

The Guide to National Sustainability Award Schemes

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About Sustainability West Midlands

We are the sustainability adviser for the leaders of the West Midlands. We are also the regional sustainability champion body for the West Midlands, designated by government. We are a not-for-profit company that works with our members in the business, public and voluntary sectors. Our Board is well led and has cross-sector representation; they are supported by our team of staff and associates.

Our vision is that by 2020 businesses and communities are thriving in a West Midlands that is environmentally sustainable and socially just.

Our role is to act as a catalyst for change through our advice to leaders, to develop practical solutions with our members and share success through our communications.

www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk
Registered company No.04390508

Foreword

We have found the quickest and most effective way for our members to make a difference is to enter and win a sustainability award. Why is this? Simply success breeds success. Your boss or management team suddenly have an award to boast about and become your green champions. It spurs on further internal investment, support, pride and recognition in what your staff can do. Once you have filled in the application form and won one award, it becomes easier to enter and win more awards. Of course the more national awards West Midlands based organisations win, the higher profile for our region, which in turn helps efforts to attract more green investment, skills and so the virtuous circle continues.

Of course the first step is to have a great project or example to shout about. Through our networks, events and members we know there is no shortage of this in the West Midlands. The next step is to find the time and resources to put an application in. The final step is to know which award to apply to.

We can't help with the first two steps, but this guide is designed to help with the third step. It lists a range of national sustainability awards that are well regarded by our members, peers, and different sectors. Also many of them lead to being submitted to EU wide award schemes.

So get applying and, if you win, we can write you up as a good practice case study. If you are an SWM member why not let us look at your application, see if we can support or endorse it and, even if you don't win, let us write it up and promote your good practice.

Dr Simon Slater
Chief Executive, Sustainability West Midlands

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1 How to use this guide

Gaining recognition for sustainability can be rewarding for all businesses, organisations, and projects. There are many out there in the West Midlands and nationally across the UK it's just finding them.

The purpose of this guide is to help organisations in the West Midlands to identify and target national sustainability award schemes that will showcase their good practice.

SWM will then help the West Midlands award winners write up and promote a good practice case study. We will also report back at our annual conference, on our website and through our communications their good practice and local contribution to the West Midlands Roadmap 2020 priority actions.

The following report highlights the methodology used and lists all the current award schemes available that fit into our criteria. Each award offers further information about eligibility, the application process, and how frequently awards are given.

2 Methodology – what makes a good award scheme?

The key criteria used to define an award scheme for this list were:

- National awards organisations in the West Midlands could apply.
- One or more of the categories would help to reward good practice within one of the West Midlands Roadmap 2020 priority actions.
- Where possible success in this award would lead to entry into other international award schemes.
- How well regarded, judged from the ranking in social media searches, the number of years the awards have been running, the number of case studies of previous winners, and the likely publicity received by the winners.

These criteria were then used to update a previous awards guide produced by SWM in 2011 and conduct a new literature and internet review.

Keywords used in a variety of orders for searches included:

- Sustainability
- West Midlands
- Awards
- Waste
- Building
- Transport
- Waste
- Community
- Procurement
- Energy
- Low carbon
- Environment
- Leadership

3 Results

3.1 Priority Actions table

Awards	West Midlands Roadmap 2020 Priority Actions							
	Low Carbon Jobs & Skills	Procurement	Waste	Buildings	Transport	Energy	Environment	Leadership
Celebrating Construction Awards								
Business in the Community Awards								
The Green Apple Awards								
Green Flag Awards								
RICS Awards								
Ashden Awards								
Food for Life								
Starpack Awards								
The Queens Awards for Enterprise								
DCSF Teaching Award for Sustainable Schools								
The Sustainable Tourism Awards								
The Planning Awards								
The Guardian Sustainable Businesses Awards								
The Observer Ethical Awards								
Sustainable Housing Awards								
The LEAF Awards								
CIWEM Sustainable Wetlands of the Year								
Sustainable Leaders Awards								
The Sustainable City Awards								
The Low Carbon Champions Awards								

