Building the Future Awards 2026

Digital Entry Kit

Celebrating the game-changers, leaders and organisations shaping the future of the built environment.

Entry Kit

The Building the Future Awards celebrate the people, projects and organisations who are transforming the construction and built environment sector across the UK.

From apprentices and early-career professionals to project managers, site leaders, educators and employers, these awards shine a spotlight on those who are not just building projects – but building people, pathways and a better future.

If you are tackling the skills shortage, investing in young people, championing innovation, and leading with purpose, this is your moment.

Entry is completely free. There is no cost to submit a nomination for the Building the Future Awards 2026.

Most of our awards celebrate **individual excellence**, because change is driven by people.

How to Enter

01

Create an Online Account

All entries are completed online via the secure Building the Future Awards portal. There is no downloadable form and no payment required.

You can nominate **yourself** or **someone else**.

02

Criteria is Key

Entries are scored by independent judges across five criteria. Make sure you address each one clearly — every section is scored separately and nothing should be left unanswered.

03

The Five Judging Criteria

1. Impact (30%) – Tangible, measurable outcomes for your organisation, sector or community.
2. Relevance to the Category (25%) – How well your nomination aligns with the specific category focus.
3. Innovation & Sustainability (20%) – Creative thinking, new approaches and sustainable practices.
4. Evidence & Supporting Documents (15%) – Clear, credible evidence: testimonials, data, case studies.
5. Contribution to the Next Generation (10%) – Inspiring, mentoring or supporting young talent in construction.

04

Categories

You can enter across the three award pillars: Individual, Employer and Education & Training.

05

Objectives & Results

Judges want to see your starting point, your objectives and the results you achieved. Strong entries show clear alignment between ambition and impact.

Making Your Entry Stand Out

Demonstrate Your Impact (30%)

Quantify your outcomes. Use hard numbers: learners engaged, apprentices recruited, retention improved, productivity increased. Show how your work influenced your organisation, projects, colleagues or the wider community.

Stay Relevant to Your Category (25%)

Make sure every part of your entry clearly connects to the category you're entering. Judges want to see excellence in the defined role or area — don't go off-topic.

Show Innovation & Sustainability (20%)

Highlight bold thinking and new approaches. Have you used technology, addressed sustainability, developed local supply chains or integrated with skills strategies? Show what makes your approach forward-thinking.

Evidence, Evidence, Evidence (15%)

Upload supporting documents: testimonials, reports, dashboards, photos and case studies. Video should be shared via a URL link. All files must be Word, PDF or JPEG under 2MB. Robust evidence is what separates good entries from great ones.

Champion the Next Generation (10%)

Show how you've inspired, mentored or supported young talent. Evidence of addressing the skills gap, creating opportunities or empowering the next generation will score highly.

Include Your Logo

Attach a high-resolution logo for use in shortlist announcements and the awards presentation.

Check & Check Again

Proofread your entry. Ask someone outside your team to review it – they will spot gaps you may have missed.

Submit via the Online Portal

Create your account, complete the online form, upload your evidence and submit your nomination. Your entry will then go to the judges.

What Happens After You Enter?

Each entry is independently scored by multiple judges against the published criteria. Scores are combined to create the shortlist.

Judging
Independent scoring by multiple judges

Finalists
Judges review top entries

Shortlist
Online announcement of shortlisted entries

Pre-Event
Shortlisted finalists gather in September

The Ceremony
ICC Birmingham, 5 November 2026

Judging

Each entry is independently scored by multiple judges against the published criteria. Scores are combined to create the shortlist.

Finalists

Judges meet to review the highest-scoring entries and agree the winners for each category.

Shortlist Announced

Shortlisted organisations and individuals are announced online.

Pre-Event – September 2026

Shortlisted finalists are invited to an exclusive pre-event in September, bringing together finalists, judges, sponsors and previous winners ahead of the main ceremony.

The Ceremony

Shortlisted finalists are invited to the live awards ceremony at the ICC Birmingham on 5 November 2026, including a three-course dinner, entertainment and the awards presentation. Each shortlisted finalist receives one complimentary place at the ceremony.

Why Enter the Building the Future Awards?

The Building the Future Awards offer a national platform to showcase your impact and connect with senior leaders, decision-makers and emerging talent across the built environment sector.

Because entry is free, the focus is not on who can afford to enter – but on who is making the greatest difference.

Additional Benefits for Shortlisted Finalists

- Third-party recognition from respected industry judges
- Strengthen your employer brand and talent attraction
- Demonstrate your commitment to developing the next generation
- PR and marketing assets for your organisation
- Celebrate individual excellence across your teams
- Build credibility with clients, partners and funders
- Network with 600+ industry leaders at the ICC Birmingham – additional tables and tickets are available to purchase, giving your team, colleagues or organisation the opportunity to support the finalist and be part of the celebration.

Whether you are an apprentice, a young professional, a leader, an employer, an educator or a training provider, this is your stage to show what good looks like.

Judges' Top Tips & Judging You Can Trust

Be clear and measurable

Show your objectives and your results. Tell us exactly what changed because of your work.

Show originality and courage

We reward bold thinking – new approaches to skills, safety, inclusion, sustainability and leadership.

Make it personal

Share the human story. Judges want to feel the impact, not just read a report.

Follow the entry form carefully

Every unanswered question lowers your score. Use the structure – it is there to help you win.

Prove your impact

Numbers matter. Outcomes matter. Lives changed matter.

Judging You Can Trust

The Building the Future Awards operate a robust, ethical and transparent judging process. All judges sign confidentiality and conflict-of-interest agreements, and entries are assessed independently against published criteria.

Categories (2026)

The Building the Future Awards recognise excellence across three core areas:

Individual Awards

Celebrating the people shaping the future of construction and the built environment – from apprentices and graduates to site leaders, managers and emerging industry champions.

Employer Awards

Recognising organisations that are investing in people, developing talent and leading the way in workforce development, inclusion, innovation and leadership.

Education & Training Awards

Honouring colleges, universities and training providers who are transforming pathways into construction and equipping the next generation with the skills, confidence and character to thrive.

> *"Being nominated and winning the Building the Future - Role Model Award in 2024 was both humbling and energising. It felt like a quiet validation of years spent championing sustainability and social value, and a reminder that visibility matters - especially for women and under-represented voices in construction. The nomination made me pause and reflect on impact rather than output: the people encouraged, the doors opened, and the confidence sparked in others to step forward and lead. It also deepened my commitment to keep using my platform to elevate others, build kinder teams, and turn good intentions into measurable change*". - Danielle Haskings, Head of Sustainability and Social Value @ MCS

Building the Future Awards 2026

5 November 2026 | ICC Birmingham

Recognising those who are not just constructing buildings... but constructing futures.

Useful Links

Here are some useful links to access the nomination system and find additional resources about the Building the Future Awards.

Submit Your Nomination

Ready to make your submission? Use the link below to access our secure online nomination portal.

Submit Your Nomination

Visit Our Website

Explore more about the awards, categories, judges, and past winners on our official website.

Visit Website

Purchase Tickets

Join us at the prestigious awards ceremony at ICC Birmingham on 5 November 2026. Secure your seats now!

Purchase Tickets

Become a Sponsor

Elevate your brand's presence and support excellence. Discover various sponsorship opportunities for the Building the Future Awards.

Become a Sponsor

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our support team at info@buildingthefutureawards.co.uk.