

PRESS RELEASE

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Countdown is on for LivCom 2011 Awards

Communities large and small around the globe have just 31 days to submit an application to be considered for recognition by the International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom).

The closing date for entry to the awards, now in their 15th year, is 31 May. Entries have already come in from around the world as communities battle it out to receive the accolade of being one of the best places to live on the planet. Entries will be judged over the summer prior to the announcement of the finalists who will go forward to the finals in Songpa, South Korea (27th-31st October).

Awards are made in several categories according to population size – last year, the award in the smallest category, under 20,000 people went to the small town of Emly, an idyllic community in the Republic of Ireland.

Following the 2009 LivCom Awards, a new set of criteria was introduced by judges in the hunt for the world's leading communities. The judging criteria take significant steps towards acknowledging the current critical issues of healthy lifestyle and environmentally sensitive activities.

There are six LivCom Judging Criteria;

- Enhancement of the natural and built landscapes
- Arts, culture and heritage
- Environmental best practices
- Community participation and empowerment

- Healthy lifestyle
- Strategic planning

Preparing the initial entry document has been described as a free, comprehensive self audit, highlighting not only what a community does well, but also where it needs improvement. LivCom has also been described as 'the most rewarding professional experience of my career'.

The benefits of participation include not only the self audit experience but also the opportunity to contribute to and become aware of International Best Practice, to showcase a community's Best Practice, to enhance Civic Pride, to encourage innovation, to promote a community internationally, to help engage members of communities, to encourage inward capital investment and to join an international network of communities from over 50 countries.

For full details of the Awards, in 30 languages, or to register, go on-line on www.livcomawards.com. For further information, ring the LivCom Office on +44 (0) 118 946 1680.

ENDS

Note to Editors: Journalists are welcome to attend the LivCom Awards. For accreditation, contact livcommedia@gmail.com

The LivCom Awards were launched internationally in 1997 and are endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme and the scheme is run as a UK Registered Charity.

LivCom Awards are made in three categories covering Whole City, Sustainable Projects and a Bursary Award which sees match funding of £10,000 go to the winning project.

A new country has been represented at the LivCom Awards in each of the past eleven years, and now more 50 countries are regularly represented. Political delegates confirm that being exposed to the presentations of cities from other countries and

cultures has provided many policy ideas that could be effectively introduced in their own community.

To take part in the awards, communities need to register by 31 May 2011 and contribute written submissions by 30 June. Initial judging will take place during the summer before the announcement of this year's finalists.