**VIBES Application Tool 2024**

**Note: The purpose of this word document is for you to draft your responses before copy-pasting onto the online form for submission (**[**https://www.vibes.org.uk/apply/**](https://www.vibes.org.uk/apply/)**)**

Please read the Terms and Conditions and Guidance prior to submitting your application (<https://www.vibes.org.uk/media/ajshjakd/vibes2024_guidance_final.pdf>)

By submitting your application, you agree with those Terms and Conditions.

Do not include confidential or commercially sensitive information. If you feel this information is necessary for the application process, please contact us via vibes@sepa.org.uk prior to submitting your application.

**Section 1 - Candidate Profile**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full Name |  |
| Job title  |  |
| Business / organisation name |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Email address |  |
| Type of business | Limited company / Partnership / Sole Trader / Social enterprise / Company limited by Guarantee / Other – please specify  |
| Sector | * *Agriculture, forestry and fishing*
* *Life Sciences*
* *Food & Drink*
* *Other manufacturing (please specify)*
* *Energy, including renewables*
* *Water*
* *Construction*
* *Wholesale and retail*
* *Transportation and storage*
* *Tourism including hospitality and food service*
* *Information and communication*
* *Creative industries, including arts, entertainment and digital*
* *Financial, business and other professional services*
* *Land/real estate*
* *Waste management, reuse and recycling*
* *Other (please specify)*
 |
| Business description (*This description will be used in all promotional material)* |  |
| Site address including postcode |  |
| Website |  |
| Twitter handle |  |
| Instagram |  |
| Facebook |  |
| LinkedIn |  |
| Number of employees at candidate site |  |
| Approximate annual turnover | *£0-£100K, £100K - £250K, £250K - £500K, £500K - £1M, £1M - £5M, over £5M* |
| Is your business part of a larger group? | Yes / No |
| If yes, please provide name of larger group |  |
| Number of employees in the whole group | 0-50, 50 – 100,100 – 250, 250 – 500, 500 – 1,000, >1,000 |
| Are you classed as a small to medium sized enterprise (SME)? | Yes / No |
| Where did you hear about VIBES Scottish Environment Business Awards? | * *VIBES partner/supporting organisation,*
* *Trade association*
* *Social media*
* *Press advert/article*
* *Word of mouth*
* *Internet*
* *Other - please specify*
 |
| Have you applied for a VIBES Award before? | Yes / No |
| If yes, when and which category |  |
| Please tick box if you agree to receive information from **VIBES partners** on the free support they can provide to businesses/organisations. | Yes / No |
| Please tick box if you agree to receive information from our **supporting organisations** on the support/services they can provide to businesses/organisations. | Yes / No |
| Please tick box if you agree to receive information from our **sponsors** on the support/services they can provide to businesses/organisations. | Yes / No |
| To maximise promotional opportunities, we would like to share your application with our PR team. If they wish to use any content from your entry in the media, they will be in touch with you for approval.Please tick box if you agree to share your application with our PR contractor under conditions above. | Yes / No |
| Please tick box if you agree to share the name and address with ‘Harmonies in Wood’ <info@harmoniesinwood.co.uk> for the sole purpose of sending out your award should your entry be successful. | Yes / No |

**Section 2 - The Vision in Business Scotland**

The **Vision in Business Scotland award** recognises organisations that best demonstrate that “what’s good for the environment is also good for business.” Applicants should set out clearly that they have the strategic vision, people policies and management systems that enable them to continuously improve sustainability and their contribution to Scotland’s net zero carbon ambition.

Please click on the sub-category that your organisation best fits within:

* Best Large Business (more than 250 employees – turnover ≤ € 50 m)
* Best Medium Business (50 - 250 employees – turnover ≤ € 10 m)
* Best Small Business (less than 50 employees – turnover ≤ € 2 m)
* Best New Business (Business to be registered with Companies House and trading for less than 3 years)

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**  Please provide a clear, concise summary of your entry. Why does your organisation deserve to win the Vision in Business Scotland Award? (max 100 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Leadership** * How is your organisation demonstrating leadership in enabling sustainability and the achievement of Scotland’s net zero carbon ambition?
* How is your organisation addressing the climate and nature crisis, and ensuring the business has sustainability at its heart?
* Are you innovating, inspiring, and initiating positive change to transform?
* How have you encouraged others to take new sustainability actions and/or change behaviours?
* How can you evidence that your organisation goes beyond regulatory requirements and ‘business as usual’?

