

# VIBES event in Edinburgh today

Applications for the Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards are now open and companies in Edinburgh are being encouraged to enter the search for Scotland's best green businesses. To help you decide whether or not to enter there is an event being held at Vegware today. Full details are below.



## 2015 VIBES Awards

Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, VIBES recognises and rewards businesses employing environmental best practice in their daily activity to cut down on resource use, increase sustainability, improve reputation, enhance competitiveness, support wider sustainable developments and benefit their overall bottom-line. Businesses from throughout Scotland have until Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June to complete their submission for the awards which are free to enter.

To date VIBES awards have been presented to over 100 companies from a variety of sectors and sizes illustrating the diversity of businesses that are contributing to Scotland's sustainable development. This year organisers are looking forward to seeing the fantastic work being carried out across the country and are urging businesses to enter.

There are eight award categories; Management Large, Management SME, Green Team, Transport, Circular Economy, Environmental Product or Service and a special Hydro Nation charity award in collaboration with WaterAid. This year will also see the addition of a new theme category for the first time which will reward innovation in celebration of Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design.

A Micro Business Award will also be presented to the best entry to any category from a company with less than 10 employees.

At last year's awards nine businesses won a coveted green title, including City Car Club from Edinburgh, Borders based Emtelle UK, Bridge Biotechnology, Lobster Pod and Better World Books from Fife, Aberdeen Heat and Power, CMS Window Systems from Cumbernauld, Renfrewshire based Taylor Wimpy and Edinburgh based C&D Associates (joint award). Clyde Shopping Centre and Tinto Toners based in North Lanarkshire also received commendations.

Over the years Edinburgh has achieved great success in the awards with previous winners including; Vegware Ltd, Rezidor Radisson, Macsween, Rabbits Tours and Lothian Buses.

Gillian Bruce, chair of the VIBES Awards, said: "The VIBES Awards offer a fantastic platform for businesses to showcase and gain recognition for the hard work they are doing to make Scotland more environmentally aware.

"Every year we are impressed with some of the ideas that Scotland's businesses come up with and we're looking forward to introducing our special innovation award to help recognise the creative approach many companies are taking to tackle environmental and indeed business issues. We'd encourage businesses in Edinburgh to enter for their chance to join the country's growing list of sustainable VIBES champions."

VIBES is also offering businesses the opportunity to hear from former winners at a series of free events across the country. The events will provide businesses with more information on the awards as well as offering an opportunity to pick up helpful tips from previous sustainable champions. The first of these events is held today (Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April) at Vegware, Edinburgh, winner of the 2010 and 2013 VIBES Awards.

Award sponsors to date include Scottish Government, ScottishPower, Chivas Brothers Pernod Ricard, Anglian Water and Scottish Centre for Sustainable Practice and Living. The University of Stirling Management School is a venue sponsor.

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, Bright Green Business and Quality Scotland.

For more information on VIBES or to obtain an application form, please visit [www.vibes.org.uk](http://www.vibes.org.uk). To request your attendance at one of the events, please register through Eventbrite [www.vibesawards.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.vibesawards.eventbrite.co.uk) or email: [vibes@sepa.org.uk](mailto:vibes@sepa.org.uk)

Twitter: [@VIBES\\_Awards](https://twitter.com/VIBES_Awards)

- **Edinburgh – Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 from 4-6pm.** Host: Vegware – Canalside East, 46-50 Polwarth Crescent, Edinburgh, EH11 1HL. Speakers: Vegware (VIBES 2010 and 2013 Winner) and City Car Club (VIBES 2015 Winner) and Green Network