3.2 Sector Type table

Awards	Sector Type				
	Businesses	Public Sector	Communities	Schools	Individuals
Celebrating Construction Awards					
Business in the Community Awards					
The Green Apple Awards					
Green Flag Awards					
RICS Awards					
Ashden Awards					
Food for Life					
Starpack Awards					
The Queens Awards for Enterprise					
DCSF Teaching Award for Sustainable Schools					
The Sustainable Tourism Awards					
The Planning Awards					
The Guardian Sustainable Businesses Awards					
The Observer Ethical Awards					
Sustainable Housing Awards					
The LEAF Awards					
CIWEM Sustainable Wetlands of the Year					
Sustainable Leaders Awards					
The Sustainable City Awards					
The Low Carbon Champions Awards					

3.3 Annual Timetable

Key: A = Application Timeframe C = Awards night / Ceremony S = Shortlist

Annual timetable for awards												
Awards	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Celebrating Construction Awards		A	A				C					
Business in the Community Awards	A			S			C					A
The Green Apple Awards					A	A					C	
Green Flag Awards	A						C					
RICS Awards	A	A			C							
Ashden Awards	A	S				C						A
Food for Life	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Starpack Awards		A	A	A	A	A			C			
The Queens Awards for Enterprise				C	A	A	A	A	A			
DCSF Teaching Award for Sustainable Schools	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
The Sustainable Tourism Awards			A									
The Planning Awards	A		S				C					
The Guardian Sustainable Businesses Awards				C							A	
The Observer Ethical Awards		A				C						
Sustainable Housing Awards	A									C		
The LEAF Awards		A								C		
CIWEM Sustainable Wetlands of the Year				A								
Sustainable Leaders Awards	A										C	
The Sustainable City Awards	A		S									
The Low Carbon Champions Awards				A	A				C			

3.4 Celebrating Construction Awards

SWM Priority

Buildings

About the Award

Celebrating Construction is firmly established as a high point in the regional construction calendar, each year commanding the attention of industry professionals from across the West Midlands and beyond. The event provides one of the most effective platforms for targeting the construction industry, presenting the ideal opportunity for leading brands to maximise their industry exposure and penetrate this economically important market.

More information at <http://www.celebratingconstructionawards.org>

Award categories and who is eligible?

The Legacy Award, Sustainability - Nominations should demonstrate the application of the principles of sustainable construction and/or sustainable development that deliver a sustainable legacy. This can be on a single project that has taken the three aspects of sustainability into account, across a series of projects or through a change process within an organisation.

Innovation - This award is about getting away from the idea that we should continue to do what we have always done, because we feel comfortable with it. It is about developing new solutions to the problems we encounter, achieving an innovative solution that enhances the value of the finished product, without increasing the risks associated with it. It will highlight innovation in finding technical or environmental solutions and overcoming problems within a project or process.

The Achiever's Award - This award will recognise outstanding performance or influence by an individual who is truly inspirational in the opinion of the sector peer group. The winner will show exemplary actions that have changed the behaviour and performance of others and delivered disproportionate benefits for, and left a legacy in, the outputs of the built environment sector. The award winner will be sustainable and show a wholehearted embracing of the Rethinking Construction principles – but adopted and adapted to make a real difference within the sphere of the applicant's own operation, influence and community.

Young Achievers Award - This award recognises the person that has best demonstrated a positive impact against the current G4C (Generation for Change) priority areas of sustainability, and Construction 2025 change. The award is open to someone with less than 10 years in the construction and built environment sector.

Heritage project of the year - This award will recognise a heritage project that has best

demonstrated a commitment to Constructing Excellence principles, including environmental performance. The award highlights high standards in the repair, re-use and revitalisation of the region's historic buildings, sites and places.

Application Process

To apply, visit the following website, <http://www.celebratingconstructionawards.org>

How frequently are they awarded?

Application February and March (check individual date each year) and ceremony in July.

3.5 Business in the Community Awards

SWM Priority

Jobs, Waste, Energy, Environment & Leadership

About the Awards

A selection of different awards opens to all businesses, whether they're a Small to Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) or a multi-national company. The awards identify businesses that are transforming their communities to create a fair society and sustainable future.

Award categories and who is eligible?