 (max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Policies** * What policies, strategies and/or management systems do you have in place relating to the environment?
* How is sustainability being effectively embedded and aligned?
* What is your organisation’s sustainability strategy for the future and how does this strategy reflect the global climate and nature agendas?
* How has your organisation aligned itself with climate and sustainability frameworks (e.g. science-based targets, the Sustainable Development Goals)?

(max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Processes** * Who is responsible for developing environmental and sustainability targets and driving performance, and how is that performance being measured?
* How has your organisation engaged with its various stakeholders (employees, customers, investors, local community, etc) on key sustainability issues?
* What actions has the organisation taken to accelerate progress to improving sustainability and achieving net zero?
* Tell us about any innovations or new ways of thinking that have solved problems and/or improved performance.

 (max 200 words)   |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Environmental Benefit**  Provide quantified evidence for all environmental benefits and specify the timescale over which these benefits have been achieved. The **environmental** benefits could include reduced CO2 emissions, the more efficient use of resources, reduced harmful emissions to air, land or water, implementation of nature-based solutions and/or enhancements to nature. (max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Economic Benefit**  Quantify the economic benefits related to your sustainability and net zero actions. Please specify the timescale over which the economic benefits have been achieved. The **economic** benefits could include cost savings, new sales/profits and/or an enhanced competitive advantage due to your green credentials. (max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Social benefits**  What social benefits and other benefits have you achieved? The **social** benefits could include improved staff morale/motivation/retention, safeguarding/creating jobs and skills development opportunities. Wider social benefits could also include your contribution towards the development of more resilient and sustainable local communities. (max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Additional Information**  Please provide any other information relevant to your application not included above. (max 100 words)  |
|    |

**Section 3 - The Product Scotland Award**

The Product Scotland Award recognises businesses that have developed a product that delivers significant environmental and business benefits. At the time of application, the product must have been developed and already in the marketplace.

We are looking for entries relating to products that serve an environmental purpose. This may be in relation to adaptation for climate change, supporting Scotland’s Hydro Nation strategy or any other purpose that improves sustainability.

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**  Please provide a clear, concise summary of the entry. Why does your organisation deserve to win the Product Scotland Award? (max 100 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Innovation**Explain how your product differs from others on the market and what was your inspiration. For example:* How is the product innovative compared to alternatives?
* What is the impact of the innovation (e.g. Incremental, Radical, Disruptive)
* How advanced is the innovation (e.g. newly established or well established)

(max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Environmental Benefit**Please indicate and provide quantified evidence for all environmental benefits associated with your product and specify the timescale over which these benefits have been achieved. The **environmental** benefits could include reduced CO2 emissions, the more efficient use of resources, reduced emissions to air, land or water, enhanced natural resources or a combination of these.  (max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **User Benefit**Please explain and quantify any benefits which your product brings to users. These could be, for example:* financial saving to users
* improved health and wellbeing,
* increased customer satisfaction,
* increased resilience to climate change.

 (max 200 words)   |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Business Benefit**Please explain and quantify any business benefits arising from your product. In terms of economic benefits, this could include, for example: * cost savings
* new sales
* enhanced competitive advantage due to your green credentials.

Specify the timescale over which the economic benefits have been achieved. Other business benefits could be, for example:* attracting and / or retaining a skilled workforce drawn in by the product’s environmentally friendly aspect,
* improved pro-sustainability reputation of your business,
* improved stakeholder’s satisfaction.

(max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Producer Policies**As the producer of the product, please indicate and expand on any policies, strategies and/or management systems your organisation has in place relating to the environment and sustainability. You could refer for example to:* environmental policy and/or environmental management system,
* a sustainability strategy, and how it is embedded within the core business of your company/organisation,
* a sustainability strategy for development, production and/or delivery of the product,
* any future plans (short, medium or long term plans), anticipated challenges and plans to overcome them,
* any difficulties so far, and how they have been overcome.

