

Press release
26 October 2010

Hackney Homes estates swoop green fingered awards

Residents on two Hackney Homes estates have reaped the rewards of their green fingers with awards at a London wide competition. Somerford and Shacklewell Estate won in the Best Estate Garden and Haberdasher came runner up in the Collect and Create category.

Beating off competition from all across London, the estates were recognised for their dedication to improving their communal areas and for getting residents together with a shared aim to transform their estate into green havens.

On Somerford and Shacklewell estate, residents have taken part in planting fruit trees on unloved grass patches, filling disused raised beds with organic seedlings and distributing produce over the last year. They have gone further and taken over plots of land for themselves, covering railings with sunflowers, beans and peas and letting rampant squash plants, nasturtiums and cabbages loose on the estate.

On Haberdasher estate, residents have changed the landscape with an array of flower beds and herb beds as well as a central growing pole and four vegetable growing walls. This has reaped rewards with a range of vegetables beds house tomatoes, broad beans, lettuce, rocket, peas, green beans, pumpkin, baby squash, aubergines, mint, rosemary thyme and much more.

Christophe Tabi, Interim Head of Estate Environment said: "The residents are a real inspiration on how working together can create such a buzz on the estate around growing your own. Hackney Homes is committed to providing as much support and help to residents interested in starting similar projects and assisting with funding applications."

For any queries regarding growing your own, contact Cherie on 020 8356 1934.

Press queries to Olaide Oyekanmi on 0208 356 3522, or email olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

- The awards are aimed at social housing residents, the Capital Growth Edible Estates competition has motivated green-fingered

Our mission is to deliver excellent, accessible services and quality homes that people want to live in.

Londoners to rise to the challenge of becoming the capital's best community food garden. The competition has encouraged housing associations and local councils to provide plots of land for tenants to nurture into thriving food gardens.

- There are an estimated 750,000 social housing properties in London and more than 40 growing groups based in Brent, Camden, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Southwark and Westminster entered the competition.
- The Edible Estates competition which was launched by the Mayor of London, [Boris Johnson](#), in June this year as part of Capital Growth - the London-wide grow-your-own food scheme.