

BEST SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Recognises projects that demonstrate excellence in delivering inclusive, high-quality housing that supports equity, dignity, stability and opportunity for diverse communities.

The award is presented in two categories:

- Single to low-rise developments (up to 3 storeys)
- Medium to high-rise developments (4 storeys and above)

ELIGIBILITY

Nominations are open to:

- All current ACH Community Housing Provider members
- Project delivery partners on behalf of an ACH CHP member
- Projects that reached practical completion between 31 July 2025 and the close of nominations

Eligible project types may include:

- New social and/or affordable housing developments
- Mixed tenure projects

Nominations must address each of the following criteria:

Response to housing need

- Demonstrate delivery of safe, secure and appropriate housing that responds to identified local and community need.
- Demonstrate how this project responds to the Mission/Purpose of your organisation?

Quality, design, and liveability

- Demonstrate well designed, safe, accessible and comfortable that supports resident dignity, wellbeing, stability and tenant wellbeing.

Resident and community impact

- Demonstrate actual or anticipated benefits for residents and the wider community, including improved housing stability, wellbeing and access to opportunity.

Delivery excellence and value

- Demonstrated excellence relative to the CHP's operating context, including metropolitan, regional, rural, or remote conditions.

This may include demonstrating effective delivery, strong partnerships, innovation and efficient use of resources, addressing constraints impacting supply and access.

Evidence may include:

Project overview, including location, completion date, dwelling numbers, typology, bedroom and tenure mix.

- Evidence of identified housing need and how the development responds to its target residents and local community. (200-word limit)
- Site Plan, Elevation Plan, Render and up to 10 photos (minimum 6) including a range of external, internal and common spaces.
- Evidence of resident outcomes via a resident short story that highlights the difference safe and secure housing has made.

- Details of the partnership, funding and delivery model, including how project challenges were managed and value for money achieved. (100-word limit)
- Evidence of innovation, sustainability, climate resilience, stakeholder engagement and positive neighbourhood impacts.
- Resident feedback, post-occupancy evaluations, certifications, awards or independent assessments, where available.

Nominations are not required to provide all forms of evidence. Evidence should be proportionate to the development and substantiate the claims made against the award criteria.

SUSTAINABILITY AND HOUSING IMPROVEMENT AWARD

Recognises projects that demonstrate excellence in improving environmental performance, operational efficiency, and resident outcomes across existing housing assets.

This award recognises retrofit, renewal, and upgrade projects that enhance the sustainability, liveability, and long-term viability of housing stock. It celebrates practical, measurable outcomes that reduce environmental impact and operating costs, improve asset performance, and deliver healthier, more affordable homes for residents.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Nominations are open to:

- All current ACH Community Housing Provider members
- Project delivery partners on behalf of an ACH CHP member
- Projects must have reached practical completion between 31 July 2025 and the close of nominations.

Eligible project types may include:

- Retrofit programs
- Refurbishment works
- Sustainability upgrades
- Electrification initiatives
- Asset improvement or renewal projects focused on sustainability and long-term operational performance

Eligible nominations may relate to an individual dwelling, building, group of homes, or broader portfolio program, provided the nomination demonstrates measurable improvements to existing housing assets.

Nominations must address each of the following criteria:

Project purpose and scope

- Describe the asset(s), issue or opportunity addressed, scope of works and intended outcomes.

Environmental and asset performance

- Demonstrate improvements in energy, emissions, water use, electrification or climate resilience.
- Show improved building performance, operating efficiency, reliability, asset life or maintenance outcomes.

Resident outcomes and affordability

- Demonstrate improvements in comfort, health, safety and liveability.
- Show reduced household costs and include resident feedback or engagement, where available.

Innovation and delivery

- Describe innovative or efficient approaches to design, procurement, funding, partnerships or delivery.
- Explain how constraints such as occupied homes, legacy stock or limited funding were managed.

Measurable impact and scalability

- Provide quantified results, such as homes improved, cost savings or energy and emissions reductions.
- Include before-and-after evidence and potential for replication or broader application.

Where full baseline data is not available, nominations may include technical assessments, modelled performance, resident feedback or other reasonable proxy measures.

Evidence may include

- Before-and-after energy, emissions, water or household cost data.
- Details of the works undertaken, including technical or program documentation.
- Asset performance outcomes, such as improved efficiency, reliability, maintenance or asset life.
- The number and type of homes improved.
- Resident feedback, surveys or post-occupancy evaluation.
- Photographs or other evidence of completed works.
- Information on delivery challenges, partnerships, procurement and value for money.

Examples may include

- Energy efficiency or electrification upgrades.
- Retrofit or asset renewal programs that improve building performance.
- Solar, battery or water-efficiency initiatives.
- Climate resilience improvements.
- Programs that measurably reduce energy use, emissions or household costs.