

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until 23.30, Wednesday 13 November

Winners of the 2024 UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards announced

South Devon College takes home the Sustainability Institution of the Year Award as 37 other institutions are recognised for innovative sustainability initiatives.

The winners of this year's UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards in association with [UK Research and Innovation](#) (UKRI) have been revealed.

Now in their 20th year, the awards recognise outstanding and exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken in the post-16 education sector across the UK and Ireland.

This year's awards saw 133 projects from 83 institutions shortlisted, with 22 winners and 23 highly commended awards announced at a ceremony at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh on the evening of 13 November.

Amongst the winners is [South Devon College](#) who scooped the coveted Sustainability Institution of the Year Award. The college was recognised for its "unbroken green thread"- an ambitious strategy that has woven sustainability into the hearts, minds and actions of students and staff over the past 15 years.

[Christine Calder](#) of Dundee and Angus College and [Dr Noha Saleeb](#) of Middlesex University were both crowned Staff Sustainability Champion, an award sponsored by [Salix](#). Both were recognised for spearheading initiatives to embed sustainability into learning and teaching in their respective institutions and empowering others to do the same.

The Student Sustainability Champion Award, sponsored by Salix, was awarded to [Hayley Hill](#), a recent graduate of the University of Plymouth for her undergraduate research and outreach efforts to inspire young people to play a role in tackling the climate crisis. Since graduating, Hill has used her knowledge to design and deliver free environmental science workshops to school children and staff across the UK, as well as landing a job as an education coordinator with a local climate organisation.

With categories ranging from sustainability reporting to research with impact, individual actions and whole-organisation approaches, the Green Gown Awards continue to provide a national platform to showcase effective sustainability practice taking place in the post-16 education sector.

Commenting on the results, Charlotte Bonner, Chief Executive of EAUC, said:

"EAUC, and in turn, the Green Gown Awards, are both celebrating their 20th anniversaries this year, with the Green Gown Awards having been an integral part of the sector's sustainability journey over the last two decades. This year's outstanding winners and highly commended entries for the Green Gown Awards UK & Ireland once again provide an inspiring and diverse array of initiatives, from impactful projects to passionate individuals, all dedicated to advancing sustainability. These awards demonstrate that sustainability is a collaborative journey, not a competition, with each effort contributing to the broader goal of transformative change for the post-16 education sector and beyond. Congratulations to all our winners, highly commended entrants, and finalists."

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Dr Susan Simon, UKRI Environmental Sustainability Programme Director, said:

“Congratulations to all the winners of this year’s Green Gown Awards. On this special 20th anniversary year, we are delighted to not just be celebrating the excellent achievements of this year’s finalists, but to also reflect back on the exceptional projects, initiatives and individuals that have been highlighted over the years. We look forward to many more years of the awards celebrating the innovative and inspirational projects that are helping our sector to reach net zero and address climate change.”

2024 Winners

2030 Climate Action, sponsored by [TEC](#)

Highly Commended: Derby College Group

Highly Commended: Queen’s University Belfast

Highly Commended: Technological University Dublin

Winner (small organisation): The Bedford College Group

Winner (large organisation): University of the West of England

Benefitting Society

Highly Commended: Queen’s University Belfast

Highly Commended: The University of Edinburgh

Winner (small organisation): Edinburgh College

Winner (large organisation): University of Kent

Creating Impact, sponsored by the [Scottish Funding Council](#)

Highly Commended: Chelmsford College

Highly Commended: University of Aberdeen

Winner: Hull College

Winner: University of Lincoln

Campus Health, Food and Drink

Highly Commended: University of Cambridge - Darwin College

Highly Commended: University of Southampton

Winner: Forth Valley College

Winner: Cardiff University

Digital Futures, sponsored by [Jisc](#)

Winner: University of East London

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Sustainability

Highly Commended: Cardiff University & WWT

Winner: University of the Arts London - London College of Fashion

Money for Good

Winner: Nottingham Trent University

Nature Positive

Highly Commended: University of the West of England

Winner: Coventry University

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Next Generation Learning & Skills, sponsored by [CMI](#)

Highly Commended: Kingston University

Highly Commended: Technological University Dublin

Winner: New City College

Reporting with Influence, sponsored by [HI Group](#)

Highly Commended: University of Aberdeen

Winner: Royal College of Music

Research with Impact, sponsored by [Praxis Auril](#)

Highly Commended: Nottingham Trent University

Highly Commended University of Salford

Winner: University of Plymouth

Student Engagement

Highly Commended: Barnsley College

Highly Commended: University of Leicester

Winner: York St John University

Sustainability Champion – Staff, sponsored by [Salix](#)

Highly Commended: Miles Richardson, University of Derby

Winner (small organisation): Christine Calder, Dundee & Angus College

Winner (large organisation): Dr. Noha Saleeb, Middlesex University

Sustainability Champion – Student, sponsored by [Salix](#)

Highly Commended: Kim Del Kaze, Cranfield University

Highly Commended: Aaliyah Gardner, Emily Stevenson and Charlie Beale - Keele University

Winner: Hayley Hill, University of Plymouth

Sustainability Institution of the Year

Winner: South Devon College

Tomorrow's Employees

Highly Commended: Northumbria University

Highly Commended: The Sheffield College

Winner (small organisation): Sparsholt College

Winner (large organisation): University of Leicester

For further details about each project, please see the [Finalists' Showcase](#).

About the Awards

Established in 2004, [the Green Gown Awards](#) recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK and Ireland. With sustainability now high on the agenda for many institutions, the awards have become established as one of the most prestigious recognitions of best practice within the further and higher education sector.

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The UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards are delivered by [EAUC](#) in association with [UKRI](#).

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