

PRESS RELEASE

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Pilsen, Czech Republic

‘World’s Most Liveable Communities 2009’ named at UN-endorsed global awards event

THE achievement of global environmental entrepreneurs in leading the way to tackle the world’s most pressing challenges was saluted yesterday (Monday, 12th October 2009).

Communities from around the world that are doing the most to address issues ranging from pollution to conservation and poor housing were named at the annual finals of the International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom) held in Pilsen, Czech Republic (8-12 October).

The UN-endorsed LivCom awards annually bring together some of the world’s leading innovators in the field. This year’s finalists included representatives from some of the smallest communities on the planet, (Carlyle, Canada Popn 1,257) to some of the very largest (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Popn 4.2million).

After initial judging, presentations from finalists scattered across the globe were assessed by the awards panel. The focus is on six key criteria for both projects and communities which had to show strong evidence of the following; Enhancement of the Landscape, Heritage Management, Environmentally Sensitive Practices, Community Sustainability, Healthy Lifestyles and Planning for the Future.

The finalists are divided into five categories according to their average daytime population. In addition there are winners in categories covering specific projects as well as the award of a £10,000 bursary for the most inspiring and innovative project.

The winners in the “whole city” section judged as the world’s most liveable communities across the six criteria were **Gibsons, Canada (population category up to 20,000)**, Newark, England (up to 75,000), Melville, Australia (up to 200,000), Shilong, China (up to 750,000) and Dalian, China (over 750,000).

An award was also given for outstanding achievement in each of the six criteria, recognising particular innovation and best practice in the field. The winners showing outstanding achievement in each area were, Jihlava, Czech Republic (Enhancement of the Landscape), Broadland, England (Heritage Management), Canada Bay, Australia (Environmentally Sensitive Practices), Melville, Australia (Community Sustainability), **Gibsons, Canada (Planning for the Future)** and Newark on Trent, England (Healthy Lifestyles).

Commenting on the success of this year’s event, Claudette Savaria (Can) Chairman of the judging panel said: “The standard of LivCom finalists increases year on year and this year it is pleasing to note that some communities have excelled in all categories. The competition is truly coming of age reflecting the ever increased priority being given at local level to these massive issues.

“Again we have found that some of the smallest communities are doing as much to innovate as some of the largest cities. They have the drive to act now to do something for the benefit of future generations. In many cases their efforts are inspiring and something the rest of the world can learn from.”

Chief Executive of LivCom, Alan Smith said of this year’s finals: “We’ve had a wonderful welcome from the people of Pilsen, who have made every effort to make LivCom delegates welcome.

“Having successfully reached the LivCom finals on four occasions it has been heartening to witness the progress of the city of Pilsen and to experience on the ground the real impact of the LivCom Awards.”

Claudette Savaria added: “What was striking was the extent to which previous finalists clearly demonstrated what they have learned from the LivCom experience and exchange of ideas and the extent to which this is benefiting their residents.

“Whereas 10 years ago the focus was all about recycling, that is now taken for granted – the leading exponents of change have all moved on to devising more intricate solutions to complex issues.”

LivCom 2009 highlighted the way in which many municipalities have moved to adopt global targets such as reducing carbon emissions and come up with a range of answers from high tech solutions to individual behavioural change.

One award winning project from Schwalm-Eder-Kreis in Germany highlighted 100 steps taken by the region to contribute to global climate protection.

Project judge Gus Stahlmann (USA) described this entry as one of the most inspiring he had seen. “They have provided a blueprint for communities around the globe,” he said.

The full results, citations and photographs of the winners are available on the website at www.livcomawards.com.

- Ends –

For the full list of results in the finals and the full citations for the criteria awards, please see the media page on the website at www.livcomawards.com or for further information including high res photography of the delegations please email livcompress@btinternet.com tel: +44 7825 082595

Full results LivCom 2009:

Category A

1. Gibsons, Canada (Gold award)
2. Southwell, England (Gold)
3. Bolatice, Czech Republic (Silver)

Tulln An Der Donau, Austria (Bronze)

Ricany, Czech Republic	(Bronze)
Jaromer, Czech Republic	(Bronze)
Carlyle, Canada	(Bronze)

Category B

1. Newark, England	(Gold)
2. Chrudim, Czech Republic	(Gold)
3. Canada Bay, Australia	(Gold)

Annapolis, USA	(Silver)
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Tabor, Czech Republic	(Silver)
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Category C

1. Melville, Australia	(Gold)
2. Broadland, England	(Gold)
3. Kakamigahara, Japan	(Silver)

Kladno, Czech Republic	(Silver)
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Cergy-Pontoise, France	(Bronze)
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Mikolow, Poland	(Bronze)
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Norwich, England	(Bronze)
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Rockhampton, Australia	(Bronze)
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Category D

1. Shilong, China (Gold)
2. Songpagu, South Korea (Bronze)

Category E

1. Dalian, China (Gold)
2. Dubai, UAE (Bronze)
3. Riyadh (Bronze)

Project Awards

Natural projects

1. Schwalm-Eder-Kreis, Germany – 100 steps to global protection (Gold)
2. Wujin, China – Yancheng Conservation Project (Gold)
3. Chrudim, Czech Republic – Podhura recreational woods (Gold)

Odense, Denmark (Fish Stream Passage) (Silver)

Tulln An Der Donau, Austria (Die Garten Tulln) (Silver)

Broadland, England (Growing an Eco Community) (Silver)

Broadland, England (Helping Broadland through recession) (Silver)

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Roundabouts) (Silver)

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Festivals) (Bronze)

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (1m cleaning campaign)	(Bronze)
Wuhan, China (Yangtse Purple City)	(Bronze)
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Gardens and parks)	(Bronze)
Lviv, Ukraine (Creative micro finance)	(Bronze)

Built Projects

1. Beijing, China – Hopson No8 Royal Park, Germany (Gold)
2. Dalian, China – Dalian Software Park (Gold)
3. Yokohama, Japan – Koshigaya Lake Town (Gold)

Pittsburgh, USA (Shenley Plaza)	(Silver)
Guangzhou, China (Vanke Dream Town)	(Silver)
Changxing, China (Harmonious Dragon Mountain Moor)	(Silver)
Qingdao, China (Olive Trees)	(Bronze)

£10,000 Bursary Award: Chrudim, Czech Republic – regeneration of recreation area

Criteria awards

1. Enhancement of the Landscape, Jihlava, Czech Republic
2. Heritage Management, Broadland, England
3. Environmentally Sensitive Practices, Canada Bay, Australia
4. Community sustainability, Melville, Australia
5. Healthy Living, Newark on Trent, England
6. Planning For the Future, Gibsons, Canada

* The colour of an award DOES NOT indicate the communities final placing – it is a standard. So Gold is excellent but DOES NOT mean first place – it is possible to come 2nd and win a Gold award.

About LivCom

The LivCom Awards were launched internationally in 1997 and are endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme and the scheme is run as a UK Registered Charity.

LivCom Awards are made in three categories covering Whole City, Sustainable Projects and a Bursary Award which sees match funding of £10,000 go to the winning project.

A new country has been represented at the LivCom Awards in each of the past eleven years, and now more 50 countries are regularly represented.

The International Awards for Liveable Communities 2009 were held at the Park Hotel, Pilsen, Czech Republic.

To find out more about the awards and for a full list of finalists, results and summaries of submissions, go to www.livcomawards.co.uk or contact the LivCom press office at livcompress@btinternet.com (tel +44 7825082595).