

"Helping to Support a Sustainable Cumbria" Autumn 2010 Newsletter

CREA wins NFEA Green Agency of the Year Award!

Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency has scooped a national environmental award at this year's NFEA National Enterprise Network Awards, fighting off stiff competition from agencies across the country.

The Awards, which took place in Nottingham on Wednesday 15th September, recognise excellence in the delivery of enterprise support. The Green Agency of the Year Award recognises those agencies which champion sustainability within their own organisation and support their clients to do the same.

CREA currently operates several programmes which help clients become more environmentally friendly:

The CBEN Awards Scheme helps businesses develop their own Environmental Management Systems in order to achieve and to promote their good environmental practices.

The ENWORKS Resource Efficiency Programme has assisted over 750 Cumbrian businesses to become more resource efficient. To date it has identified over £16 million in cost savings, 70,000 tonnes of carbon savings, helped divert 59,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and saved over 700,000 m³ of water in Cumbria.

The Rural Planning Facilitation Service that CREA delivers has a sustainable element, being designed to help businesses develop their plans for building development in an environmentally sensitive and long-term sustainable manner.

CREA also directly support the Cumbrian farming economy through the delivery of the many programmes, including Catchment Sensitive farming, stewardship schemes, and the Animal Health and Welfare Planning programme. These have helped farmers keep their costs and environmental impact to a minimum and also to protect the valuable and unique Cumbrian landscape.

Finally, CREA's own building is environmentally-friendly, incorporating features such as ground source heating, rainwater harvesting, wind catchers, and a photovoltaic array that feeds back into the national grid. The organisation also has an audited Environmental Management System that covers all areas of resource usage.

Bob Clark, Executive Director of CREA, said, "this award reflects the high levels of effort and enthusiasm that our Environment Team put into helping Cumbrian businesses to become more environmentally-friendly. I know that they will keep up the good work, and continue to make Cumbria a shining example of best practice in these environmentally-conscious times."



CREA Executive Director Bob Clark receives the Green Agency of the Year Award from Snooker Star Willie Thorne and Dawn Whiteley, NFEA Chair.