

Commitment of companies at the forefront of Scottish environmental change recognised

✖ 29 July 2019

The hard work and commitment of companies at the forefront of environmental change in Scotland has today (29 July 2019) been recognised by the VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards.

A total of 36 businesses from across Scotland have been included in the shortlist for the prestigious awards which are focused on inspiring companies to play their part in meeting Scotland's ambition to be a world leader on tackling climate change.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the awards and the finalists include: Wood, Cycling Scotland, Vegware, Diageo (Leven) and The James Hutton Institute *(Full list in notes to editors). The finalists have been selected across eleven award categories which recognise the different ways that sustainable best practice can be implemented.

They include examples of good practice in the following categories: Leadership Scotland, Innovating Scotland, Product Scotland, Service Scotland, Hydro Nation Scotland, Circular Scotland, Moving Scotland, Adapting Scotland, Engaging Scotland, Partnership Scotland and Small Business Scotland.

As part of this year's anniversary celebrations, a special Best of VIBES Award will also be presented to a past winner that has demonstrated an ongoing contribution to sustainable development by embracing new practices and constantly reviewing its systems so that it remains environmentally focused.

Bob Downes, chair of SEPA and head of the VIBES judging panel, said: "The scale of environmental challenges facing humanity is enormous, with a real urgency to act. The successful businesses of tomorrow will be those who embrace the economic opportunity of sustainable solutions to environmental challenges.

"VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards, linked to SEPA's ambitious 'One Planet Prosperity' strategy, recognise Scotland's leading businesses who show a real commitment to sustainable goods, products and services through leadership, innovation and ambition.

"I would like to congratulate all the finalists who have been recognised by the VIBES Awards and I look forward to announcing the winners in due course."

Environment Secretary, Roseanna Cunningham, said: "My congratulations go to the businesses who have been shortlisted for this year's VIBES awards. We are

all aware of the urgent environmental issues affecting our planet and business has a vital role to play in Scotland's continuing journey to a net-zero society.

"It is important that we recognise those who are leading on action to develop sustainable solutions and environmental practices while seizing the economic benefits of embracing a vibrant and innovation circular economy."

Award sponsors include Adaptation Scotland, Chivas Brothers-Pernod Ricard, Farne Salmon and Trout, Mabbett, ScottishPower, Glenmorangie, The Scottish Government, Travel Know How Scotland, University of Stirling Management School, Wave Utilities.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony on 14 November at the Doubletree by Hilton hotel in Glasgow.

For more information on VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards please visit www.vibes.org.uk

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Notes to editors:

About VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards

VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards is a strategic partnership between Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Government, Scottish Water, Scottish Enterprise, Highland and Islands Enterprise, Zero Waste Scotland, Energy Saving Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The Awards are further supported by CBI Scotland, the Institute of Directors, the Federation of Small Businesses, Bright Green Business, Quality Scotland, Scotch Whisky Association and the Scottish Council for Development and Industry.

The full list of VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards 2019 categories and finalists are as follows:

Adapting Scotland Award: Biomatrix Water Solutions Ltd, EGG lighting, Intelligent Growth Solutions, uFraction8 Ltd

Circular Scotland Award: ACS Clothing Limited, Renewable Parts Ltd, Re-tek UK Ltd, Total Homes Co-operative, Vegware

Engaging Scotland Award: Aberdeen Performing Arts, ACS Clothing Limited, Edinburgh Leisure, Leith Community Crops in Pots, Sea The Change

Hydro Nation Scotland Award: Biomatrix Water Solutions LTD, Diageo – Leven, Ecoanolytes Limited, The James Hutton Institute, TownRock Energy

Innovating Scotland Award: Diageo – Leven, Intelligent Growth Solutions, TCP, uFraction8 Ltd, Wester Ross Fisheries Ltd

Leadership Scotland Award: ACS Clothing Limited, Mercat Tours Ltd, Paterson Arran Ltd, RPC BPI INDUPAC, TechnipFMC

Sea change in Scottish beach surveillance

Members of the public can now play a vital role in helping marine scientists gather data on animal strandings and the condition of Scotland's beaches.

News story: Protect mangroves and help tackle climate change

Environment Minister of State Thérèse Coffey marks International Day for the Conservation of Mangroves by calling for greater protection for mangroves.

Detailed guide: African swine fever: how to spot and report the disease

How to spot African swine fever, what to do if you suspect it and how to stop it spreading.

Research and analysis: Avian influenza (bird flu) in Europe and in the UK

Preliminary and updated outbreak assessments for avian influenza (bird flu) in Europe and in the UK.