



Entry Guide

Celebrating and championing individual and organisational contributions to a carbon free future for the UK housing sector

The Unlock Net Zero awards have grown significantly since their debut three years ago, and this year we're taking things a step further with an even bigger celebration of the remarkable climate action happening across the sector. Held alongside the largest [housing event](#) in the calendar, the awards offer a powerful platform to showcase and learn from the work that's helping to drive a successful net zero transition.

To assist you in the entry process, this guide provides useful information on the following:

- Key dates
- How to enter
- Climate Champions Power List
- Categories, questions and what the judges are looking for
- Entry tips
- Eligibility

Key dates:

- Entries open: December 2025
- Entries close: Friday, 27 February 2026
- Ceremony: Tuesday, 23 June 2026 at Manchester Central, alongside Housing 2026

How to enter:

The Unlock Net Zero Awards and Climate Champions' Power List are FREE and easy to enter.

Unlock Net Zero Awards

Each entry form requires you to provide the following:

- **Summarise the individual, team, project, or organisation** - up to 400 words.
- **Explain why they should win the award** - up to 1500 words.
- **Up to three high-resolution horizontal images** related to your submission (such as a photo of the individual or team) to appear on screen and within the awards programme on the night if you are shortlisted.

Climate Champions' Power List

The entry form requires you to provide the following:

- **Answers to one question;** explain why the individual should be on the Power List (up to 800 words.)
- **Three high-quality horizontal photographs** related to your submission (such as a photo of the individual) to appear on screen and within the awards programme on the night if you are shortlisted.

[Enter now>>](#)

Climate Champions Power List

Who are those individuals going above and beyond to deliver on the climate agenda. We want to know. Irrespective of job title we are looking to place the spotlight on those people who go above and beyond to drive the sustainability agenda forward. Is this you, or is it someone you know? Let us know why they should be recognised as our climate champion of the year. In this category we also want to recognise a rising star, someone who is new to their career but already making a real difference to the climate agenda. At the other end of the spectrum, we want to recognise someone who over their career has made a lifetime positive contribution in the field of housing to the environmental agenda. This means you can enter this category in three ways – climate champion, rising star or lifetime contribution.

Judges will be looking for:

- What is the impact the individual has made
- What is their approach to this agenda and what sets them apart
- What can we learn from their actions
- How do they share their knowledge with others

Categories, questions, and what the judges are looking for:

1) Retrofit project of the year

The retrofit of existing buildings that will remain in use through to 2050 is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Retrofitting is expanding rapidly, and this award seeks to recognise exemplary projects that demonstrate innovative approaches, tackle the climate emergency, and improve comfort and energy efficiency for occupiers.

This category welcomes entries from all housing tenures, including local authorities, housing associations, sheltered housing, build-to-rent, student accommodation, co-living, and custom-built developments.

Eligibility: Projects must have been completed between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects located in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

2) Supply chain partner of the year

This award recognises organisations that are integral to supporting the housing and built environment sector in achieving its net zero ambitions. These partners act as an extension of their customers' teams, adding value and enabling decarbonisation across multiple stages of the supply chain.

Eligibility: Projects, initiatives, or approaches must have been implemented between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects located in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

3) Skills and training award

A skilled and knowledgeable workforce is essential to delivering a net zero transition. This award recognises organisations that are developing the workforce of today and attracting the talent of tomorrow to achieve net zero across the housing and built environment sectors. Entries are welcomed from in-house teams, training providers, and educational establishments investing in and promoting workforce development and talent growth.

Eligibility: Projects, initiatives, or approaches must have been implemented between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects located in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

4) Engagement campaign of the year

To make net zero aspirational, we need to bring people with us on the journey. This award recognises campaigns that have truly resonated with tenants, residents, or communities, driving meaningful engagement and behaviour change. Successful entries will demonstrate how the campaign has contributed to the success of a project or workstream and helped reduce climate impact.

Eligibility: Campaigns must have been carried out between January 2025 and February 2026. Only campaigns based in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

5) Innovation of the year

This award celebrates successful innovations that benefit the housing and built environment sectors in their decarbonisation journey. Entries can include new approaches to service delivery, pioneering technologies, or novel ways of working that advance net zero goals. Entrants should demonstrate the measurable impact of their innovation and outline plans for further implementation or scaling.

Eligibility: Projects and developments must have been completed between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects and developments based in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

6) Biodiversity and nature award

This award recognises projects that demonstrate how they have enhanced communities and places through the active promotion of biodiversity and nature. Entries may include regeneration or rewilding of existing sites, or the integration of nature and biodiversity into new developments. Submissions should clearly show how nature has been protected, promoted, and incorporated to inspire future developments.

Eligibility: Projects and developments must have been carried out between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects based and developments in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

7) Collaboration of the year

Achieving Net Zero is a collective challenge that requires collective solutions. This award celebrates projects that have demonstrated outstanding partnership working to deliver a measurable, lasting positive impact on the climate. We are looking for examples where collaboration was central to the project's success, showing how the partnership was formed, how roles and responsibilities were shared, and why working together enabled stronger, more effective outcomes than could have been achieved individually.

Eligibility: Projects and approaches must have been implemented between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects and teams based in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

8) Organisation of the year

This award celebrates organisations and leadership teams that are truly driving the net zero agenda - embedding sustainability at the heart of their strategy, operations, and culture. We're looking for organisations that can demonstrate a genuine commitment to decarbonisation through measurable impact, innovation, and scalable initiatives that deliver benefits across the housing and built environment sectors. Entrants should show how their leadership, investment, and collaboration have contributed to meaningful progress toward net zero.

