



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate use

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Top national energy award for Aster Property scheme in Wookey

Property maintenance business Aster Property, which has local offices in Wells, Somerset, has secured a coveted national award for a pilot project which has reduced annual energy bills by up to £300 for residents at a communal housing scheme in Wookey, Somerset.

The company took the top title in the 'Resident Retrofit Project' category at this year's *Energy Efficiency & Renewables Awards*. The team received the trophy from Nick Hower, star of *Countdown* and *The Apprentice*, at the awards' ceremony held at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry.



From left to right:

Andrew Crookes – Renewable Energy Director, Glevum, **Nicola Holman** – Programme Manager, Aster Property, **David Greensmith** – Energy Manager, Aster Property, **James Gay** – Head of Operations, Corgu VAT Saver, **Jon Hope** – Business Development Manager, Dimplex

It's the second time this year the project has received national recognition. The scheme was highly commended at the *National Heat Pump Awards*, reaching the final in the 'Domestic Air Source Heat Pumps – Installation of the Year' category.

David Greensmith, energy manager for Aster Property, said: "This award is a fantastic achievement and we're very proud to have been chosen for it.

"Installing the new energy-efficient technology at the scheme has made a huge difference to the lives of our customers. In some homes, the energy bills have been reduced to around £50 per month – previously, they'd been as much as £120."

The award-winning pilot project saw Aster Property removing an expensive oil-powered communal central heating system at 28 homes in Buxton Close and Vicarage Road, Wookey. After examining the environmental performance of the building, the company installed energy-efficient technology including Dimplex air source heat pumps and solar panels.

This dramatically reduced the energy bills for customers, with some being cut by as much as 60 per cent per month.

To analyse the new technology's performance, Aster Property teamed up with mechanical and electrical consultancy McCarthy Bainbridge and the Low Carbon Exchange to create *Healthy Home Technical*, an innovative piece of



monitoring software which tracks every piece of energy use at the development.

David said: “Our original aim was to create a 30 per cent monthly reduction in energy costs for our customers, but we’ve bettered that by some distance.

“We’re absolutely delighted with how successful the project has been. Not only has it exceeded our expectations, it’s now been recognised at two of the industry’s top awards’ ceremonies, and that’s a great testament to the hard work of all the partners who’ve been involved in the scheme.”

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Photos: Captions to be confirmed

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