



World Habitat Awards

Innovation Sustainability Transfer

Building and Social Housing Foundation

Memorial Square, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3TU United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0)1530 510 444
Fax +44 (0)1530 510 332
Email wha@bshf.org
Web www.bshf.org
www.worldhabitatawards.org



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ABOUT THE WORLD HABITAT AWARDS

The World Habitat Awards is an annual international competition that recognises innovative and sustainable solutions to key housing challenges in the global South as well as the North.

The Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. The World Habitat Awards are co-ordinated and funded by BSHF, with the support of UN-Habitat.

Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at a UN-Habitat global event.

For further information on the Awards and details of winning and finalist projects from previous years please visit www.worldhabitatawards.org



ABOUT BSHF

The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) is an independent research organisation that promotes sustainable development and innovation in housing through collaborative research and knowledge transfer.

Established in 1976, BSHF works both in the UK and internationally to identify innovative housing solutions and to foster the exchange of information and good practice.

BSHF believes that everyone should have access to decent housing and is committed to promoting housing policy and practice that is people centred and environmentally responsible.

For details of BSHF's activities, research and publications, please visit www.bshf.org



HOUSING SOLUTIONS

The guiding principles of the World Habitat Awards are **Innovation**, **Sustainability** and **Transfer** and practices are sought that approach housing from a broad perspective, acknowledging the many factors that have an impact on the way people live. Many outstanding projects have been recognised over the years, addressing a variety of housing issues and demonstrating substantial, lasting improvements in living conditions that can inspire others facing similar situations in different parts of the world.



Suggested areas for submission to the Awards include:

- ✓ Building materials and technologies
- ✓ Disaster risk reduction and response
- ✓ Environmentally sustainable housing
- ✓ Homelessness
- ✓ Housing affordability
- ✓ Housing and land rights
- ✓ Housing, livelihoods and wellbeing
- ✓ Participatory housing processes
- ✓ Settlement upgrading
- ✓ Social inclusion
- ✓ Urban development and regeneration

(Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and that projects relating to other housing issues can be submitted.)



PRIZE

In addition to receiving global recognition for their innovative practices, World Habitat Award winners receive a cash award of £10,000.

Trophies are also presented to the winning projects, and travel and accommodation costs are met for a representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony at a UN-Habitat global event.



RECOGNITION AND TRANSFER

As well as giving recognition to innovative and sustainable housing solutions worldwide, a key aim of the World Habitat Awards is to support finalist and winning practices in scaling up their efforts, as well as facilitating the adaptation and transfer of the award-winning approaches by groups facing similar situations in different countries and contexts.

Previous winners and finalists have reported a number of positive outcomes as a result of the recognition and validation of their achievements, such as the development of new partnerships and funding opportunities, encouragement of further innovation and increased leverage over government bodies to help generate an enabling policy environment to scale up their work.



PEER EXCHANGE

As a follow-up to the Awards, international peer exchange activities are carried out each year to the winning projects in order to encourage the dissemination of innovative housing practice around the world and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience. Bursaries are made available from BSHF, enabling participants from a range of countries to attend.

These activities provide an opportunity for housing practitioners to exchange knowledge and experience, become part of a community of practice and gain an in-depth understanding of the key aspects of each award-winning practice. Intensive site visits form a major part of the programme, providing an opportunity to meet with residents and others responsible for the programme's success.

For further information and details of peer exchange activities, visit www.worldhabitatawards.org





WHO CAN ENTER?

The competition is open to any individual, organisation or government agency that has an innovative and sustainable housing solution in any country of the world. More than one entry can be made by the same individual or organisation.

Housing projects and approaches are sought that

- demonstrate practical, innovative and sustainable solutions to current housing issues faced by countries all around the world
- can be transferred or adapted for use as appropriate
- are already being implemented or are completed ie not at design stage or very early stages of development
- view the term 'habitat' from a broad perspective and bring other benefits as well, such as energy or water saving, income generation, social inclusion, community and individual empowerment, health benefits, capacity building or education.

Previous entrants can resubmit in subsequent years providing that the initiative has been further developed in the intervening time period.



ENTRY PROCEDURE

Initial submissions need only comprise a concise description of the key aspects of the initiative, accompanied by images, and may be submitted in English, Spanish or French. Full details and an online entry form are available at www.worldhabitatawards.org

Deadline for submissions: 30 April 2015





ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

Entries are assessed and ten to twelve practices are shortlisted by an assessment committee to continue to the next stage of the competition, where shortlisted projects are evaluated by an independent advisory group.

Evaluation visits are made by BSHF representatives to selected projects before putting forward recommendations to external judges, including the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).



WORLD HABITAT AWARDS 2015-2016: KEY DATES

30 April 2015

Deadline for receipt of entries

In 2016 (dates to be confirmed)

Awards to be presented at Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

For more information please visit
www.worldhabitatawards.org



