



For immediate release: Friday 8 October 2004

**TOP AWARDS FOR FIRST COMMERCIAL ZERO-EMISSIONS HQ  
- FROM OVALTINE EGG FARM TO ECO-FRIENDLY OFFICE -**

Beaufort Court, the groundbreaking zero-emissions headquarters for leading wind energy company, Renewable Energy Systems, has won awards in the last few days from the British Council of Offices (BCO) and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).<sup>1</sup>

The project is now up for RIBA's national Sustainability Award at the prestigious Stirling Prize ceremony in London on 16 October (which will be broadcast live on Channel 4).

Beaufort Court<sup>2</sup> at Kings Langley originally housed the chickens that laid the eggs for Ovaltine. The Arts & Crafts style 1930s buildings have been transformed into a unique and elegant sustainable office, self-sufficient in renewable energy generation. It is the first time that an historical building has been refurbished as a zero-emissions commercial development. It has been hailed as a living case study for sustainability and a landmark example of the integration of renewable energy into the built environment.

Ian Mays, Managing Director of RES, said;

*"We are delighted that our achievement at Beaufort Court has been recognised by the British Council of Offices and by RIBA. We are very proud of what we and our partners have achieved, combining much-loved historical features with modern design and cutting-edge technologies. Beaufort Court is now a living example of sustainability, capable of replication around the world. Not only is it a stunning place to work, but it is legacy from which others can learn."*

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Heat, power and cooling are provided by five hectares of biomass crop, a large solar thermal and photovoltaic array, an underground seasonal heat store, a borehole cooling system and the now-famous wind turbine next to the M25. The site is entirely self-sufficient in energy and sells surplus green electricity to the local grid. The hybrid PVT system is the first of its kind in the world. High standards of energy efficiency were achieved in the refurbishment design.

An Educational Facility has recently opened at the HQ to meet the huge demand for visits from schools, architects, engineers, local government professionals and politicians, energy specialists and local people. An Open Day in June 2004 was attended by over 3,000 people.

ENDS

**Notes to editors**

1. The British Council of Offices Awards 2004 were announced on Tuesday 5 October at a ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London. Beaufort Court won the category of Best Refurbishment in South England and South Wales. It also recently won the Eastern Region RIBA Award, presented at Homerton College, Cambridge, on 1 October. It is now on a shortlist of four for the national RIBA Sustainability Award in two weeks' time.

2. The re-development of Beaufort Court using best practice sustainable strategies was achieved with EU support the EC Framework 5 Programme. The main project partners and contractors were Studio E Architects, Max Fordham LLP (Consulting Environmental and Building Services Engineers), Netherlands Energy Research Foundation (ECN), Shell Solar, Esbensen Consulting Engineers and Dewhurst Macfarlane. Support from the Department of Trade and Industry has been provided to assist in information and dissemination activities. A dedicated website can be found at : [www.beaufortcourt.com](http://www.beaufortcourt.com)

**About RES:** UK-based Renewable Energy Systems Ltd (RES) is part of the Sir Robert McAlpine group of engineering and construction companies. RES has an expanding portfolio of over 6000MW of wind generating capacity at various stages of development in Europe, the US, Asia and the Caribbean. RES built its first wind farm in Cornwall in 1992 and has to date developed and/or constructed over 800MW of wind generating capacity.

Photos are available, including archive shots.

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