

Press Release
Devens nominated for Gothenburg Award
January 31, 2018

The redevelopment of the former Fort Devens as a model of sustainable development and implementation of the circular economy has been nominated for the prestigious Gothenburg Award for Sustainable Development. The award is given each year to people or organisations for outstanding performance and achievements towards a sustainable future. Gothenburg, Sweden is known as an international exemplar of a community dedicated to sustainability.

The Gothenburg Award is administrated by an association with a board made up of the politicians Ulf Kamne, Ann-Sofie Hermansson, Helene Odenjung, president of the environmental committee Kristina Jonäng, businessman Carl Bennet and CEO Second AP Fund, Eva Halvarsson. Its office is located in Gothenburg.

Centre for Environment and Sustainability (GMV), is the hub for the Gothenburg Award for Sustainable Development organization. GMV provides the coordinator for the Gothenburg Award's board and jury. Chalmers University of Technology and the University of Gothenburg is together head of GMV.

The 2018 Gothenburg Award focuses on collaboration between industries and communities such as Devens; which is an internationally recognized ecological industrial park practicing these collaborative measures. The Devens Eco-Efficiency Center (<https://devensecoefficientcenter.wordpress.com/>) and its "Great Exchange" program are among the Devens initiatives which gave rise to the third party nomination by Graham Aid, board member of the International Society of Industrial Ecology's Industrial Symbiosis/Eco-Industrial Development section. Aid whose title is Innovation Coordinator for the Ragn-Sells Group in Sweden stated: "Devens is an exceptional example of how communities and industry can make great transformations together for competitive and sustainable strengthening. Their innovative circular solutions are an inspiration for aspiring regions worldwide."

The Gothenburg Award jury is seeking:

"Sustainable production achieved through innovative collaboration resulting in resource or energy savings. We are seeking examples where there has been documented improvement in sustainability performance, for instance as a result of industrial symbiosis, blue economy or other forms of collaboration." Devens certainly fits the bill with over 1600 tons of material per year being kept out landfills through by-product exchanges and material reclamation and reuse. The holistic approach to sustainability exemplified by the award winning redevelopment of Fort Devens includes cutting edge green infrastructure regulations and successfully integrates sustainable development into all aspects of its redevelopment, including regulations through the work of the Devens Enterprise Commission, sale covenants and requirements such as the requirement for a sustainable certified golf course provider by MassDevelopment and through the provision of education and other services to assist firms in greening their operations and lightening their resource footprint through the work of the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center. DEC Chairman William P. Marshall said: "It's great to have parties outside of Devens recognize the excellent work that has transpired here over the last twenty years. Both the Devens Enterprise Commission and MassDevelopment have something to be proud of in the realm of sustainability and development."

More details on the numerous Devens sustainability initiatives can be found here:

<http://devensec.com/sustain.html>

If selected, Devens would join a select group of former award winners including Al Gore (2007), Kofi Annan(2011), and Park Wan Soon (2016).

The Devens Enterprise Commission, Devens Eco-Efficiency Center, and MassDevelopment have collaborated to turn the redevelopment of the former Fort Devens into the premier site based example of eco-industrial development in the United States. Devens has become the model for turning light industrial parks into eco-industrial parks throughout the world. The Devens Eco-Efficiency Center differentiates Devens from other industrial parks in that the non-profits role is to assist firms, government and park tenants to maximize resource efficiency and implement the circular economy. Through its “great exchange program” the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center helps the over 100 firms at Devens (and others in the region) collaborate to green their operations, reuse materials, find new homes for orphan by-products, and keep an average of 1600 tons per year of materials out of the landfill. The redevelopment of the former Fort Devens take a holistic approach with being a model of sustainable development as its overarching goal; this means its approach includes education, regulations, operations and encouraging innovation. The results speak for themselves: 1800 of 4400 acres slated for development, the balance being afforded various levels of protection; being home to net zero energy housing projects and producing over \$2billion in private sector investment and creating over 5000 jobs since being turned over from the US Department of Defense to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1996 as a result of the 1993 round of the Base Realignment and Closure Act.