



2025 ASHDEN AWARDS MEDIA PACK - UK VERSION

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For an ALL WINNERS version of the media pack [go here](#).

For a GLOBAL SOUTH version of the media pack [go here](#).

Below please find brief summaries of the UK winners of the 2025 Ashden Awards

The work of these organisations in the UK are relevant to stories on clean energy, retrofit of buildings in the UK, and community and local energy. **Photo download links in each summary.**

Useful bios:

- [Winners CEOs/spokespeople bios here](#).
- [Ashden spokespeople bios](#) - Ashden's CEO Dr Ashok Sinha and other specialists within Ashden are available for interview.

EMBARGO details

BEFORE 11 JUNE - These stories can be used at any time in the run-up to the Ashden Awards on 11 Jun but must be referred to as 'Finalists of the 2025 Ashden Awards'.

FROM 19:00hrs ON 11 June they can be named as 'Winners'.

This year's a bit different...

This 25th anniversary of the Ashden Awards is a bit different. We will honour six winners:

- **Four Outstanding Achievement Awards will be given to past champions who've really scaled up and made incredible achievements**
- **Two Breaking Barriers Awards to organisations that have never won an Ashden Award before and are demonstrating exceptional work in their field of climate action.**

Both awards will promote innovation that is inclusive – bringing benefits to low-income and marginalised communities – and holistic, addressing multiple challenges and barriers. The Ashden Awards will boost innovation that is market- or enterprise-led, with the potential to be quickly replicated or scaled up.

Common elements

- The founder stories of all the organisations are all incredibly powerful.
- All are examples of businesses demonstrating low carbon innovation, often against great financial, personal and political odds.
- All are focused on clean energy – which is the theme that the Ashden Awards started with 25 years ago.
- Insights from these inspiring, tried-and-tested solutions that have scaled up significantly, will be shared with funders, investors, policymakers and other innovators to reveal the steps they can take to speed the growth of inclusive climate action.

All the winning organisations of the 2025 Ashden Awards are:

(click on links to jump to sections)

UK:

- [Repowering London](#) - transforming clean community energy in London, upskilling young people and providing a new financial solution to help communities raise funds for their solar projects.
- [Cotality \(formerly Parity Projects\)](#) - providing a data analysis platform and expertise for retrofit technology modelling for housing providers, plus retrofit advice for home owners
- [Emergent Energy](#) - London and UK – after winning a regulatory breakthrough they are leading the way so that solar on social housing flats can finally benefit tenants, councils and landlords

Global South:

- [BURN Manufacturing, Kenya \(operating Africa-wide\)](#) - bringing clean cookstoves into a modern era with a variety of cookstoves - including electric induction stoves - plus innovative finance and a record of protecting the health of 28 million people
- [SELCO, India](#) - solar technology helping small entrepreneurs, particularly women, launch and run businesses using clean energy. Launched in India for 30 years, now working in other Global South countries and impacting 9 million people
- [Sosai Renewable Energies, Nigeria](#) - breaking gender and cultural barriers in northern Nigeria through solar projects and now also bringing solar to healthcare

Outstanding Achievement Awards – UK

Winners of this award are: **Repowering London and Cotality**

They have been chosen because they are:

- focussing on local energy innovation
- are undertaking innovation that is inclusive – bringing benefits to low-income and marginalised communities – and holistic, addressing multiple challenges and barriers.
- have the potential to be quickly replicated or scaled up.

 **Winner: Repowering London** – transforming clean community energy in London and upskilling young people

- Winner of Ashden Award in 2016 and 2025
- Based in Brixton, working London-wide
- Website: [Home | Repowering London](#)
- Download photos: [Repowering London photos](#)

Repowering London have shaken up the community energy sector. A hands-on, people-centred organisation, they have a deep commitment to improving skills and opportunities in clean energy, which includes training young people. Their inclusive, collaborative approach brings urban residents into the community energy movement – often reaching people who have been habitually underrepresented.