The Rural Action Award – This award is open to all members of Businesses In The Community (BITC) and any non-member private sector businesses in the UK. Any size business can enter and as scale will be taken into consideration. Successful applicants will be able to clearly demonstrate positive impact to rural areas (economic, social and/or environmental).

The Sustainable Products and Services Award – This award is open to all members of BITC and any non-member private sector businesses in the UK and abroad. Any size business can enter and as scale will be taken into consideration. The award is for business who demonstrate how the business values natural resources and is taking measures to reduce their use; How the business is collaborating with key stakeholders to influence environmental benefits beyond their direct operations; How the business is demonstrating the business benefits of cutting dependency on diminishing natural resources.

The Engaging Customers on Sustainability Award – This award is open to all members of BITC and any non-member private sector businesses in the UK and internationally. Any size business can enter as scale will be taken into consideration. A successful applicant will demonstrate through marketing activity, how customers have been influenced to live or operate in a more sustainable way.

The Santander Responsible Small Business Award – This award is open to independent trading businesses with no parent company, employing fewer than 1,500 employees (or full time equivalent) and with a turnover of under £250 million. The award is for smaller businesses that are moving beyond short-term gain and are orienting themselves to build resilience and the long-term viability of their business by having a positive impact the community, environment, marketplace and workplace.

Business in the community's responsible business of the year award – This award is for businesses that are most effectively integrating sustainability issues into their business. The business should be demonstrating visible leadership and actively influencing others to create plans for long-term sustainable change.

Application Process

Links and more information:

The Rural Action Award:

<http://www.bitc.org.uk/awardcategories/rural-action-award>

The Sustainable Products and Services Award:

<http://www.bitc.org.uk/awardcategories/sustainable-products-and-services-award>

The Engaging Customers on Sustainability Award:

<http://www.bitc.org.uk/awardcategories/engaging-customers-on-sustainability-award>

The Santander Responsible Small Business Award:

<http://www.bitc.org.uk/awardcategories/santander-responsible-small-business-award>

Business in the community's responsible business of the year award:

<http://www.bitc.org.uk/awardcategories/business-communitys-responsible-business-year-award>

How frequently are they awarded?

Every year in July, applications close in January and short lists are announced in April.

3.6 The Green Apple Awards

SWM Priority

Environment, Leadership

About the Awards

The Green Organisation first launched the awards in 1994. They are one of the most popular environmental campaigns in the world and because of this have established major environmental recognition schemes. The aim of the award was to recognise those who have a positive impact on the environment or those who are doing anything to improve sustainability.

Who is eligible?

Individuals, companies, councils and international corporations are all eligible.

Application Process

Entries close on the 30 June every year.

To register or find out more information follow link to website:
<http://www.thegreenorganisation.info/green-apple-awards/>

How frequently is it awarded?

Awards night every year in November and entries close June.

3.7 Green Flag Awards

SWM Priority

Environment

About the award

The Award is a benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK. It was first launched in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country. It is seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards for excellence in recreational green areas.

More information at: <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/green-flag-award/>

Award categories

Entries are open to parks and green spaces located in the UK. There are eight criteria:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe & Secure
- Clean & Well Maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation & Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

More information at: <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/judges/judging-criteria/>

Application Process

To apply for an award follow the link below and email the address given for either England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

<http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/awards/apply-for-award/>

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year.

3.8 RICS Awards

SWM Priority

Buildings, Environment

About the awards

These awards showcase the most inspirational regional initiatives and developments in land, property, construction and the built environment. Regional winners for the eight categories are announced at an awards ceremony, which is held in twelve UK regions.

The eight categories include:

- Building Conservation
- Infrastructure
- Community Benefit
- Residential
- Regeneration
- Tourism & Leisure
- Design Through Innovation
- Commercial.

More information at: <http://www.rics.org/uk/training-events/awards/rics-awards-call-for-entries-2015/>

Who is eligible?

The awards are open to anyone working in the property profession.

Application Process

The West midlands application pack is available from:

<http://www.rics.org/Global/Downloads/West%20Mids%202015.pdf>

(Other regional packs also available from the same link)

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year in May (for West Midlands region) and short list announced in February.

