



Institute of Environmental  
Management & Assessment

**Dedicated to creating a sustainable future through  
environmental skills, knowledge and thought leadership**

**Wednesday 2 February 2012**

## **IEMA Named Winner of International Award**

The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) has been declared winner of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)'s 2012 Institutional Award in recognition of its work on environmental impact assessment (EIA).

The IAIA's Institutional Award is presented annually to a national or international government or non-governmental organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to impact assessment practice or other environmentally-related activity which is deemed worthy of recognition. Past winners have included IIED, IUCN and the African Development Bank.

IEMA was nominated for the award by Ross Marshall, Manager of the Environment Agency's National Environmental Assessment Service (NEAS) and a former President of the IAIA. Ross put IEMA forward for consideration because of IEMA's, and its predecessor the IEA's, two decades of contribution to the profession and to the promotion of a clear "strategic approach to improving quality in EIA practice". This was particularly evident in 2011 through the publication of the "State of Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK" Special Report and the EIA Quality Mark, which promotes excellence in Environmental Impact Assessment projects among its 43 registrants.

Within its announcement of the 2012 award winners, IAIA stated that IEMA was selected "because of its promotion of quality and improving environmental practice and performance in environmental impact assessment practice in the United Kingdom".

Josh Fothergill, IEMA's Policy and Practice Lead on EIA, will collect the prize when the awards are formally presented at the IAIA's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual conference in Portugal in May.

Claire Lea, IEMA's Director of Membership Strategy and Development said "IEMA is delighted that the EIA Quality Mark and Special Report on the State of EIA Practice has been recognised by IAIA. We would like to thank Ross and the IAIA Committee and Board for recognising IEMA's leadership and contributions to EIA."

"We feel that the EIA Quality Mark scheme, which has been in place less than a year, is making a significant contribution to the improvement of EIA in the UK, encouraging knowledge sharing and the improvement of practice. Receiving the Institutional Award is a great achievement and a fantastic start to 2012".

**ENDS**

## Notes to editors

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To find out more about IEMA's work on EIA including the Quality Mark Scheme and the Special Report visit [www.iema.net/eiareport](http://www.iema.net/eiareport). Further details, including other category winners, on the IAIA Awards can be found at <http://www.iaia.org/iaia-awards.aspx>.

## IEMA

The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) is the UK's leading environmental professional association. IEMA is dedicated to creating a sustainable future through environmental skills, knowledge and thought leadership.

IEMA is an independent and international, not for profit membership organisation that represents the views of 15,000 environmental professionals.

IEMA delivers the following services:

**Policy and Legislation** – IEMA frequently contributes to the development of key areas of UK policy and legislation.

**Professional development, training and qualifications** – IEMA sets the standard for the development of environmental skills and knowledge, ensuring that environmental professionals are equipped to make a difference as sustainability becomes a key business driver.

**IEMA Environmental Skills Map** - a framework of knowledge and skills for the environmental practitioner.

**Training courses and continuous professional development** covering a range of subjects and spanning many levels from diploma to foundation course, tailored courses for senior executives and for those at the top of their profession, including Chartered Environmentalist.

**Central source of information** – IEMA acts as a central source of information providing events, publications and knowledge sharing including [www.environmentalisonline.com](http://www.environmentalisonline.com).

Go to [www.iema.net](http://www.iema.net) to find out more.

## The EIA Quality Mark

The scheme is designed to provide a regular and rigorous analysis of compliance on an annual basis. It will assess quality across registered organisations' EIA activities including their management processes and approaches. The new scheme also allows these organisations to make a voluntary commitment to ensuring its EIA activities maintain high standards of quality.

IEMA, as the body dedicated to creating a sustainable future through the development of environmental skills, knowledge and thought leadership, is responsible for the operation of the scheme and monitoring each registrant's on-going compliance to the EIA Quality Mark's seven commitments.

The EIA Quality Mark looks at quality across an organisation's EIA activities including its management processes and approaches to the development of staff competence. The scheme is designed to provide a regular and rigorous analysis of compliance reviewing both Environmental Statements and conducting staff interviews on an annual basis.

The EIA Quality Mark's scheme is based on a commitment to excellence in the following areas;

### **EIA Quality Mark Commitments**

- 1. EIA Management** – We commit to using effective project control and management processes to deliver quality in the EIA we co-ordinate and the Environmental Statements we produce.
- 2. EIA Team Capabilities** – We commit to ensuring that all our EIA staff have the opportunity to undertake regular and relevant continuing professional development.
- 3. EIA Regulatory Compliance** – We commit to delivering Environmental Statements that meet the requirements established within the appropriate UK EIA Regulations.
- 4. EIA Context & Influence** – We commit to ensuring that all EIAs we co-ordinate are effectively scoped and that we will transparently indicate how the EIA process, and any consultation undertaken, influenced the development proposed and any alternatives considered.
- 5. EIA Content** – We commit to undertaking assessments that include: a robust analysis of the relevant baseline; assessment and transparent evaluation of impact significance; and an effective description of measures designed to monitor and manage significant effects.
- 6. EIA Presentation** – We commit to deliver Environmental Statements that set out environmental information in a transparent and understandable manner.
- 7. Improving EIA practice** – We commit to enhance the profile of good quality EIA by working with IEMA to deliver a mutually agreed set of activities, on an annual basis, and by making appropriate examples of our work available to the wider EIA community.

Visit [www.iema.net/qmark](http://www.iema.net/qmark) to find out more.