(max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Producer Practice**Please highlight practices you follow in your organisation, that contribute to sustainability. This could include aspects as varied as, for example:* how you monitor your environmental impacts,
* targets set for business performance and sustainability,
* how progress and performance are measured, key performance indicators,
* green team or environmental champion,
* sourcing of materials and procurement practices that have sustainability in mind,
* engagement with stakeholders (employees, customers, investors etc) on key sustainability issues,
* any innovations or new ways of thinking that have solved problems and/or improved performance and sustainability.

(max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Additional Information**  Please provide any other information relevant to your application not included above. (max 100 words)  |
|    |

**Section 4 - The Service Scotland Award**

The Service Scotland Award recognises businesses that have developed a service that brings environmental and business benefits. At the time of the application the service must have been developed and in the marketplace.

We are looking for entries from services that serve an environmental purpose. This may be in relation to adaptation for climate change, supporting Scotland’s Hydro Nation strategy or any other purpose that improves sustainability.

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**  Please provide a clear, concise summary of the entry. Why does your organisation deserve to win the Service Scotland Award?  (max 100 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Innovation** Explain how your service differs from others on the market and what was your inspiration. For example:* How is the service innovative compared to alternatives?
* What is the impact of the innovation (e.g. Incremental, Radical, Disruptive)
* How advanced is the innovation (e.g. newly established or well established)

(max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Environmental Benefit**Provide evidence for all environmental benefits associated with your service and specify the timescale over which these benefits have been achieved. The **environmental** benefits could include reduced CO2 emissions, the more efficient use of resources, reduced emissions to air, land or water, enhanced natural resources or a combination of these.  (max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **User Benefit**Please explain and quantify any benefits your service brings to users. These could be, for example:* money savings to users
* improved health and wellbeing
* increased customer satisfaction
* starting net zero thinking
* increased resilience to climate change

(max 200 words)   |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Economic Benefit** Explain and quantify any economic benefits arising from your service, this could include, for example: * cost savings
* new sales
* enhanced competitive advantage due to your green credentials.

Please specify the timescale over which the economic benefits have been achieved.Other benefits could be, for example:* attracting or retaining a skilled workforce drawn in by the service’s environmentally friendly aspects;
* improved pro-sustainability reputation of your business amongst your sector;
* improved stakeholder’s satisfaction feedback.

(max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Producer Policies**As the producer of the service, please indicate and expand on any policies, strategies and/or management systems your organisation has in place relating to the environment and sustainability. You could refer for example to:* environmental policy and/or environmental management system;
* a sustainability strategy, and how it is embedded within the core business of your company/organisation;
* a sustainability strategy for development, production and/or delivery of the service;
* any future plans (short, medium or long term plans), anticipated challenges and plans to overcome them;
* any difficulties so far, and how they have been overcome.

(max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Producer Practice** Please highlight practices you follow in your organisation, that contribute to sustainability. This could include aspects as varied as, for example:* how you monitor your environmental impacts;
* targets set for business performance and sustainability;
* how progress and performance are measured; key performance indicators;
* green team or environmental champion;
* sourcing of materials and procurement practices that have sustainability in mind;
* engagement with stakeholders (employees, customers, investors etc) on key sustainability issues;
* any innovations or new ways of thinking that have solved problems and/or improved performance and sustainability.

(max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Additional Information**  Please provide any other information relevant to your application not included above. (max 100 words)  |
|    |

**Section 5 - The Circular Scotland Award**

The Circular Scotland Award recognises businesses that can demonstrate a strong commitment to implementing the principles of a circular economy. Ensuring materials are retained within productive use, in a high value state, for as long as possible. This could be either through adopting explicit circular models, such as sustainable design and closed material loops, for example, within their own business processes or via their contribution to wider systemic change, through partnerships or collaboration in high value materials reprocessing or through the development and implementation of enabling technologies or services.

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**  Please provide a clear, concise summary of the entry. Why does this organisation deserve to win the Circular Scotland Award?  (max 100 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Commitment*** In what ways does your organisation demonstrate a commitment to the circular economy?
* Does your business have clearly stated principles and policies regarding the circular economy?
* How are these principles integrated into your business activities and how are they communicated, both internally and externally?
* How is performance tracked and targets and ambitions reviewed and revised?

(max 100 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Innovation*** What actions have you taken to be more efficient in your use of resources and what steps have you taken to reduce waste and build circularity in your own operations?
* Explain how your actions helped other businesses reduce their environmental impacts and build circularity into their operations.
* Specify the materials that are either reused, remanufactured, recycled or composted either through a process or a product that you have adopted or developed.
* Detail how a partnership or collaboration has helped you realise your CE aspirations.

