



ENVIRONMENT
AWARDS
2024

Information to guide you
in your application





The logo for the Environment Awards 2024. It features a stylized 'E' icon on the left, composed of a black shape with a green horizontal bar. To the right of the icon, the words 'ENVIRONMENT AWARDS' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with '2024' in a green, sans-serif font below them.

ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2024

Rewarding great design, environmental guardianship and community spirit in County Durham.

Use these application guidance notes to help with your submission. Self nomination is permitted in all but the two individual volunteering categories. All projects or work must have been undertaken within the Durham County Council area.

If you have any queries about the applications process or how to submit your project for the awards, contact:

The Environment Awards Team on **03000 260 000**
or email environment.awards@durham.gov.uk

www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/envawards



SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Covering complete sustainable new builds and extensions to residential or commercial buildings, which enhance their surrounding streetscene and local environment. Entries can range from individual domestic schemes to landmark developments. Examples which demonstrate incorporation of local energy generation into schemes may also be considered.

Successful schemes will:

- demonstrate sustainable elements of design in housing and community practices
 - fit their setting well in terms of design, scale, massing and use of materials
 - exceed statutory planning requirements
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RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Rewarding groups and individuals carrying out schemes which maximise energy efficiency, minimise energy use and have adopted renewable energy sources. Projects which address the wider issues of climate change in an innovative way will also be considered.

Successful schemes will:

- illustrate the benefits in terms of climate change mitigation measures
- be examples from which others can learn



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY ACTION

Presented to schemes which demonstrate how a partnership approach has achieved much more than a single organisation could have done alone.

Submissions to other categories which have been delivered through this approach will automatically be considered for this award.

Successful schemes will:

- be judged to inspire others to work collaboratively
- demonstrate an ongoing benefit to the community

GREEN BUSINESS*

Acknowledging businesses which support their communities in maintaining a clean environment.

In order to recognise the whole range of businesses across the county, this year we have split this into two categories, for companies over 50 employees and those under.

Business operating in County Durham are eligible to enter. Companies with numerous branches must be site specific.

Successful schemes will:

- demonstrate good practice in environmental matters
- exceed statutory requirements
- have worked with communities to create a cleaner and more sustainable environment



* Small companies
(less than 50 employees).

Large/medium companies
(more than 50 employees)

NATURE IN PLACES AND SPACES

This category will reward schemes which create cleaner and greener surroundings that enable communities to focus on initiatives that are most relevant to their own needs. They may include the creation of new public spaces or the regeneration of neglected areas to create vibrant new spaces for the whole community.

Successful schemes will:

- create a stronger sense of community
- increase civic pride with people engaged in the improvement of their own community
- regenerate run down areas and create safer environments
- demonstrate a commitment to sustainable resource management
- have a positive effect on the local economy, tourism and the health and wellbeing of the local residents and visitors



VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR

This category recognises the contribution of a community group in delivering activities which improve and inspire the lives of others. This category is open to applicants of all ages. Self nomination is permitted in this category.

Successful applicants will:

- consist of two or more people doing volunteering work that is an environmental service to the local community
- have a local management structure
- have been running for two years or more
- have made a demonstrable impact on their local community
- be able to demonstrate longevity in completed and future work



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR*

Two categories, rewarding individuals who give up their time to improve the environment for the benefit of their community. All nominees must live or volunteer in County Durham. Self nomination is not accepted.

Must be under the age of 18 on 31 October 2024.
(in the under 18 category.)

Successful candidates will:

- have given outstanding service to their community by supporting a local group or delivering a volunteer service or project which improves the environment
- have contributed a minimum of 10 hours to an environmental volunteer service or project between June 2023 and June 2024

* Under 18 years old/over 18 years old

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Recognising environmental initiatives within schools and colleges, such as wildlife gardens, recycling or re-use projects, transport schemes and environmental awareness programmes. Schemes where the school or college is working in partnership with the wider community are also accepted.

Successful candidates will:

- demonstrate a link to curriculum delivery
- include links to wider benefits, or other school based environmental initiatives such as eco-schools

ACTIVE OUTDOORS

Projects and activities which improve people's access to nature and the outdoor environment, with clear benefits to health and wellbeing of the local community.

Successful schemes:

- demonstrate approaches that encourage activity outdoors such as walking and cycling, and an appreciation of natural green spaces
- can be community-based improvement works such as tree planting and footpath projects, information such as walking guides that help people explore and care for the environment on their doorstep





OUTSTANDING AWARD

The outstanding award recognises those schemes which go beyond exemplary status in their own category. They will display elements which cut across a number of categories and not only fulfil the criteria of the County Durham Environment Awards, but set an example of sustainable and environmentally friendly activity on a regional or national basis. Outstanding awards will be given at the discretion of the judging panel.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The County Durham Environment Awards are made possible through support of partners and local sponsorship.

A range of sponsorship opportunities are available to allow businesses, organisations and individuals to become involved in the continuation of the exciting and rewarding project.

Members of the team would be happy to talk about any sponsorship opportunities, for ease three standard packages are offered:

Green sponsorship: minimum contribution £2,000

- Corporate logo in publicity material
- Company representative on judging panel
- Invitation to awards ceremony
- Award presented in company name



Silver sponsorship minimum contribution £1,000

- Corporate logo in publicity material
- Company representative on judging panel
- Invitation to awards ceremony

Bronze sponsorship minimum contribution £500

- Corporate logo in publicity material
- Invitation to awards ceremony

Previous sponsors have found their involvement to be both stimulating and rewarding.



