

1. What's your attitude to innovations in work?
2. Do you fancy coming up with some innovative ideas?

Working with words | Ideas and innovations

1 Read the text and answer questions 1–4.

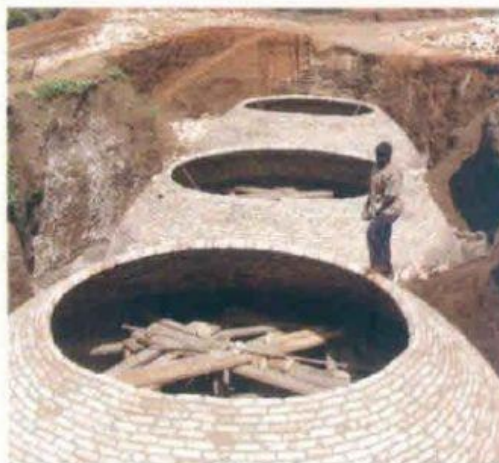
- 1 What are the aims of the Ashden Awards?
- 2 How does the charity achieve its aims?
- 3 What is 'sustainable energy'? What kinds of sustainable energy can you think of?
- 4 Do you know of any local schemes in your country or around the world that might qualify for an Ashden Award?

the Ashden Awards for sustainable energy

The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy is a charity that rewards and promotes excellent sustainable energy solutions in the UK and the developing world.

Each year, the Ashden Awards holds a competition to find and reward organizations which have carried out practical and innovative programmes that demonstrate sustainable energy in action at a local level. These are based on the use of local, renewable energy sources.

The charity raises international awareness of the potential benefit of local sustainable energy projects to deal with climate change and to improve the quality of people's lives. It also aims to encourage more people and communities across the world to take up the challenge of finding new ways of meeting their energy needs.



The charity helps the development of sustainable energy projects in several ways. It gives cash prizes, to enable winners to take their work forward. It also publicizes the winners and their work through a worldwide media campaign, which aims to inspire others to follow their example. And by bringing together the winners with the main decision-makers and opinion formers, they aim to change thinking and policy among governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

2 12, 13▶ Listen to details of two projects that have won an Ashden Award.

- 1 What is the main purpose of each project?
- 2 What are the advantages of the technology in each project?



3 Match the adjectives in A to the nouns in B to make phrases used in the text and audio 12▶ and 13▶. What other combinations are possible?

A		B	
technological	practical	concept	design
key	potential	feature	proposition
cutting-edge	innovative	benefit	idea
major	commercially-viable	breakthrough	solution
revolutionary	state-of-the-art	technology	advantage

4 Work with a partner. Create a sentence for each phrase in 3.

5 Match these phrasal verbs from the text and audio 12▶ and 13▶ to a verb 1–9 with the same meaning.

carry out come up with pay off take up bring down
bring about take forward get round set up

- 1 avoid (a problem): _____
- 2 cause (something to happen): _____
- 3 create (an idea, a solution to a problem): _____
- 4 develop (a plan, a project): _____
- 5 have a good result: _____
- 6 perform (an activity, research): _____
- 7 reduce (costs): _____
- 8 respond to (a challenge): _____
- 9 start (a business, a project): _____

6 Complete the texts with the correct form of a phrasal verb from 5.

At the Barefoot College, we've ¹ _____ an idea to ² _____ the problem of sustainable energy for lighting in remote mountain villages in India. We've ³ _____ a project to supply solar power to these villages, and we train local people to install and maintain the systems. Many of our new engineers are women – they've really ⁴ _____ the challenge of learning new skills. The main advantage of our training programme is that the new technology we install works properly and has a long life – so it can ⁵ _____ real improvements to people's lives, and to the environment.

At KKN we've developed the technology to ⁶ _____ a plan for improving the refrigeration of vaccines in northern Nigeria. Standard refrigerators are useless in remote areas because the mains electricity supply is so unreliable or not available at all. After ⁷ _____ research and trials, our solution was to buy special refrigerators which use photovoltaic (PV) cells to generate and store electricity from sunlight. The initial investment was high, but it has ⁸ _____. This type of refrigerator has excellent insulation, so it needs relatively little electricity to keep the contents cool. This has helped to ⁹ _____ the overall cost of vaccination for people in these remote areas.

