK's carbon footprint, judges felt that the Berkeley Group are worthy ambassadors of best practice in how to significantly reduce emission.

Environmental Improvements in SMEs

In association with the London Sustainability Exchange and the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners (Greater London only).

- Bovince is one of the largest screen process and digital printers in Europe. They demonstrated their passion for sustainability by delivering tangible improvements to the firm's environmental performance as well as taking the green agenda to the heart of the firm's philosophy.

Awarded as recognition for achievements in sustainable business practise across eight categories, the City of London Corporation's Sustainable City Awards were presented by Harriett

Lamb, Director of The Fair Trade Company and were attended by the Lord Mayor of the City of London, David Lewis.

The awards were judged by a panel of respected environmental and sustainability experts across three areas of sustainability: the environment, social issues and the economy. The highly respected RSA-accredited awards are staged by the authority for the Square Mile financial district and since launch seven years ago have grown to become the most prestigious sustainability awards in the UK. The awards are part of a feeder scheme for the European Business Awards for the Environment, which means the winners have the chance of international recognition for their efforts.

The Sustainable City Awards were established in 2001 by the City of London Corporation and are run in partnership with 20 organisations, including livery companies, trade bodies, voluntary sector organisations and businesses. Representatives from each of these organisations join the judging panel to select winners and runners-up across the award categories.

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Notes to Editors:

Further information and judging criteria for the Sustainable City Awards can be found at: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/sca. For more information on the European Environmental Awards, visit www.defra.gov.uk/environment/internat/euroawards/

The Sustainable City Awards are only made possible through partnership with the following organisations:

- BRE
- The City Bridge Trust
- The British Council for Offices (BCO)
- The CarbonNeutral Company
- CESMB, Middlesex University
- EAST Journal
- GEMS
- Global Action Plan
- London Remade
- London Sustainability Exchange
- The Society for the Environment
- The UK Social Investment Forum
- The Worshipful Company of Carmen
- The Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors
- The Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners
- The Worshipful Company of Fanmakers
- The Worshipful Company of Launderers
- The Worshipful Company of Patten Makers
- The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators
- Better Transport

City of London Corporation

The ancient City of London Corporation has a 21st- century role supporting the business City as the world's leading international financial and business centre. The City of London Corporation provides local government services for the City of London "Square Mile" at the heart of London - but its responsibilities

also extend far beyond the City boundaries and include paying for and running the Barbican Centre, Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath, and three wholesale food markets, as well as acting as the London Port Health Authority. The City of London Corporation is the sole trustee of The City Bridge Trust.

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