More than 150 young people have received paid training, paid internships, or mentoring. In 2023, they launched the year-long Voyage to Repower programme, offering unemployed 16–24-year-olds a pathway into green careers—83% of participants in the most recent programme in Lambeth secured jobs.

Escalation story since previous Ashden Award win:

Since winning an Ashden Award in 2016, Repowering’s capacity has grown 500%, with further growth expected.

Over the past 10 years, the organisation has supported the establishment of 11 community energy co-ops, funded mostly by small investors, and works across 9 London boroughs, generating 1.1MW of solar energy and reinvesting profits locally, including on energy efficiency advice for social housing residents and are expected to avoid over 900 tonnes of carbon emissions.

A collaboration with Energy Local now supplies low-cost solar electricity to Brixton estate residents, while other installations support cost savings on community buildings and schools.

Profits generated by the sale of solar energy generated — expected to come to £250,000 — are used to support local initiatives like energy efficiency advice for social housing residents.

Repowering London also helps train residents, including employed ‘community leads’, and makes co-op membership accessible with a £1 cost to join for local residents. Around 2000

children and young people have engaged in learning around climate and energy. They even combine art and energy as part of their engagement programme.

Through their 'Repowering Finance' revolving loan fund, they help co-ops access loans and reduce risks. A major partnership with Newham Council will pilot a 'Repowered Community' model combining solar, insulation, and fuel poverty support on a large scale.

- There is great potential for replication of the Repowering model and they are happy to talk about how their community energy work could be implemented by other communities outside of London.
- They are keen to share about their innovative [Repowering Finance](#) arrangement between local authorities and community energy groups – which could also transform the community energy sector, currently being trialled in their community energy project in Newham on library and school roofs plus others: [Community Energy Newham | Repowering London](#).

Spokespeople:

- Afsheen Kabir Rashid MBE, CEO & Co-founder
- Dave Fuller, Community & Business Development Director, Repowering London and Managing Director of Repowering Finance
- Claire Harrold, Community Retrofit Director

See [Spokesperson document](#) for more information.
[More detailed summary here](#).

 **Winner: Cotality** – providing a data analysis platform and expertise to provide detailed and high quality retrofit advice for one home or many – serving housing providers, local authorities homeowners and policy-makers.

- Winner of Ashden Award in 2012 and 2025
- Works UK-wide
- Websites: [Software and Services for the UK Retrofit Sector | Cotality](#) and <https://ecofurb.com/>
- Download photos: [Cotality photo gallery](#)

A UK low carbon building software and services provider which has initiated transformational business models for quality-assured retrofit (formerly Parity Projects/CoreLogic).

Their expertise and data analysis helps social landlords, local authorities and homeowners to create warm, healthy energy-efficient homes by providing them with accurate data and tailored advice to help them plan and budget for retrofit projects.

Their powerful data software transform the speed, efficacy and accuracy with which housing associations and local authorities can plan and manage retrofit projects – now used by more than 100 organisations, owning more than 2 million homes, and banks and building societies measuring the greenhouse gas emissions associated with their lending.

As Parity Projects, they also set up Ecofurb which is a One Stop Shop for homeowners and landlords planning retrofits, and launched it nationally in 2024 with Cotality's network of Retrofit Assessors and Coordinators – becoming the first national provider of independent whole house advice and quality assured installation for private home-owners. Founder Russell Smith also set up RetrofitWorks – now an independent cooperative uniting local installers, professionals and community organisations and co-founded the National Retrofit Hub.

Parity Projects has recently been bought by US firm Cotality, with an aim to apply its experience internationally and complement its existing retrofit services in the UK.

Escalation story since previous Ashden Award win:

As Parity Projects, the company focused on providing homeowners with retrofit advice – something the founder Russell Smith realised was sorely needed when he tried to retrofit his own home. This work gained them the Ashden Award in 2012 for energy efficiency and retrofit. After 20 years in the retrofit sector, Russell and his team now have a vast retrofit knowledge and a unique understanding of the challenges in scaling up retrofit beyond the funded schemes. He is a frequent advisor to government.