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Environmental Benefit*** Quantify the environmental benefit your business delivers, for example in terms of reductions in CO2 emissions, waste to landfill or use of raw materials?
* Are there other environmental benefits? Do your processes or products reduce impacts on the natural environment, or in any way enhance habitats. This could be in terms of reduced pressure on natural resources or improvements to ecosystems and biodiversity.

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Economic Benefit*** Quantify how your circular economy activities have financial benefits for your business?
* Do your products or services have financial benefits for other businesses, organisations or members of the public? Can you quantify these benefits?
* Do you have projections that show the potential for long term growth of your business?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Social Benefits*** Does your commitment to the circular economy provide motivation for your staff? Do you involve staff in day-to-day decision making and in developing the direction your business takes e.g. through a green team or CE champion?
* Does your business contribute to the local area in ways that will help deliver sustainable, resilient communities (For example through engaging with community or youth groups, business associations, charities etc)?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Engagement*** Do you have contact with stakeholders regarding the sharing of good practice (for example, with employees, suppliers, customers, local community, or NGOs)?
* Are there any examples of this type of contact, where two-way sharing is possible, including what has been learned or developed by either partner?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Additional Information**  Please provide any other information relevant to your application not included above. (max 100 words)  |
|    |

**Section 6 - The Just Transition Scotland Award**

A “just transition” is about delivering our social, economic and climate goals across all sectors of the economy, to build a better, more resilient, and more equal Scotland.

The Just Transition Scotland Award recognises businesses taking fair and inclusive action towards net zero.

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**Please provide a clear, concise summary of the entry. Why does your organisation deserve to win the Just Transition Scotland Award?  (max 100 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
|  **Engagement*** How are you involving customers, staff, supply chains or local communities to help to increase their resilience?
* Is your business taking action to support communities and the natural environment to adapt to climate change?
* Do you have a partnership agreement or project plan where roles are clearly identified and, if so, what is the added value from the partnership?
* Are you connected to wider social initiatives, and do you enable sustainable thinking?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Workforce Engagement and Training*** How are you involving and engaging your workforce in organisational plans to achieve a just transition?
* How are you supporting your workforce to upskill?
* Do you employ flexible working?
* Are there budgets allocated to this work?
* Have you created a green team? If yes, is there a cross-cutting representation of staff at all levels? Is there a specific budget allocated for these team/ actions?
* How do you communicate/engage inside and outside of your business?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Environmental Benefit**Please provide quantified evidence for all environmental benefits and specify the timescale over which these benefits have been achieved.The **environmental** benefits could include reduced CO2 emissions, more efficient use of resources, reduced emissions to air, land or water, enhanced natural resources or a combination of these. (max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Economic Benefit**Quantify the economic benefits related to your sustainability and net zero actions and specify the timescale over which these benefits have been achieved. The **economic** benefits could include cost savings, improved staff retention, new sales/profits and/or an enhanced competitive advantage due to your green credentials. (max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Social Benefits**What social benefits and other benefits have you achieved? The **social** benefits could include improved staff morale, motivation or retention, safeguarding or creating jobs, and skills development opportunities. Wider social benefits could also include your contribution towards the development of more resilient and sustainable local communities. (max 200 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Diversity and Inclusion*** Have you made a [Scottish Business pledge](https://scottishbusinesspledge.scot/)?
* Are you a [Fair Work First Employer?](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-work-first-guidance-2/)?
* Have you worked on your products or service’s accessibility?
* How does your business / organisation integrate climate justice?
* Have you had knowledge exchanges with the most affected people and areas (MAPA)?
* Are human rights considered in the supply chain?
* Did you consider how your product / service might benefit or impact equalities?
* Do you pay the real living wage?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Additional Information**  Please provide any other information relevant to your application not included above. (max 100 words)  |
|    |

**Section 7 - The Sustainable Transport Scotland Award**

The Sustainable Transport Scotland award recognises businesses who have set out clear objectives to engage with and adopt sustainable travel and transport measures and activities, both internally and externally, and can demonstrate ambitious and successful implementation.

We are interested in hearing from businesses whose environmental impacts have reduced significantly because of the introduction of active travel and sustainable transport activities.

