



**Award Category:** Most Sustainable Construction sponsored by The Green Triangle

**Project:** University of Hertfordshire - student accommodation Hatfield

**Client:** U-living

**Project Team:** Willmore Iles Architects, Bouygues UK, Derwent FM, University of Hertfordshire



This scheme comprises 2,511 new units in 21 buildings accommodating a mixture of cluster flats, townhouses, studios and conference rooms.

The accommodation is arranged in colleges around semi-private courtyards. Common rooms are located at the entrance to each college, along with a two storey central student hub, that houses a function room, gym reception area and facilities management services.

A Combined Heat and Power system powered by biomass minimises energy usage resulting in a True Zero Carbon development. The development also includes many features to make the building energy efficient; energy efficient LED lights, lifts and appliances have been installed to contribute to a more sustainable way of living. Students can monitor their own energy use, as each flat has includes a device which displays the energy and water use of that particular unit.

The site retains large areas of existing mature planting, a wildflower meadow and a pond

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along with purpose designed sporting facilities and opportunities for casual games. Infrastructure has also been designed to provide linkages between parts of the College Lane campus and the new accommodation.

### Judges comments:

“The outstanding environmental sustainability certification of this scheme is carried through into other aspects of the triple bottom line. Socially, it achieves excellent user satisfaction and encourages sustainable behaviour. The energy efficient design certification is carried through into occupation. Energy consumption monitors are placed in student communal kitchen areas. When fully commissioned these should help to ensure continued sustainability in use. The architectural features and natural ventilation strategy should produce a generation of healthy and sustainable students! When fully commissioned and operational the use of a biomass fired CHP scheme could prove an exemplar for other campus operators. “