3.9 Ashden Awards

SWM Priority

Buildings, Energy

About the award

The awards were established in 2001 and are now a globally recognised measure for excellence in the field of green energy.

Award categories and who is eligible?

Ashden UK Award – Successful applicants will show evidence of work to reduce and manage demand for energy. The award is for enterprises and programmes demonstrating any of the following areas: Demand reduction, demand response, energy storage, smart grid technology, local renewable energy generation, tackling fuel poverty and creating low carbon buildings.

Ashden International Award – The award is for enterprises and programmes demonstrating any of the following areas: Increasing energy access for homes and businesses, creating low-energy building in urban areas, developing financial mechanisms or business models for delivering sustainable energy, using sustainable energy for agricultural purposes, and improving the lives of women and girls through sustainable energy.

Eurostar Ashden Award for Sustainable Travel – The award is for enterprises and programmes operating in the UK, France, or Belgium and demonstrating any of the following areas: Enabling greater use of non-car options for travel (such as walking, cycling and public transport), encouraging more efficient use of the car or the existing transport network and combining technology and behaviour change to encourage more sustainable travel.

Ashden School Awards – For schools that are champions of local, sustainable energy.

Application Process

Links for more information and to start an application:

Ashden UK Award – <http://www.ashden.org/apply/UK>

Ashden international Award – <http://www.ashden.org/apply/international>

Eurostar Ashden Award for Sustainable Travel – <http://www.ashden.org/apply/travel>

Ashden School Awards – <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/2015-school-award-registration/>

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year in June, long list announced in January, and short list in March.

3.10 Food For Life

SWM Priority

Procurement

About the award

The award was designed as a way of recognising schools and demonstrating the work that they are doing to provide healthy school meals, great lunchtimes and food education that has a positive impact on both pupils and the wider community.

The programme provides a framework to support any changes needed to gain this achievement. As well as providing a wealth of resources, support and guidance to help schools by giving them access to a central advice line. It's also designed to be flexible so every school can approach it in the way that works best for them.

For more information visit the website at <http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/school-awards>.

Who is eligible?

It is free to any School located in England.

Application Process

If your school want to make a positive change than enrol at the link below:
<http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/registration/enrol-school>

How frequently is it awarded?

No limit. Enrol all year round.

3.11 Starpack Awards

SWM Priority

Waste, Environment, Leadership

About the award

The Starpack Awards scheme is now in its 56th year and is the UK's premier annual awards scheme recognising innovation in packaging design and technology. Winning a Starpack Award gives you the chance to gain potential global recognition through the Worldstar Awards and have your entry displayed at the Packaging Innovations Show.

Award categories and who is eligible?

Student Starpack – for more information on who is eligible, the standards that need to be met and the different categories please follow the link:

<http://www.iom3.org/content/students-0>

School Starpack – for more information on who is eligible, the standards that need to be met and the different categories please follow the link: <http://www.iom3.org/content/schools>

Industry Starpack – for more information on who is eligible, the standards that need to be met and the different categories please follow the link:

<http://www.iom3.org/content/starpack-industry-awards>

Application Process

Student Starpack – for more details follow the registration link below,

<http://www.iom3.org/content/student-starpack-how-to-enter>

School Starpack – for more details follow the registration link below,

<http://www.iom3.org/content/schools-starpack-how-to-enter>

Industry Starpack – for more details follow the registration link below,

<http://www.iom3.org/content/starpack-industry-awards-2010-how-enter>

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year in September and applications are between February and June.

3.12 The Queen's Award for Enterprise

SWM Priority

Procurement, Environment

About the award

The 'Queen's Awards for Enterprise: Sustainable Development Award' recognises and encourages the achievements by businesses in the UK, in developing commercially successful products, services and approaches to management which have major benefits for the environment, society and the economy.

The Award recognises those who have sought to enhance the sustainability of their operations through either their governance and management systems or the products or services they provide. There are two levels of Award: "**Outstanding Advance**" over at least two years or "**Continuous Achievement**" over five years.

Who is eligible?

