Edinburgh businesses encouraged to get good vibes

Businesses in Edinburgh are invited to pick up ideas from environmental champions Soilutions Ltd at a special event to celebrate the launch of the 2015 Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards.

Held at Edinburgh Zoo, the event on Tuesday 19 May will provide businesses with the opportunity to hear directly from 2014 winner, Soilutions Ltd. which won the 2014 Circular Economy award. The Edinburgh based business specialises in the remediation of contaminated soils and waters and has already diverted over 10,000 tonnes of waste from landfill.

Now in its 16th year, VIBES is Scotland's leading environmental awards scheme and aims to encourage efficient use of resources, improvement of environmental performance, enhancement of business competitiveness and support for wider sustainable development. Open to businesses of all sizes and sectors, VIBES recognises and rewards organisations employing environmental best practice in their day-to-day activity.

The event is part of a series of free events to be held across the country and is designed to offer local businesses the opportunity to gain insight and experience from previous VIBES winners. As well as hearing from Soilutions Ltd., attendees will have the opportunity to find out more from the team at VIBES and hear from Edinburgh Zoo while networking with likeminded businesses.

Gillian Bruce, chair of VIBES Awards, said: "Each year we receive interest from businesses throughout Scotland, so it is fantastic to be able to host free events regionally where local organisations can hear directly from previous local winners and businesses. The events provide a great way for businesses to find out more information on the awards and the opportunities they present without feeling obliged to commit to anything."

VIBES 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 Scotland's 2020 Climate Group. The Awards are further supported by CBI Scotland, the Institute of Directors, the Federation of Small Businesses and Bright Green Business.

Applications for this year's awards will open on Thursday 7th of May 2015 and will close at 5pm on Monday 13 July.

The event will take place on Tuesday 19 May from 4-6pm at Edinburgh Zoo – 134 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 6TS.

For more information on VIBES, please visit <u>http://www.vibes.org.uk</u>. To attend the event, please register through Eventbrite <u>http://www.vibesawards.eventbrite.co.uk</u> or email: <u>vibes@sepa.org.uk</u>

Submitted by Lucy Nicolson

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