

VIBES Awards urge Scottish businesses to become sustainable leaders and boost growth

✘ 28 March 2019

Scotland's businesses are being encouraged to become world leaders in sustainability and embrace the economic opportunities that environmental changes can bring.

The VIBES Scottish Environment Business Awards (VIBES) is celebrating its 20th year and is calling on Scottish businesses to play their part in protecting our planet for future generations.

The 20th anniversary awards were launched at the Scottish Parliament last night (27 March 2019) and organisers of the awards are urging Scottish businesses to mark the milestone by helping to tackle the environmental challenges facing Scotland and the rest of the world.

Businesses in Scotland have already seen an impact first hand on the risks associated with climate change, when food producers and whisky distillers were faced with water scarcity last summer. Recent studies have shown that we only have 12 years to avert a climate change disaster and that by 2050, 1.8m* people in West Central Scotland will be affected as a result of climate changes.

Commenting, Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham, said: "We are all aware of the urgent environmental issues affecting our planet, and businesses across Scotland have a vital role to play in helping to safeguard it for future generations.

"I look forward to the VIBES Awards celebrating those businesses that are leading on developing sustainable solutions and environmental practices while embracing a vibrant and innovative circular economy."

Businesses are being encouraged to follow the example of Vegware and Paterson Arran Ltd. who have shown that environmental best practice can also bring economic benefits including financial savings, an engaged workforce, positive working culture and improved competitiveness as well as contributing towards a better economy and society as a whole.

Since its inception in 1999, the VIBES Scottish Business Awards, have recognised and rewarded more than 150 businesses that have championed sustainability by identifying ways to tackle the impact on the planet by reducing consumption on its resources. This has included everything from increasing recycling and facilitating active travel to reducing consumption of raw materials by adopting a more circular approach.

In Scotland alone, there's an estimated £1 billion** benefit for circular economy businesses in key cities and regions while on a global level at least 12 trillion dollars*** of market opportunities and 380 million jobs could be created by 2030 if sustainable development goals were adopted in food and agriculture, cities, energy, health and wellbeing.

Bob Downes, chair of SEPA and head of the VIBES judging panel, added: "The scale of environmental challenges facing humanity is enormous and there is a real urgency to act in light of what science is showing us.

"Businesses have a responsibility and it's empowering to see so many organisations no longer viewing climate adaptation and environmental performance as a burden and cost but as an economic opportunity – it is these businesses that will thrive.

"As the VIBES Awards have shown, many businesses in Scotland are doing great work and SEPA's own figures reinforce this, with the environmental compliance of Scottish regulated businesses exceeding 90% for a third year running, however, we cannot rest on our laurels. We want to help Scottish businesses respond to these environmental challenges and reap the benefit and as we enter the 20th year of VIBES, we hope to inspire others to instigate change."

This year's award categories include: 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 at the official ceremony and will recognise a past winner – from a shortlist of the 10 best entries – that can demonstrate their continuous improvement and contribution to Scotland's sustainable development.

The 10 shortlisted businesses were announced at the launch event and include – Aqualution Systems Ltd, Castle Group Scotland, Chivas Brothers Ltd, CMS Window Systems, Emtelle UK Limited, Farne Salmon, Paterson Arran Ltd, The Bay Fish and Chips, The Deep Project – The Glenmorangie Company and Vegware. The winner will be selected via a public vote at the official awards ceremony in November.

The awards are committed to supporting businesses interested in sustainable development and will also be hosting a series of free regional information events with a selection of previous winners. The VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards roadshows will take place across Scotland with the first of these held at the James Hutton Institute, Dundee, on 16 April.

The 20th anniversary awards ceremony will be held on 14 November at Doubletree by Hilton in Glasgow. Award sponsors to date include Adaptation Scotland, Mabbett & Associates Ltd, Scottish Government, ScottishPower, The Glenmorangie Company and headline sponsor, Chivas Brothers Pernod Ricard.

