



MEDIA RELEASE

Regional leadership, global impact from winners of inaugural WorldGBC Leadership Awards Europe Region

16 September 2013: The World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) has announced the winners of its inaugural Europe Region Leadership Awards.

The awards were established by the World GBC's Europe Region Network to promote leadership and inspire best practices in green building policy, construction projects and corporate initiatives.

WorldGBC's Europe Region Network Chair, Paul King, says the panel of judges was very impressed with the quality of nominations which showcase sustainability in action across the continent.

"With nominations from 13 different countries, the real diversity of the WorldGBC's Europe Network can be seen in these award entries. The award categories showcase not only some of the best green buildings in Europe, but the leading companies from across the built environment industry and progressive city-level policies as well," Mr King says.

"We congratulate these three winners, all of which clearly demonstrate why green business is good for our people and planet, and that green is simply good business," Mr King adds.

The winners are:

LEADERSHIP IN BUILDING DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE

Green City Court, Prague, Czech Republic

Green City Court applied a number of sustainable solutions that were 'firsts' in the Czech Republic, including a naturally-ventilated atrium, advanced lighting system and waterless urinals. The building was designed to consume 56 percent less energy than a building constructed to meet the Czech building code. Green City Court saves around 5,000 cubic litres of water through efficiency measures and rainwater harvesting which accounts for 25 percent less water used than a typical Czech building.

LEADERSHIP IN CITY-LEVEL GREEN BUILDING POLICY

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Vitoria-Gasteiz, capital of the Basque Country, commits to sustainability by allocating 15 percent of its total budget to 'improvement of the environment'. The city's sustainability policies have delivered a range of positive outcomes, including 45 square meters of public green area per person; 130,000 city street trees; 2010 organic farming plots; and ensuring just 28 percent of journeys within the city are made by car. In 2009, Vitoria-Gasteiz was one of the first European Union municipalities to sign the Covenant of Mayors, voluntarily committing to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources to meet and exceed the EU's 20 percent carbon reduction objective by 2020. The city's long-term aim is to become a carbon-neutral zone.

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BUSINESS LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY

British Land, UK

British Land owns and manages a portfolio of commercial property worth €19.4 billion. One of Europe's largest Real Estate Investment Trusts, since 2009 British Land has set challenging short- and medium-term environmental targets. As of March 2013, British Land had cut landlord-influenced energy by 38 percent compared to a 2009 baseline, saving occupiers €6.6 million and reducing carbon emissions by 39,600 tonnes - equivalent to annual emissions from more than 6,000 homes.

"The green building movement is at the forefront of a revolution that is transforming the way people live, work and play – and we are congratulate these three outstanding examples of green building leadership," says Jane Henley, Chief Executive Officer of the WorldGBC.

"The Europe Region Leadership Awards showcase how sustainable building practices are reducing the ecological footprint of our buildings and cities, while delivering valuable economic and social benefits," Ms Henley concludes.

Download a full list of nominees and more information on the winners from the WorldGBC website: www.worldgbc.org/activities/govt-leadership-awards/europe

Award Partners:



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About the World Green Building Council

The WorldGBC is a coalition of 98 national green building councils, making it the largest international organisation influencing the green building marketplace. The WorldGBC's mission is to facilitate the global transformation of the building industry towards sustainability through market driven mechanisms.

The WorldGBC supports the creation successful GBCs and ensures they have the resources needed to prosper, advocates the important role of green buildings in mitigating global climate change and promotes effective building performance rating tools and the development of mandatory minimum standards for energy efficiency in buildings. See: www.worldgbc.org

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