

# PRESS RELEASE

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Al Ain, Abu Dhabi

## **State-of-the-art sustainable university, a city-wide park and pioneering carbon neutral scheme win plaudits at UNEP-backed LivCom 2012**

A diverse range of projects won awards at this year's LivCom 2012 held in Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE at the weekend.

The winning schemes included a pioneering eco-University at Masdar City (UAE), a city-wide parks initiative in Johannesburg, South Africa and a bid for carbon-neutrality by Schwalm-Eder-Kreis, Germany. All won gold awards for the scope of their innovation and the quality of their approach which the judges said made them all world-leaders in their field.

A project in Riviera Beach, USA to address social disadvantage through urban agriculture collected the £10,000 bursary award made each year at the Livcom finals. The award will be used to tackle the negatives of low income, high unemployment, youth crime, urban blight and the inability to access fresh, wholesome food. With support from the bursary, a match-funded scheme, the project will employ disadvantaged youth and community volunteers to convert abandoned house blocks into

Other award-winning projects included a water park in Singapore City and cultural heritage sites in Ankara, Turkey as well as a tourism museum in Kuantan, Malaysia.

Lead project judge Gus Stahlman (Canada) said: "The judges reviewed built, natural and socio-economic projects. Projects addressed a range of issues including waste reduction, carbon neutrality, effects of climate change and ecohydrology. Trends include improvements in economic and environmental aspects. Many communities are addressing the needs of low-

income people. They are making strides in strategic long-term planning rather than reacting to the crisis of the moment.”

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What the judges said:

Socio economic projects:

**First place, Schwalm-Eder-Kreis, Germany; Vision, Concept, Project – strategic planning for 2022**

“This town continues its efforts to become a leading carbon neutral district through wide-ranging projects that include reducing energy consumption and the use of renewable energy sources. Their outstanding long-term strategy is a model for other communities to replicate.”

**Second place, Kuantan Municipal Council, Malaysia; Living Museum of Sungai Lembing**

“A transition to an attractive tourist project from a site left redundant by the economic downturn that will give the community a good chance of developing in the future.”

**Third place, Greater Ankara City, Turkey; Community centres and public areas**

“A great project showcasing how the city provides educational, recreational and healthy programmes for all target groups, free of charge.”

**Natural projects**

**First place, Johannesburg, South Africa; A community of parks**

“Johannesburg Parks represent a strong city-wide commitment to improving quality of life via parks which address wide-ranging needs.”

**Second place, Putrajaya, Malaysia; Ecohydrology management of lakes and wetland**

“This maximises the potential of the environmental and lifestyle benefits that can be attained via well-managed aquatic eco-systems. It also helps create a healthy lifestyle for the community while restoring natural areas and creating wildlife habitat.”

**Third place, Kaohsiung City, Chinese Taipei; Xiaolin Village Memorial Park**

“Kaohsiung City created a significant and meaningful memorial park adjacent to the site of the catastrophic landslide of 2009 that killed more than 400 people from 181 families. The site respects the victims as well as nature.”

Built projects

**First place, Masdar City, Abu Dhabi, UAE; Masdar Institute Phase 1A**

“This is a perfect example of connecting theoretical research and practical usage of sustainable, renewable energy and reduction of resources. By building a university campus with state-of-the-art technical and monitoring usage, this is an ideal learning environment for the future development of energy solutions.”

**Second place, Singapore Housing and Development Board, Singapore; My waterway at Pungol**

“By building a water reservoir like a natural river, Singapore City has created a better environment and open spaces for the enjoyment of its people.”

**Third place, Greater Ankara, Turkey; Ulus Historical Town Centre**

“Ankara has great historical roots going back to pre-Christian times. By restoring the Ulus historical centre, they are bringing this heritage back to their people.”

**Project and Bursary Award results:**

**Bursary Award of £10,000: Riviera Beach, USA (Riviera Beach Heights in Bloom)**

**Projects**

**Built**

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Masdar City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Housing &amp; Development Board , Singapore</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Greater Ankara Municipality – Turkey</b>	<b>Silver</b>

**Natural**

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>City of Johannesburg, South Africa</b>	
	<b>A Community of Parks</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Putrajaya, Malaysia</b>	

	<b>Ecohydrology Management of Lake and Wetland in Putrajaya Urban Ecosystem</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei</b>	
	<b>Xiaolin Village Memorial Park</b>	<b>Gold</b>

### **Socio Economic**

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Schwalm-Eder-Kreis – Germany</b>	
	<b>Vision, Concept, Project - Strategic Planning for 2022</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Kuantan Municipal Council – Malaysia</b>	
	<b>Living Museum of Sungai Lembing</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Greater Ankara Municipality</b>	
	<b>Community Centres and Public Areas</b>	<b>Gold</b>

### **About LivCom**

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.

The International Awards for Liveable Communities 2012 were held at the Al Ain Rotana Hotel, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE.