



Dumfries and Galloway's top environmentally-friendly businesses announced

Dumfries and Galloway's most environmentally-friendly businesses will be named at a prestigious awards ceremony taking place in Glasgow today (Wednesday 5 December).

Cream O'Galloway Dairy has beaten off stiff competition from companies across Scotland, to be crowned small company (fewer than 50 employees) winner at the Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards to be unveiled today at Glasgow's Radisson SAS hotel.

In addition a special Service award will be given to Solway Recycling Ltd from Dumfries who received its award for its outstanding response to customer needs and production of innovative products.

VIBES chair, Gillian Bruce, commented: "All of the VIBES finalists showed fantastic commitment to reducing their environmental impact and involving staff and the wider community in their initiatives. The VIBES judges were impressed by the winners' outstanding achievement – both in terms of their business savings and their environmental improvements."

Winner in the small company category, Cream O'Galloway Dairy, not only won the accolade for its environmentally friendly manufacturing but was also recognised for its organic farm and contribution to the local economy and community made through its visitor centre.

Wilma Finlay, managing director of Cream O' Galloway Dairy, said: "The environment is fundamental to everything we do. Minimising environmental impact underpins our strategy. We believe organic farming is the future for sustainable food production; ice cream production is powered by electricity from our community wind turbine; and activities at our visitor centre explain our efforts to make a difference."

Now in its eighth year, VIBES recognises and rewards the efforts of Scottish businesses to become more efficient and competitive through improving environmental performance and benefiting a company's bottom-line.

By winning a VIBES award, finalists are eligible to enter the European Environmental Awards in 2008 which attract around 200 entries per year from the cream of Europe's

most environmentally positive businesses. VIBES is the only award scheme in Scotland that feeds into these prestigious European awards.

The three overall winners announced at the ceremony are:

- Large company (more than 250 employees) category – Total E&P UK Ltd: an oil and gas company based in **St Fergus, Aberdeenshire**.
- Medium company (more than 50-250 employees) category – Emtelle UK Ltd: provider of ducted network and blown fibre solutions based in **Hawick, in the Borders**.
- Small company category (fewer than 50 staff) – Cream O’Galloway Dairy: a family-run, luxury ice-cream manufacturer from **Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway**.

Those awards details in full. The large company finalists are:

- Robert Wiseman Dairies (East Kilbride)
- BAE Systems Surface Fleet Solutions (Glasgow)
- Apex International hotel (Edinburgh)
- Radisson SAS hotel (Edinburgh)

The medium company finalists are:

- Gas Call Services Ltd (Glasgow)
- Mackie’s of Scotland (Aberdeenshire)

The small company finalists are:

- Morton of Pitmilley (St Andrews)
- Rabbie’s Trail Burners Ltd (Edinburgh)
- Scottish Seabird Centre (North Berwick)
- Press Mains Farm (Coldingham)

In addition special Service Awards will be given to two companies the VIBES judges felt provide outstanding service. Winners are as follows:

- REpower UK Ltd: a leading manufacturer of wind turbines whose UK headquarters are based in Edinburgh.
- Solway Recycling Limited: the one-stop recycling service for farmers from Dumfries and Galloway.

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Issued on behalf of the VIBES Steering Group by Weber Shandwick. For further information please contact Hayley Ford or David Sawyer on 0141 333 0557 / 07770 886 950/ 07770 886 923. E-mail: hford@webershandwick.com / dsawyer@webershandwick.com

Press pictures of all winners are available by email. Contact Hayley Ford on 0141 333 0557.

A media invite was issued on Monday 3 December. Photographers and reporters are cordially invited to attend a photocall/media briefing at 3.15pm at the Radisson Hotel in Glasgow on Wednesday 5 December.

Notes for Editors

Case studies of all Scottish winners are available via e-mail. Please contact Hayley Ford on 0141 333 0557.

Businesses from any sector or any type located in Scotland are encouraged to apply for a VIBES award. There are three categories:

- Businesses with more than 250 employees (Large)
- Businesses with between 50 and 250 employees (Medium)
- Businesses with less than 50 employees (Small)

The VIBES competition is supported and managed by a partnership of organisations in Scotland:

- CBI Scotland
 - Envirowise
 - Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland
 - Forward Scotland
 - Highlands and Islands Enterprise
 - Environmental Protection UK Ltd
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 - Scottish Government
 - Scottish Water Business Stream
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- The European Business Environment Awards have been running since 1987 and attract around 200 entries per year from the cream of Europe's most environmentally positive businesses. VIBES is the only award scheme in Scotland that feeds in to these prestigious European awards.
 - For more information on VIBES, please visit www.vibes.org.uk

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