

## **Corporate report: Environment Agency Closed Pension Fund annual report and financial statements 2017 to 2018**

The report highlights:

- financial performance
  - governance
  - environmental footprint
  - progress towards the funds responsible investment strategy
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## **Corporate report: Environment Agency Active Pension Fund annual report and financial statements 2017 to 2018**

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## **News story: £700 million South West food exports are vital to economic success**

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Liz Truss used a visit to several food manufacturers in Cornwall this week (12 and 13 July 2018) to unveil new figures that showed food and agricultural exports in the first quarter of 2018 were up for the fourth year in a row.

From January to March 2018, £175 million worth of food and agricultural goods were exported from the region around the globe, up £10 million on last year.

In 2017, nearly £700 million worth of Cornish food and agricultural goods were exported around the world, and the Chief Secretary hopes that this figure will be bettered this year:

Food manufacturers in this region have made a flying start to 2018 and it's hugely encouraging to learn, once again, that food exports are up for the first quarter of this year.

Exporting boosts the earnings of a business, and the wages of local workers, it also enhances the reputation of Britain and Cornwall around the world.

I want to see more people abroad enjoying a taste of Cornwall, like the magnificent clotted cream I've seen made during my visit.

It is so important that local traders in this part of the world have the opportunity to increase their trade and create jobs and I'm here to learn how we can help them do this.

While visiting Cornwall, the Chief Secretary was hosted by groups of businesses and also visited several food manufacturing factories.

The government is delivering for the South West, and the region now has the second-lowest unemployment rate of all UK regions. And this year alone employment has increased by 37,000, with a record high 2.8 million people now in work.

Since 2010 the government has worked hard to make sure businesses in all regions of the UK can start-up and scale-up. By cutting corporation tax we have helped encourage this, with 1.2 million more businesses starting up since 2010.

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## [2050 Climate Group joins SEPA in encouraging young people to get involved in flood conversation](#)

 12 July 2018

The 2050 Climate Group has joined the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in calling on young people to take part in the national consultation to improve Scotland's future flood risk management plans.

- Take part in SEPA's national consultation on the designation of areas which are potentially vulnerable to flooding by 31 July.

- 81% of respondents so far agree that flooding is one of the major climate change challenges Scotland will face in the future.
- SEPA is seeking feedback to ensure local knowledge is captured.

Amy Ritchie, from the 2050 Climate Group, which aims to engage, educate and empower Scotland's future leaders to take action on climate change, said:

"Climate change will lead to more frequent and intense flooding in Scotland so it's really important that young people, as the generation that will be affected by these impacts in the future, take the time to review and respond to SEPA's consultation. Research shows that 18 to 34 year olds in particular are not engaged in the issue of flooding. As a result, we are urging as many young people as possible to share their thoughts on SEPA's increasingly vital work."

People have until **31 July 2018** to help shape SEPA's understanding of Potentially Vulnerable Areas by sharing their local knowledge to help make Scotland more resilient in the face of increased flood events.

Over 170 responses have so far been received, which can be viewed at: <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/pvas2018>, with 81% of respondents agreeing that flooding is one of the major climate change challenges Scotland will face in the future.

Climate change is expected to increase flood risk, potentially doubling it in some areas in Scotland before the end of the century. SEPA is now looking for the views of young people in particular to ensure that a broad spectrum of knowledge and experience is represented.

SEPA plans to publish the results of the consultation in December 2018.

Terry A'Hearn, SEPA's Chief Executive, said:

"We are pleased that we have received so many responses to this consultation so far which demonstrates the widespread knowledge and interest in this important issue. It may seem peculiar to ask people to think about flooding given the recent dry summer weather but please ensure you do because your views really do count and we want as many people as possible to share their views with us. The deadline is now fast approaching so I would strongly encourage you to take action now and join the discussion before 31 July."

**Ends**

**Notes to editors**

### **Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs)**

Identifying PVAs is a vital part of protecting people, properties, communities, businesses, infrastructure and environment. These are based on Scotland's National Flood Risk Assessment (NFRA) which is updated and published every 6 years. This provides a clear picture of past, current and future flood risk and feeds into SEPA's Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans.

Designation of an area as a PVA allows local authorities and public bodies to work with communities to focus activities on reducing the impacts of flooding. Better data has provided a greater understanding of the location of properties and access to better mapping and modelling has improved the assessment of flood risk.

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## Over 40 of Scotland's best green businesses announced as finalists for environmental awards

📅 12 July 2018

More than 40 of Scotland's best green businesses have been announced as finalists for the VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards in recognition of their commitment to tackling environmental challenges.

Now in their 19<sup>th</sup> year, the awards urge Scotland's businesses to challenge their everyday working practices and embrace the economic opportunity of sustainability.

Amongst the diverse businesses which have made the cut for their contribution to Scotland's sustainability are Wood, Glengoyne Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky, Devro (Scotland) Ltd, Edinburgh Trams and the Royal Zoological Society Scotland (full list in notes to editors). The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony held on 14 November at Radisson Blu in Glasgow.