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**Please provide a clear, concise summary of your entry. Why does your organisation deserve to win the Sustainable Transport Scotland Award?  (max 100 words)  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Policies*** What policies, strategies or management systems do you have in place that relate to the environment? Please distinguish between mandatory and voluntarily adopted ones.
* How do your policies or strategies relate to your own business transport and travel?
* Do you provide transport or travel services to other businesses or to the public, and how have your policies impacted on these services? How do you track, review and revise your targets?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Action*** What are the methods you employ to deliver sustainable transport or travel options?
* Do you have plans to further develop these?
* Have you significantly reduced the use of petrol/diesel fuels?
* Does this include staff travel as well as transport of goods?
* What future plans do you have, to adopt further sustainable travel and transport measures, including actions to overcome any barriers to achieving them?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Engagement*** Can you demonstrate engagements with employees, suppliers, customers, local community or sector-related NGOs, regarding the sharing of sustainable transport or travel options? Please provide examples of positive outcomes from this type of engagement – feedback from staff, etc.
* Are there any examples of lessons learned from those communications, or duplication of an effective two-way communication?
* Do you use business forums, support organisations or local groups to promote and disseminate information about sustainable transport or travel in your sector or community?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Environmental Benefit*** Provide quantified evidence for all environmental benefits achieved and specify the timescale over which these benefits have been reached. Benefits could include reduced CO2 emissions, the more efficient use of resources, reduced emissions to air, land or water, enhanced natural resources or a combination of these.
* A comparison with previous transport options would be valuable, as would projections for future developments, daily mileage, vehicle efficiencies, tracking, etc.

(max 200 words) |
|   |

|  |
| --- |
| **Economic Benefit*** Provide quantified evidence of the economic benefits related to your sustainable travel options and specify the timescale over which these have been achieved. Benefits could include cost savings, new sales/profits, and/or an enhanced competitive advantage due to your green credentials.
* Do you have projections that show the potential for long term growth of your sustainable transport/travel activities?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Social Benefits*** Does your commitment to delivering sustainable transport/travel provide motivation for your staff?
* Do you involve staff in day-to-day decision making and in developing the direction your business takes e.g. through a green team?

 * Do you provide driver training opportunities? Do you have transport champions?
* Do you add value through volunteer time e.g. litter picking or habitat enhancement?
* Can you demonstrate the wellbeing benefits your staff experience?
* Does your business contribute to the local area in ways that will help deliver sustainable, resilient communities? This could be connected with sustainable transport/travel, or through other activities. Examples of how transport initiatives can benefit the wider community can include, for example, putting in place ChargePoint infrastructure or car clubs/ vehicle hire.
* Can you identify ways in which the local community benefit from your commitment to sustainable transport/travel? For example, though improved air quality?

(max 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Additional Information**  Please provide any other information relevant to your application not included above. (max 100 words)  |
|    |

**Section 8 - The Energy Transition Scotland Award**

The Energy Transition Scotland Award recognises businesses and organisations who have set out clear objectives to engage with and adopt energy saving measures, installations, and activities internally and/or externally.

This award recognises businesses/organisations who have successfully reduced energy-related carbon emissions through transitioning from fossil fuel to renewable energy sources, decarbonising their energy use, reducing energy demand, developing partnerships with communities to deliver resilient, affordable, local energy systems and/or applying circular economy principles to decommissioning projects.

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**  Please provide a clear, concise summary of the entry. Why does your organisation deserve to win the Energy Transition Scotland Award?  (max 100 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Policies** * What policies do you have in place relating to Clean Energy?
* Do you have a Carbon Reduction Action Plan for your business?

(max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Management systems** * What management systems do you have in place relating to Clean Energy?
* Who is responsible for developing targets relating to energy and driving performance, and how is that performance being measured?
* Can this be tracked, reviewed, and revised?
* Please tell us about any innovations, or new ways of thinking, that have solved problems and/or improved performance in relation to energy.

(max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Engagement*** How you have engaged with others, internally and externally, in relation to your Clean Energy Transition? This could include examples of any communication or engagement on energy-related topics with staff and your supply chain, such as education, training, as well as examples of how you share best practices to a wider audience.
* Have you ensured that your supply chain has taken action to reduce energy use as well?

