

Sustainability Award

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☆ **Winner:** SRL Technical Services: Beaulieu Park Primary School

This project is an example of how acoustic excellence and sustainable construction can go hand in hand.

As one of the first schools in Essex to achieve Net Zero In Operation (NZIO) status, it demonstrates that ambitious environmental targets do not have to come at the expense of acoustic performance. The project integrates renewable technologies such as PV panels and air source heat pumps, combined with a highly insulated and acoustically rated building to minimise energy use while delivering a comfortable and functional learning environment.

A key innovation in the construction was the use of an off-site fabricated timber frame structure, which enabled efficient assembly and reduced on-site waste. This approach presented a challenge: ensuring that essential acoustic detailing was retained and implemented correctly within the fabrication process. Thanks to strong collaboration, these risks were mitigated successfully. The result is a school building that meets the rigorous standards for internal acoustic environments in educational settings.

Another critical element was the school's proximity to residential neighbours. Noise from building services, particularly plant equipment, had to be carefully controlled, while still meeting the project's sustainability objectives.

Reflecting on the project, the contractor's Design Manager, commented that "Beaulieu has been designed to be NZIO and SRL's support was instrumental in helping us to achieve our sustainable goals. Their collaboration helped us deliver a school which has delighted the local community, with teachers and pupils benefiting from the exemplary acoustic conditions."

The judges praised the project for its holistic and collaborative approach, which they observed is really key for sustainability. They noted the way acoustics were considered throughout, including in material choices and how the project took account of the acoustic performance of the buildings and the needs of the occupants.

Acoustic Awards 2025

These awards demonstrate the unique skills of UK based acoustic consultants in addressing challenges, championing innovation and originality and showcasing the significance of a profession which blends art and science to transformational effect.