All businesses entering for a Queen's Award for Enterprise must have at least two full-time UK employees (or part-time equivalent) and be based in the UK as well as being considered a sustainable development. A 'Sustainable Development' is any activity or project that 'ensures a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. A business either needs to show outstanding advance in sustainable development over at least two years or continuous achievement in sustainable development over 5 years. Achievements must either be invention, design, production, performance, marketing, distribution, after sales support of goods or services, management of resources or people, or of relationships with other organisations (or their representatives).

For more information read through the guidance notes at the link [here](#).

Application Process

To apply, download the application form [here](#).

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year April and applications between April and September the previous year.

3.13 DCSF Teaching Award for Sustainable Schools

SWM Priority

Procurement, Leadership

About the award

The Teaching Awards is an annual celebration of teaching and learning. The DCSF Award for Sustainable Schools recognises that safeguarding the planet is a subject close to the hearts of everyone and schools very often lead the way in taking on sustainable activities. The award celebrates schools that successfully meet the challenge of educating responsible citizens of the future and translates learning into action.

More information can be found [here](#).

Who is eligible?

The Teaching Awards is open to every education establishment in England, Wales and Northern Ireland teaching pupils between the ages of three and 18.

Application Process

Anyone can nominate a school for the DCSF Teaching Award for Sustainable Schools. This can be done [here](#).

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year.

3.14 The Sustainable Tourism Award

SWM Priority

Transport, Environment

About the award

This award has been designed to reward tourism businesses that can illustrate their excellence and commitment to sustainability best practice. The benefits of being shortlisted or being a winner in the Visit Heart of England Excellence in Tourism Awards are extensive; both in terms of regional business profile and in generating direct business and customer confidence.

Who is eligible?

Any business directly involved in tourism is eligible. This includes accommodation providers, visitor attractions, restaurant/cafes, other retail outlets, tourist information providers and other types of businesses that are part of the visitor economy. Any accommodation provider wishing to enter must hold a valid quality assessment rating by either Visit England or the AA or other recognised rating organisation. Attractions must be signed up to the Code of Practice for Visitor Attractions or be part of the VAQAS standard. Entries will demonstrate proven commitment to sustainability best practice, by demonstrating particular innovation that is having a positive long term impact and a marked improvement within the organisation.

Application Process

To apply visit the [website](#) and download an excellence pack for all the information you need to know.

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year and applications are in March

3.15 The Planning Awards

SWM Priority

Waste, Energy, Environment, Buildings, Leadership

About the award

The Planning Awards were launched in June 2014 as a means of honouring the best work occurring in the industry today. Planning magazine and Planning Resource run the Awards, which aim to celebrate outstanding achievement in planning work by local authorities, consultants, developers, lawyers, voluntary and neighbourhood groups and all the other key players in the planning system.

Award categories and who is eligible?

Award for strategic planning: This award will go to the entry that best demonstrates how a development plan, spatial plan or master plan has had or is likely to have a positive impact on the physical or environmental quality of a place or the economic or social well-being of its community.

Award for neighbourhood planning: This award will go to the entry that best demonstrates how a neighbourhood plan has had or is likely to have a positive impact on the physical or environmental quality of a place or the economic or social well-being of its community.

Award for public participation in planning: This award will go to the entry that best shows how involvement of the local community in the planning process has been used in a way that has improved or is likely to improve the physical or environmental quality of a place or the economic or social well-being of its community.

Award for infrastructure planning: This award will go to the project or team that can most clearly demonstrate how excellence in infrastructure planning (such as planning for transport, energy or utilities provision) has led or is likely to lead to improvements in the physical or environmental quality of a place or places and/or the economic or social well-being of a community or communities.

Award for planning for housing growth: This award will go to the team or project that can most clearly demonstrate how it has delivered, or is likely to deliver, housing growth with net economic, social and environmental benefits. This might be through an exemplary approach to housing market assessment, conversion of buildings from other uses, the planning of a garden city or urban extension or other approaches to delivering housing growth.

Award for planning for economic growth: This award will go to the team or project that can most clearly demonstrate how it has delivered, or is likely to deliver, economic growth in a

sustainable way by means of planning work.

