



MEDIA RELEASE

7 June 2010

Wates Group achieves Platinum in Business in the Community Corporate Responsibility Index

The Wates Group has achieved Platinum status in the Business in the Community Corporate Responsibility Index announced today, the only construction services group to achieve this level this year.

“For Wates, corporate responsibility is about good business and is at the heart of everything we do. Take our Zero Waste Targets, we said we will send zero non-hazardous waste to landfill by 2010 and we are close to achieving this because we recognise the importance of being a business that is sustainable on all levels,” said Paul Drechsler, Chairman and Chief Executive, Wates Group. “Achieving Platinum status in this leading independent assessment of commitment to corporate responsibility is a fantastic achievement for the Group and all the people at Wates who drive this agenda and are passionate about continuing this success through and beyond 2010.”

Wates has a number of innovative schemes to benefit local communities. From the Dolly Parton Imagination Library that gives thousands of children across Luton a book every month from birth until the age of 5, so supporting the local literacy agenda. To Wates annual Community Day where the employees, supply chain and customers work together on local projects, which resulted in over 10,000 man hours and over 80 projects in 2009.

The key to Wates’ success is its people and fundamental belief in boosting skills. In addition to a thriving apprenticeship programme, Wates Building Futures has helped the unemployed to develop relevant skills and provide opportunities back into the workplace. 26 programmes have been delivered to date with over 310 people successfully completing the accredited programme. Of these, over 60% move into employment or further training.

Full details of the BITC CR Index for this year can be found at www.bitc.org.uk or further information contact: Lara McIlroy on 01372 861660 or Lara.McIlroy@wates.co.uk

Ends



Notes to Editors

About Wates Group:

Wates is one of the UK's largest family-owned construction services and development companies. Established in 1897, it remains privately owned by the Wates Family. Wates employs over 2000 people and had a turnover of £945 million in 2009. www.wates.co.uk

The company works across a range of sectors, including education, prisons, affordable housing, retail fit out and refurbishment, office interiors, land development and commercial buildings.

The Wates Group has participated in the BITC CR Index since 2003 and has improved its performance year on year. The Index provides an opportunity to benchmark corporate responsibility performance against leading companies in the UK including many of whom are Wates customers.

About Business in the Community's CR Index

Business in the Community's CR Index is the UK's leading voluntary benchmark of Corporate Responsibility. It helps companies to integrate and improve CR throughout their operations by providing a systematic approach to managing, measuring and reporting on business impacts in society and on the environment

For the past seven years the CR Index has inspired and challenged over 350 companies to continuously improve their impact on society and the environment. This year more than 100 companies participated publicly and used BITC's tool to both improve their management practices and communicate to stakeholders how seriously they take their CR agenda.

Awards

Wates was recognised externally in a variety of ways during the year including:

- Major Contractor of the Year by Building Magazine
- Sunday Times Top 100 Best Companies to Work For index
- BITC Corporate Responsibility Index Platinum status
- RoSPA medal for safety and health for the seventh year in succession
- Housing Excellence and Sustainable Contractor of the Year awards
- Two CIOB gold awards for Construction Manager of the Year