Businesses have until 5pm on 10 May 2019 to submit their free application. To

obtain an application form please contact vibes@sepa.org.uk. Regional event spaces can be booked at vibesawards.eventbrite.com

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

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* Climate Ready Clyde study 2018

** Zero Waste Scotland –

<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/press-release/%C2%A31bn-potential-circular-economy-scotland%E2%80%99s-cities-and-regions-revealed-new-reports>

*** Business and Sustainable Development Commission

Details of the regional events include:

- 16th April 2019 – Dundee at The James Hutton Institute
- 17th April 2019 – Duns at Aqualution Systems
- 2nd May – Ayr at Albion EnvironmentalAdditional dates/locations still to be announced.

Press release: Wreck of Dunkirk rescue boat removed from River Lark

It was removed by the Environment Agency as part of a ‘boat blitz’ on Anglian waterways to clear sunken, abandoned and illegal vessels

Young farmers recognised in inaugural competition

A former student from Scotland’s Rural College has won a top prize in an inaugural Young Farmers competition in the Borders.

Official Statistics Publication for Scotland – Waste from all sources

26 March 2019

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has published Official Statistics today (26 March 2019) which provide details of waste from households, construction and demolition, and commerce and industry.

- **Scottish recycling rate for 2017 is 58.9%**
- **A decrease of 0.2 percentage points from 2016***
- **Scottish organic waste recycled by composting or anaerobic digestion increased by 4.6% since 2016**
- **The quantity of biodegradable municipal waste being sent to landfill falls again with 1.09 million tonnes going to landfill in 2017**
- **Waste diverted from landfill through incineration with energy recovery has increased by 14.7% from 2016**
- **Scottish waste landfilled accounted for 32.6% of all waste managed, an increase of 0.1 percent from 2016**

The total quantity of waste generated in 2017 increased by 5.5%. Whilst 142,195 more tonnes of waste was recycled in the 2017 calendar year, the statistics show that the national recycling rate was 58.9%, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points from 2016.

Scottish organic waste recycled by composting or anaerobic digestion continues to increase with almost 158,000 tonnes more being recycled than in 2011.

The quantity of biodegradable municipal waste being sent to landfill continues to fall, with 1.09 million tonnes going to landfill in 2017. This is 0.05 million tonnes less than 2016 and 1.07 million tonnes less than 2005.

In 2017 over 760,000 tonnes of waste was diverted from landfill through incineration with energy recovery or co-incineration. This is an increase of 14.7% from 2016 and follows the longer term trend with 182.6% more waste recovered since 2011. The statistics also show that the quantity of Scotland's waste being sent to landfill increased by 0.1 percentage points to 32.6% of all waste managed.

Waste	2016	2017
Recycling/ composting and preparing for re-use of waste from all sources	59.1%	58.9%
Organic waste recycled by composting or anaerobic digestion	605, 614 tonnes	633, 629 tonnes

Biodegradable municipal waste landfilled in Scotland	1.14 million tonnes	1.09 million tonnes
Waste recovered by incineration with energy recovery	663,925 tonnes	761,581 tonnes
Percentage of all waste sent to landfill	32.5%	32.6%

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

“The scale of the environmental challenge is enormous and we know that in Scotland we currently use the resources of three planets, but only have one. The most successful countries in the 21st century will be resource efficient, circular economies, where what once was waste is valued as a resource. As such, the latest figures give communities and businesses a fresh focus for the opportunity ahead.”

Data on waste are collected to monitor policy effectiveness, and to support policy development, particularly commitments in the Scottish Government’s [Making Things Last – A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland](#)

The figures are accurate at the time of publication, however data may be updated if further revisions are necessary. Normally these revisions will be published concurrent with the next official release.

Notes to editors

*The 2016 recycling rate has been revised downwards from the originally published 61.0%.

[Press release: ‘No deal’ EU exit: Government issues reminder to waste industry](#)

Waste industry should review contingency plans in case of disruption should the UK leaves the EU without a deal.