

AN EWS RELEASE

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Prestigious Award for CEO of Pembrokeshire-based Western Solar Ltd.

The CEO of a Pembrokeshire-based renewables company has won a prestigious award for his pioneering work developing low energy affordable housing.

Glen Peters, CEO of Western Solar Ltd. in Glanrhyd, was named as Eco Entrepreneur 2015, one of the much sought after Entrepreneur Wales Awards.

Western Solar, set up in 2011, is pioneering the development of low energy affordable housing using a new technique based on manufacturing homes from local sustainable timber. Its flagship site, Pentre Solar, currently under development at Glanrhyd, will provide six affordable homes this coming summer.

"I've got a wonderful team of people to thank for this award," said Glen Peters. "Their commitment and innovation to sustainable methods of building homes is remarkable. By working for this company you buy into the 360 degree ethos of creating a better world to live in.

"This is only the beginning. Our vision for the future is to replicate this solar hamlet all over rural Wales to elevate the chronic shortage of affordable housing. The only thing standing between us and achieving our vision is the availability of affordable land."
more follows

Assembly Member Joyce Watson, who recently visited Western Solar and praised it in the Welsh Assembly as “One of the most innovative companies in Wales,” was delighted to learn of Mr Peters’ award.

Francesca Russell, Entrepreneur Wales Awards Founder, commented:
“The Entrepreneur Wales Awards focus on the entrepreneur, not just the business balance sheet. We’ve asked our nominees how they got to where they are today? What journey did they have to take? What did they learn? Where are they going next?

“Because we don’t simply look at the cash flow of a business, the Entrepreneur Wales Awards has received entries from a variety of entrepreneurs, young, old, big and small – we’ve loved reading their stories. The quality has been overwhelmingly high and the judges had a tough job on their hands.” *ends*

Photo Caption

Assembly Member Joyce Watson with Western Solar CEO Glen Peters at the Pentre Solar in September.

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Notes for Editors

- For more information about Western Solar visit <http://westernsolar.org.uk/>
- Localism underpins Western Solar's approach to running a company. Its supply chain is made up of mainly local businesses. It sources its timber from forests in West Wales and joinery, steelwork and civil engineering from local small businesses.
- Its apprentices come from Coleg Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire College.
- The homes at Glanrhyd are based on the company's prototype Ty Solar which was inaugurated by the First Minister Carwyn Jones two years ago and utilises only 12% of the energy of a traditional home. Its 11 inches of insulation, south facing aspect and 6 Kwh of solar photo voltaic panels make this design resilient to the harshest of winters.