Site allocation of the year: This award will go to the land allocation in a neighbourhood or local plan that has or is likely to have the most positive impact on the physical or environmental quality of a place or places and/or the economic or social well-being of a community or communities. The judges will in particular be looking to reward positive collaborative working between landowners and planning authorities.

Award for waste and minerals planning: This award will go to the entry that is judged to represent the most outstanding example of planning for waste and minerals provision in a sustainable way.

Application Process

For more information or to apply follow the link [here](#).

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year in July, applications in January, and shortlists announced March.

3.16 The Guardian's Sustainable Business Awards

SWM Priority

Jobs, Waste, Energy, Buildings, Leadership

About the award

The Guardian awards recognises the winners for their excellence in making sustainability in business a reality.

Award Categories and who is eligible?

In each category two awards are made, one for innovation and one for impact. When entering your project this will need to be indicated. The definitions for these are:

Innovation: It is likely that your organisation was set up to solve a sustainability problem or that enshrined in your business from the outset is a sustainable approach to doing business.

Impact: It is likely that your organisation is seeking to become more sustainable, transitioning from an old paradigm to a more resilient and sustainable one.

The award categories are:

Communicating sustainability: Inspiring action on sustainability issues is key. The award looks for standout examples of campaigns that have engaged and entertained

Net positive: It is no longer enough to do 'less bad.' Progressive businesses are seeking ways to be regenerative in their activity. This award is for those businesses that are taking tangible steps towards making a net positive contribution to communities, society and the environment.

Natural capital: From water to healthy soil, pollinators to forests, nature underpins 100% of economic activity. This is an award for an organisation that is trailblazing a strategy to appropriately account for the value nature provides it with.

Collaboration: An award for a project or initiative that breaks down traditional barriers. We are looking for examples of several partners working together in non-traditional ways towards a goal that delivers truly sustainable outcomes.

Carbon and Energy Management: Reducing business' scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions is key to meeting the UK's carbon reduction targets. This is an award for initiatives that take a holistic approach to measuring, managing and reducing emissions.

Waste: From circular principles applied to design to projects achieving zero waste and re-manufacturing initiatives, rethinking waste is vital and this award is for projects or products that are at the leading-edge of that rethinking.

Built Environment: An award for innovative re-developments or new-build projects that are at the leading-edge of approaches to reducing the built environment's negative environmental impacts and raising its positive social impact.

Sustainable Business Leader of the Year: An award voted for by Guardian Sustainable Business readers to reward a business leader who has shown dedication and bravery in progressing the sustainable business agenda, both within their own organisation and in the sector as a whole.

Sustainable Business Lifetime Achievement: Nominated by the judges, this new award will be made to an individual who has played a significant role in progressing the sustainable business agenda.

Consultancy of the Year: Judges will reward a consultancy that has delivered multiple outstanding projects that have enabled clients to drive innovation and impact in their sustainability initiatives.

Application Process

For more information on who is eligible or how to enter, follow the link [here](#).

How frequently is it awarded?

Every Year in April and applications start about November.

3.17 The Observer Ethical awards

SWM Priority

Waste, Transport, Energy, Environment, Leadership

About the award

The awards are to celebrate the people who are making the biggest difference in the fight for environmental and social justice

Award categories and who is eligible?

Retailer of the year: This for the best ethical retailer - local, national or online. Who really excels at championing an ethical supply chain or creating a trail-blazing green shopping experience?

Campaigner of the year: This category recognises the public-facing campaigner who has made the biggest difference to Observer readers and put ethical issues on the global agenda.

Local hero: This is your opportunity to give local heroes the recognition they deserve. Who have worked tirelessly to conserve their local or global environment? Who has inspired their community toward change? From campaigners to conservationists, the award recognises those who are hard-working volunteers who strive to build a better nation for all of us. Who has been leading the way to protect your neighbourhood and to enhance your standard of living?

Travel: This is for someone who is pioneering in sustainable approach and a tourism game changer. The judges will be on the lookout for collaborative enterprises rooted in their host communities, which have a clear positive impact. Or if you've visited a tourist attraction, stayed in a place or used a travel agency or tour operator who is committed to real sustainable change, we'd like to know about it.