(max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Environmental Benefit** Provide quantified evidence for all environmental benefits related to your clean energy transition and specify the timescale over which these benefits have been achieved. The **environmental** benefits could include reduced CO2 emissions, the more efficient use of resources, reduced emissions to air, land or water, enhanced natural resources or a combination of these.  (max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Economic Benefit** Quantify the economic benefits related to your clean energy transition and specify the timescale over which these have been achieved. The **economic** benefits could include cost savings, new sales/profits, an enhanced competitive advantage due to your green credentials, advantageous contracts - such as energy supplier purchase agreements -, etc. (max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Social Benefits**  What social benefits, and other, wider social benefits, have you achieved through your clean energy transition? The **social** benefits could include a more comfortable work environment, improved staff morale, motivation, and retention, safeguarding or creating jobs, and green skills development opportunities. Other, wider social benefits could also include your contribution towards the development of more resilient and sustainable local communities, educational benefits – for example, the showcasing the use of renewables, inspiring site visitors and communities -, etc. (max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Additional Information**  Please provide any other information relevant to your application not included above. (max 100 words)  |
|    |

**Section 9 - The Nature Rich Scotland Award**

The Nature Rich Scotland Award recognises organisations who have taken action to improve nature and adopted nature-based solutions to tackle environmental and social challenges. We are looking for examples of organisations who have protected, restored, and enhanced nature, improved biodiversity and reduced carbon emissions, whilst delivering social and economic benefits.

Nature-based solutions use nature and natural functions to tackle some of the most challenging issues faced today, including both mitigating and adapting to climate change.

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**  Please provide a clear, concise summary of the entry. Why does your business/ organisation deserve to win the Nature Rich Scotland Award?  (max 100 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Commitment** * In what ways does your business/organisation demonstrate a commitment to protecting and enhancing nature, whilst delivering your business activities?
* Do you have clearly stated principles and policies regarding protecting and enhancing nature whilst delivering your activities?
* How are these principles integrated into your activities and how are they communicated, both internally and externally?
* How is performance tracked and ambitions revised?

*(max 200 words)*  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Innovation**Provide information on any new or novel ways of working that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously generate environmental, social and economic benefits, and help build resilience.*(max 200 words)*  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Engagement**Provide information on how you have engaged with others, internally and externally, in delivering your approach to protecting and enhancing nature.This could include examples of any communication or engagement on nature-related topics with your staff , supply chain, customers and communities and how you share best practices to a wider audience (for example, community education programmes or workplace training programmes).*(max 200 words)*  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Nature and Environmental Benefit**Provide information on any actions to improve nature and nature-based solutions you have applied in your business. Provide quantified evidence for all nature and environmental benefits related to your business activities and specify the timescale over which these benefits have been achieved. The **environmental** benefits could include:* reducing net emissions
* expanding carbon storage using nature based solutions
* providing, enhancing or expanding habitats for biodiversity
* air, soil and water environment improvements
* avoiding wildlife disturbance, e.g. at particular times of year.

*(max 200 words)*  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Economic Benefit**Quantify the economic benefits related to your actions to protect and enhance nature and specify the timescale over which the economic benefits have been achieved. The **economic** benefits could include cost savings, new sales/profits and/or an enhanced competitive advantage due to your green credentials. *(max 200 words)*  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Social benefits**  What social benefits and other wider benefits have you achieved? The **social** benefits could include improved staff morale, motivation, and retention, safeguarding or creating jobs, and skills development opportunities. Wider social benefits could also include your contribution towards the development of more resilient and sustainable local communities, e.g. flood protection, green space and human well-being benefits. Donating to wildlife charities, staff volunteering in conservation activities, etc. are also examples of wider social benefits. (max 200 words)  |
|    |

|  |
| --- |
| **Additional Information** Please provide any other information relevant to your application not included above.(max 100 words)  |
|    |

**Section 10 – Site Visit**

Three experienced judges, selected by the judging subgroup, will interview each of the entries who made it through as a **finalist**.

Applicants will have the opportunity to demonstrate first-hand what they've done to deserve recognition from VIBES. Judges will feedback their findings to the panel to inform decision on winners.

|  |
| --- |
| **Please provide two dates where you will be able to receive the judges for a site visit should you be selected as a finalist**  |
|    |

Thank you for your application.