The finalists have been selected across nine individual award categories which aim to recognise the different ways organisations are implementing environmental best practice in their daily activity. This could range from reducing the use of plastic or developing a new product or service, to encouraging cycle to work schemes or replacing company vehicles for electric cars.

Sustainable best practice isn't just good for the environment but is also beneficial for business performance, with many of this year's entries reporting associated benefits including; enhanced competitiveness, a positive working culture and both environmental and financial savings.

Commenting, Bob Downes, chair of SEPA and head of the VIBES judging panel, said:

The VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards are a great chance to recognise business leadership in sustainable environmental

investment. This is at the core of SEPA's One Planet Prosperity regulatory strategy. New approaches for delivering environmental improvements provide businesses with opportunities to enhance their sustainability and economic performance.

"The Awards celebrate businesses which are already stepping up to this challenge and are leading by example and are an excellent opportunity to recognise and reward these companies for going beyond "business as usual" and driving sustainable growth through innovation. It is very encouraging to see so many of Scotland's businesses leading the way and making a difference which will not only support the environment but also protect their bottom line. I would like to congratulate each of this year's finalists and wish them luck for November's ceremony."

Awards will be presented for the following categories: Management Large, Management SME, Green Team, Sustainable and Active Travel, Circular Economy, Environmental Product or Service, Innovation, and Hydro Nation Water Innovation. A Micro Business Award will also be presented to the best entry to any category from a company with less than 10 employees.

This year a Climate Adaptation commendation has also been introduced, in partnership with Adaptation Scotland, which will reward a business that has demonstrated managing climate related risks or has created a product or service to help society adapt.

Award sponsors to date include Adaptation Scotland, Anglian Water Business, Chivas Brothers Pernod Ricard, Climate-KIC through ECCI, Energy Saving Trust, Farne Salmon and Trout, Greenvale AP, Scottish Government, ScottishPower and University of Stirling Management School.

For more information on VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards please visit [www.vibes.org.uk](http://www.vibes.org.uk)

**– Ends –**

#### **Notes to editors:**

VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards is a strategic partnership between Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Government, Scottish Water, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Zero Waste Scotland, and Energy Saving Trust.

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

The Awards are accredited by the RSA Environment Awards Accreditation Scheme ([www.rsaaccreditation.org](http://www.rsaaccreditation.org)).

The full list of VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards 2018 categories and finalists are as follows:

#### Adaptation to Climate Change:

- Aberdeen City Council Countryside Ranger Service
- The James Hutton Institute
- TreeGreen trading as EGG lighting
- Universities Superannuation Scheme LTD

#### Circular Economy:

- Hamilton Waste & Recycling Ltd
- Kittiwig Ltd
- Remade in Edinburgh
- Renewable Parts Ltd – Refurbishment Centre
- Spruce Carpets Limited

#### Environmental Product or Service:

- Clearwater Controls Ltd
- Mook Environmental Solutions Ltd
- Peel Tech Ltd
- Scotch Whisky Association
- Wood

#### Green Team:

- Clyde Shopping Centre
- Devro (Scotland) Ltd
- Investec Wealth and Investment (Investec Plc)
- Midlothian Council (Community Payback Team)
- Royal Zoological Society Scotland

#### Hydro Nation Water Innovation:

- Aqualution Systems Ltd
- Clearwater Controls Ltd
- Proterra Energy Ltd
- Scotmas Limited
- Veolia (Veolia Water Outsourcing Limited)

#### Innovation:

- 3F BIO Ltd
- CuanTec
- eRally Motorsport Ltd and Knockhill Racing Circuit Ltd
- IntelliDigest Ltd
- McCormack Innovation Ltd
- Xanthella

#### Management Large:

- Devro (Scotland) Ltd
- DSM Nutritional Products (UK) Limited
- EDF Energy Nuclear Generation

- Scottish Leather Group Limited
- TechnipFMC

#### Management SME:

- Glengoyne Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky
- Greens deli
- Hickory
- Paterson Arran Ltd
- Sidey Solutions Limited
- The Wildcat Cafe Ltd

#### Sustainable and Active Travel:

- Beyond Green
- Edinburgh Trams
- eRally Motorsport Ltd and Knockhill Racing Circuit Ltd
- nextGenenergy
- Next Plc

In addition, Micro business will be considered for the Micro Business category:

- Aqualution Systems Ltd
- Beyond Green
- eRally Motorsport Ltd and Knockhill Racing Circuit Ltd
- Greens deli
- IntelliDigest Ltd
- Kittiwig
- McCormack Innovation Ltd
- nextGenenergy
- Peel Tech Ltd
- Proterra Energy Ltd
- Remade in Edinburgh
- Renewable Parts Ltd – Refurbishment Centre
- The Wildcat Cafe Ltd
- TreeGreen trading as EGG lighting
- Universities Superannuation Scheme LTD
- Xanthella