The Community Energy Project Award: This award is looking for a cost busting, future-proofing energy projects or schemes powered by and designed for communities. The aim is to reward the very best of the UK's creative minds who are getting to grips with low carbon forms of generating power and have designed projects to generate, purchase, manage or reduce energy on a community basis.

The great energy race: With B&Q's Energy Saving team the award recognises the householder with the know-how, ingenuity and commitment to slash their home energy bill, set the standard for the nation and lead the way for energy conscious consumers across the UK to get their own bills under control. The favourite 20 households will each get a visit from a B&Q home energy adviser to help understand their energy efficiency and £250 to convert their energy saving ideas into action. Then the race will be on! The 20 households have 28 days to put their genius to work and inspire us with how much cash and energy it's possible to save with a little innovation and lots of inspiration.

Best in business: Aimed for businesses with world-changing ideas. Their attitudes towards energy, resource use, people, wildlife, communities and supply chain should be revolutionary. Businesses can be from the ethical sector or conventional industries that have employed extraordinary ethical vision in the way they do business. The winner will be the business creating the blueprint for others to follow.

Ecover Young Green Champions: The award seeks young green champions with world-saving ideas so help can be given to make their ideas happen. Classmates, youth groups, friends (all under the age of 18) are all eligible. Examples include recycling schemes, rescuing wildlife, busting carbon footprints, etc., the options are endless. The winner will receive £6000 funding to make their scheme take off.

For more information on all categories follow the link [here](#). Please note categories may change each year.

Application Process

To nominate or apply follow the link [here](#).

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year in June, nominations start around February and voting starts in April.

3.18 Sustainable Housing Awards

SWM Priority

Buildings

About the award

These awards put the spotlight on the best-of-the-best in the housing sector. With housing accounting for 25% of UK carbon emissions, reducing emissions from new and existing homes will be key to achieving the targeted 34% reduction by 2020.

Award Categories

- *Sustainable New Housing Project of the Year*
- *Sustainable Smaller Housing Retrofit Project of the Year*
- *Sustainable Larger Housing Retrofit Project of the Year*
- *Green Housing Performance Award*
- *Energy Saving Initiative of the Year*
- *Sustainable Housing Finance Award*
- *Sustainable Housing Partnership of the Year*
- *Sustainable Housing Consultancy of the Year*
- *Community Influence Award*
- *The Transformation Award*
- *Green Tenant/s of the Year*
- *Social Housing Provider of the Year*
- *Green Social Housing Champion of the Year*

Application Process

For more information on the categories, look at previous winners and find out how to apply follow the link [here](#).

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year in October and application starts the beginning of the year.

3.19 The LEAF Awards

SWM Priority

Buildings

About the award

The LEAF Awards provides every architect an ideal platform to have their work recognised and celebrated by the world's elite architectural community.

Award Categories

- *Mixed Use Building of the Year*
- *Residential Building of the Year Single Occupancy*
- *Residential Building of the Year Multiple Occupancy*
- *International Interior Design Award*
- *Commercial Building of the Year*
- *Hospitality Building of the Year*
- *Refurbishment of the Year*
- *Public Building of the Year*
- *Best Sustainable Development of the Year*
- *Best Future Building of the Year Drawing Board*
- *Best Future Building of the Year Under Construction*
- *Special Commendation*
- *Urban Design of the Year*
- *The Overall Winner*

For more on categories and previous winner follow the link [here](#).

Application Process

To look out for the Next up and coming awards keep a eye on the [website](#).

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year in October and applications open around February.

3.20 CIWEM Sustainable Wetland of the Year Award

SWM Priority

Environment

About the award

The CIWEM Sustainable Wetland of the Year Award recognises multi-functional projects that demonstrate the sustainable use of wetland habitats. The award was previously named the Living Wetlands Award and was co-founded with the RSPB in 2002/3. The awards are also included in the highly regarded RSA accreditation scheme. Meaning that award winners are automatically given access to the European Business Awards for the Environment.

Who is eligible?

