

SocEnv announces the winner of the converted Chartered Environmentalist of the Year Award at the House of Lords Summer Reception

Embargoed: 11am Wednesday 25th June 2014

This year's *Chartered Environmentalist of the Year* has been announced as Professor Martin Bigg, who helped Bristol win 'European Green Capital 2015'. Martin is Professor of Environmental Technology at the University of the West of England, Bristol and is the Director of the Environmental Technologies Innovation Network (iNet), a £2.4m EU joint programme with the Universities of Exeter, West of England, Royal Agricultural University and City of Bristol Council.

<http://people.uwe.ac.uk/Pages/person.aspx?accountname=campus%5Cmg-bigg>

Society for the Environment President Tony Juniper awarded the prestigious trophy at the Society's Annual Reception at the House of Lords on Monday 23rd June, in front of a capacity audience of 250 VIPs, saying: *"Martin is a great example of a Chartered Environmentalist making significant things happen locally; he has helped put the City of Bristol on the world map by winning the title of European Green Capital for 2015."*

Professor Martin Bigg follows in the footsteps of David Stubbs, who won Chartered Environmentalist of the Year in 2013 for achievements in his role as Head of Sustainability for the London Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012.

Martin led the Bristol Green Capital team that won Bristol's spectacular bid to become 'Green Capital of Europe 2015', beating off rival bids from Brussels, Glasgow and Ljubljana (Slovenia). This was Bristol's third try at the coveted title awarded by the European Commission. Copenhagen, capital of Denmark currently holds the "Green Capital" title.

Guest of Honour, Olympic medallist Sarah Winckless, Chef de Mission of Team GB for the 2014 Youth Olympics in Nanjing joined the Society for the Environment in celebrating green wins. The day coincided with International Olympic Day. Sarah congratulated Martin saying: *"to be recognised for this level of excellence and leadership is inspiring. It's great to celebrate green working and green winning!"*

George Ferguson, Mayor of Bristol, said: *"That's great to hear, Martin Bigg is a well deserved winner for all he's done for Bristol."*

The judging panel for the Award comprised the following Honorary Fellows of the Society (HonFSE) Peter Ainsworth, Colin Challen, Keith Clarke CBE, Prof Peter Head CBE, Susan Illman, Dr Alan Knight, Jonathon Porritt CBE, the Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, Simon Roberts OBE and Tim Smit KBE.

The host for the Reception was Liberal Democrat life peer Baroness Parminter.

ENDS

PRESS RELEASE

EDITOR'S NOTES:

1. For more information, please contact Dave Hampton, External Relations Manager, Society for the Environment, on 07768 806451 or email dave.hampton@socenv.org.uk
Professor Martin Bigg is available for interview.
2. The Society for the Environment is a leading independent, non-political umbrella organisation for environmental and sustainability professionals. Its purpose is to support and champion the role of environmental professionals worldwide in the pursuit of a sustainable future. The 23 institutions and learned societies that form its membership represent hundreds of thousands of practitioners, working across a broad spectrum of disciplines and sectors.
3. The Society was awarded its Royal Charter in 2004 since which time some 8,000 individuals have gained Chartered Environmentalist status through its 23 Licensed Body members.
4. For further information on the work of the Society, see the website www.socenv.org.uk or contact Kerry Geldart, Acting Chief Executive 0845 337 2951 or kerry.geldart@socenv.org.uk
5. The members and Constituent Bodies of the Society for the Environment are:

Arboricultural Association (AA)
Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT)
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
Energy Institute (EI)
Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)
Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)
Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)
Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3)
Institute of Water (IWater)
Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)
Institution of Chemical Engineers (ICHEM)
Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
Institution of Engineering Designers (IED)
Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)
Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMECH)
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Society of Environmental Engineers (SEE)
Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)