Eligibility: Projects and initiatives must have been carried out between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects and teams based in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

9) Funding team of the year

This award recognises the financial innovators driving the UK's transition to net zero. We're celebrating teams and organisations that are enabling decarbonised housing and built environment programmes through creative and impactful funding solutions. Whether through private investment, public sector initiatives, or innovative partnerships, entrants should demonstrate how their financial strategies have supported both the delivery of new low-carbon developments and the retrofit of existing property portfolios. Submissions should highlight measurable outcomes and the long-term impact of their funding approach.

Eligibility: Initiatives and approaches must have been implemented between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects and initiatives based in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

10) Landlord of the year

This award recognises landlords who are leading the way in the UK's transition to net zero -those demonstrating a clear and measurable commitment to sustainability through tangible delivery and long-term impact. We're celebrating organisations that are creating and maintaining net zero homes and places that truly benefit local communities. Entrants should showcase how they are accelerating the net zero transition across their assets, operations, and supply chains.

Entries are welcomed from landlords of all sizes and portfolios, including councils, housing associations, local authorities, for-profit providers, build-to-rent owners and operators, and student accommodation providers.

Eligibility: Projects and approaches must have been implemented between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects based in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

11) ESG team of the year

This award celebrates the teams leading the way in driving forward the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) agenda within their organisations and across the wider housing and built environment sectors. We're looking for those who are embedding ESG principles into everyday operations, championing transparency, inclusion, and sustainability while making a measurable positive contribution to people, places, and the planet.

Entries should highlight how the team has delivered meaningful impact across one or more areas of the ESG framework - whether through environmental initiatives, social value creation, ethical governance, or by inspiring others through knowledge-sharing and collaboration.

Eligibility: Initiatives and approaches must have been implemented between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects and teams based in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

12) New build development of the year

This category celebrates outstanding achievement in the design, construction, and operational sustainability of new developments across the UK. It recognises projects that have successfully combined innovation and environmental responsibility to create high-quality, future-focused buildings that minimise carbon impact while enhancing the wellbeing and experience of their occupants and communities.

Entries should demonstrate excellence in sustainable construction methods, materials, and energy performance, as well as show how the project contributes to long-term environmental and social value. Judges will be looking for developments that set new benchmarks for quality, creativity, and climate-conscious design.

Eligibility: This award will relate to developments completed between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects located in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

13) Contractor of the year

This category recognises contractors who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to sustainability across their projects. It celebrates those who consistently embed environmentally responsible practices at every stage - from planning and design through to construction, delivery, and maintenance.

Judges will be looking for contractors who are setting the standard for low-carbon construction, resource efficiency, waste reduction, and innovation in sustainable building methods. Entrants should highlight measurable outcomes, strong collaboration with clients and supply chains, and a proven track record of delivering high-quality, sustainable projects that make a tangible contribution to the UK's net zero goals.

Eligibility: This award will be judged on work completed between January 2025 and February 2026. Only projects located in the UK are eligible.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

14) Climate champions' power list

We want to recognise individuals who are going above and beyond to deliver on the climate agenda. Job title doesn't matter - we want to shine a spotlight on those driving sustainability forward. Is this you, or someone you know? Tell us why they should be recognised as one of our Climate champions of the year. This category also highlights a **rising star** - someone early in their career who is already making a real impact on the climate agenda - and a **lifetime contributor** - someone whose career-long efforts have made a lasting positive contribution to environmental sustainability in housing. You can enter this category in one of three ways: as a climate champion, a rising star, or a lifetime contributor.

Eligibility:

- Entries are open to individuals working in the housing, built environment, or property sectors in the UK.
- Contributions or achievements should have taken place between **January 2025 and February 2026** for the climate champion and rising star categories.
- Lifetime contributor entries can recognise achievements over the course of an individual's career.
- Individuals can be nominated by themselves or by colleagues/peers.

Please note: Should we receive a very high number of entries, we may create sub-categories to ensure fair assessment and recognition across the sector.

Entry tips:

- Make sure that you read the criteria thoroughly and tailor your answers to the category you are submitting an entry for
- Provide as much evidence and detail as possible
- You can submit an entry for as many categories as you like. If you believe that your nominee has achieved results that align with more than one category, increase your chances of being shortlisted and enter for numerous awards
- You do not have to complete your entry in one sitting - partially complete entries can be saved and edited at any time until the entry deadline! We urge you just don't forget to submit your entries before the deadline. Remember to save your entry when prompted to do so.
- Tell us the story – build a real picture of the work your nominated individual, team or organisation has carried out
- Provide evidence and testimonials – robust data which shows the value of your work is crucial, but don't forget the human side. We want to hear how the work has benefitted the wider community. Judges are interested in the impact and scalability of the work nominated
- Don't count yourself out – you don't necessarily have to meet every criterion; we'll judge entries based on the strength of the information presented to us. Think back to the title of the category for the real test on whether you think your work can compete
- Think 'so what?' – telling us how you've done something is important but telling us why it matters is crucial. Always keep the big picture in mind

Eligibility:

- The awards are open to anyone involved in #netzero, #ukhousing #builtenvironment and the professional services and supply chain that supports them – anyone is eligible to enter at least one category
- Entries can also be completed by consultants or colleagues working on behalf of entrants (for example by PR or marketing departments)
- The Unlock Net Zero Awards will be judged on the achievements of the last year