Their retrofit software technology is used by over 100 social landlords owning more than 2 million homes, local authorities in bidding for and delivering public-funded programmes, and now lenders looking to manage the environmental impacts of their activity. It is also used to support homeowners, providing free online advice and software used by retrofit coordinators to prepare whole house retrofit plans.


- This is a combination of a technical, data and founder story (founder Russell Smith set up Parity Projects, now Cotality, after realising how difficult it was to retrofit his own home). His mission is to provide a decarbonisation plan for every home through using data science to work out and create budgets for the most relevant and effective retrofit solutions.
- Information used to be commonly cited as the biggest barrier to retrofit, and work by Cotality, including Parity Projects, means this obstacle is removed. With their services, homeowners, housing associations, local authorities and lenders can identify the least-cost routes to energy efficient homes, and get support from retrofit coordinators and other advisers to help ensure their goals are met.


Spokesperson: Russell Smith is a highly experienced and informed voice in the retrofit sector, very policy-focused, and a frequent retrofit advisor to government and councils. “My mantra has always been that advice and wider policy must recognise every home is unique, due to the variety in the housing stock and the different ways people use energy. Our services reflect that


mantra. And because our advice reflects the reality on the ground, it saves time and money during installation and operation.” See [Spokesperson document](#) for more information.

Useful info re previous work: [About - CoreLogic | Parity Projects](#)

UK FINALISTS for Outstanding Achievement Awards:

 [Allenergy](#) - Tackling fuel poverty and carbon emissions for 25 years in **Scotland** through affordable warmth, local energy, and education programmes

 [Centre for Sustainable Energy](#) - Holistically addressing fuel poverty through data-backed research for energy justice

 [Energy Local](#) - Community energy projects through local energy market development, improving energy bills and reducing grid strain.

Breaking Barriers Award - UK

 **Winner – Emergent Energy** - London and UK – after winning a regulatory breakthrough Emergent are leading the way so that solar on social housing flats can benefit tenants, councils and landlords

Website: [Emergent Energy - Solar is for everyone](#)

Download photos: [Emergent photo gallery](#)

Emergent Energy is unlocking rooftop solar for flats. In 2023 they succeeded in changing regulatory barriers so that residents in social housing can now access the clean, affordable energy that was often installed on their roof. This has now opened the gates for more solar on flats to be financed and installed – and without government subsidies.

Emergent succeeded in the creation of [the Regulatory Sandbox by Ofgem](#) in January 2023 which permits microgrids to be established and operated within residential housing developments, helping housing companies deliver cost-effective decarbonisation of their properties, while keeping bills low for residents.

In partnership with Hackney Council, Emergent are actively installing 1MW of solar across 28 blocks, supplying 800 residents with discounted energy. Emergent’s model offers scalable, subsidy-free decarbonisation, using commercial finance to deliver real savings and climate action in underserved communities.

- **Incredibly, before the change in regulation, solar on social housing could only be used to light communal areas, the rest of the energy having to be sold back to the grid and tenants gaining no financial benefit. Now they can benefit from the solar panels on their own roof.**

- Emergent's current London project in Hackney, London, is a significant moment for the industry – using commercial finance and without reliance on government subsidies. It demonstrates a breakthrough model for delivering decarbonisation across flats and social housing and delivering bill savings for tenants who are otherwise normally excluded from the financial benefits of solar on their roofs. <https://news.hackney.gov.uk/council-tenants-to-see-lower-bills-as-pioneering-solar-energy-pilot-begins/>

Spokesperson: Reg Platt, Founder - A career-long policy expert and entrepreneur on climate change and energy affordability. [LinkedIn](#).

See [Spokesperson document](#) for more information.

UK FINALIST for Breaking Barriers Award: [Advanced Infrastructure](#) - Breaking barriers for local authorities to plan clean energy projects through their data-backed modelling platform.