Wetlands deliver a huge range of benefits to human society, from the natural filtering of wastewater to eco-tourism and from storing carbon to hosting important pollinators. The CIWEM Sustainable Wetland of the Year Award seeks to highlight projects that demonstrate wise use and the sustainable delivery of multiple benefits.

Applicants are expected to provide background information on their project and identify the positive impacts on biodiversity and how these improvements contribute to the delivery of a variety of ecosystem services (ES). Projects, which seek to optimise benefits across several ES and carefully monitor their impacts, will be favoured. All wetlands provide multiple ES and a well designed project should reflect this.

UK projects that are either work-in-progress or complete are eligible.

Application Process

For more information on applying click on the link [here](#).

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year and applications before April.

3.21 Sustainability Leaders Awards

SWM Priority

Waste, Buildings, Transport, Energy, Environment, Leadership

About the award

Organised by specialist sustainability publishing house Faversham House, the awards began life as edie.net's Awards for Environmental Excellence in 2007. In 2013, edie.net joined forces with sister title Sustainable Business and the awards were re-branded as The Sustainability Leaders Awards to reflect the dynamic sector they serve. The Sustainability Leaders Awards are included in the highly regarded RSA accreditation scheme – one of only a handful of environmental schemes to be chosen for this honour. This means that award winners have the opportunity to gain further accolades on the international stage, as they are automatically given access to the European Business Awards for the Environment.

Award categories

- *Sustainable Leader (Person) Award*
- *Stakeholder Engagement Award*
- *Sustainable Systems & Software Award*
- *Waste Treatment Award*
- *Sustainable Building Award*
- *Sustainability Reporting Award*
- *Waste & Resource Management Award*
- *Sustainable Packaging Innovation Award*
- *Energy Efficiency Award*
- *Water Management Award*
- *Sustainable Transport & Travel Award*
- *Carbon Management Award*
- *Sustainable Product Innovation Award*

Who is eligible?

The awards are open to all businesses and organisations across the public and private sectors and of all sizes from the largest multi-nationals to the smallest micro-organisations. As long as the initiative, project, product or strategy shows commitment, credibility and concrete results, we want to hear about it.

Application Process

More information click on the link [here](#).

How frequently is it awarded and when?

Every year in November, applications start beginning of each year.

3.22 The Sustainable City Awards

SWM Priority

Waste, Buildings, Transport, Environment

About the award

The Sustainable City Awards are given to organisations that have demonstrated excellence in sustainable development. Examples of this have included logistics companies that are reducing congestion and air-pollution, organisations that are helping people with visual impairments into employment, ethical pensions funds and plastics manufacturers with state of the art recycling programmes. The awards are also included in the highly regarded RSA accreditation scheme. Meaning that award winners are automatically given access to the European Business Awards for the Environment.

Award categories

- *Sustainable City and Trophy*
- *Air Quality*
- *Greening the Third Sector*
- *Resource Conservation*
- *Responsible Waste Management*
- *Sustainable Building*
- *Sustainable travel and Transport*
- *Tackling Climate Change*

Application Process

For more information click on the link [here](#).

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year in March.

3.23 The Low Carbon Champions Awards

SWM Priority

Transport, Energy

About the award

The Low Carbon Champions Awards are designed to identify and promote examples of outstanding and innovative practice in accelerating the shift to lower carbon vehicles and fuels and reducing road transport emissions. The awards are an initiative of the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP), a public-private partnership that exists to accelerate a sustainable shift to lower carbon vehicles and fuels and create opportunities for UK businesses. The awards are also included in the highly regarded RSA accreditation scheme. Meaning that award winners are automatically given access to the European Business Awards for the Environment.

Award categories

- *Low Carbon Car / Van Manufacturer of the Year*
- *Low Carbon Heavy Duty Vehicle Manufacturer of the Year*
- *Low Carbon Vehicle Operator of the Year*
- *Low Carbon Fuel Initiative of the Year*
- *2014 Award for Low Carbon Innovation by an SME*
- *Low Carbon Road Transport Initiative of the Year*
- *2014 Outstanding Low Carbon Publication or Report*

Application Process

For more information click on the link [here](#).

How frequently is it awarded?

Every year in September.