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Record year of award entries sees NZ Post take top sustainability award

NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards 2017 is a year of record award entries with one of New Zealand's oldest state-owned companies taking out the top award.

Rachel Brown, CEO Sustainable Business Network (SBN), says she is delighted to see NZ Post take out the supreme award. "The company is going through a period of disruption in its business model, with people sending less mail and more parcels. NZ Post has chosen to use sustainability as a driver for change and this is paying dividends.

"NZ Post has led the way in sustainability for some time now. It produced New Zealand's first integrated report in 2013 using an international framework and it has reported every year since. It uses electric vehicles, called Paxters, to deliver mail and parcels. And it is partnering with NZ Red Cross to help build resilient communities. These are just a few examples."

"Using NZ Post services has now become the first choice for businesses that are sustainability minded."

The high level of entries to the Awards reflects the growth in sustainability initiatives across New Zealand businesses at a time when sustainability is shifting to the mainstream of business and policy.

The latest research by Colmar Brunton says 83 per cent of Kiwis would stop buying a company's products if they heard about them being irresponsible or unethical and 73% want to work in companies that are sustainable.

Brown says "over the years we have seen a move from efficient resource management into real system shifts, responding to critical themes like restoring nature, renewable transport and good food, and reflecting the growth of new areas like the circular economy.

“The finalists this year include small businesses, corporates and not for profits. This shows that all types of organisations can make a success out of sustainability.

NZ Post’s unique partnership with NZ Red Cross supports its disaster management programme to build more sustainable communities. These initiatives include emergency response, disaster relief for New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region.

When disaster strikes and the NZ Red Cross responds, NZ Post makes available support including logistics, postal, banking services and volunteer mobilisation.

The Awards judges said this is an impressive, world leading partnership in duration and scale. It is supporting emergency management at the full cost of NZ Post. It is a significant, well-resourced and comprehensive approach to increasing resilience of vulnerable communities experiencing adversity.

The partnership provides a dedicated NZ Post/Kiwibank account for Red Cross appeals accessible through an extensive network of retail stores. This gives New Zealanders an immediately accessible and established channel to make donations within 24 hours of Red Cross launching an appeal.

In the past year, \$65,000 was raised in this way to help those affected by the Kaikoura Earthquake and \$7,000 for the Bay of Plenty floods. Since 2011 more than \$630,000 has been donated, with 100% going to support those affected.

As part of the partnership, NZ Post supports Red Cross's five Disaster Welfare and Support Trucks located around the country. This support means they can be deployed quickly in response to a disaster. These trucks can unpack to become a welfare support reception, providing shelter and food for up to 150 people. In the last year the trucks assisted over 1,300 people affected by disaster in NZ.

Donna Williams, General Manager Customer Experience and Marketing for NZI, principal partner of the Sustainable Business Network says, “Being a sustainable business is a lot more than having green initiatives. It’s about creating a business model that is resilient and endures the test of time. It means taking responsibility for the people it employs and the communities and environment it operates in. This year’s supreme winner does just that, so we’re thrilled they’re being recognised for their efforts.”

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Notes for editors:

NZI Sustainable Business Network Award winners for 2017 are listed below.

Sustainability Superstar

Sponsored by Westpac

Winner: Bob Burnett, Bob Burnett Architecture

Commendation: Dee and Steve West, ChargeNet NZ

Communicating for Change

Sponsored by Cadence Communications

Winner: WasteMINZ

Commendation: Sustainable Winegrowing NZ and The New Zealand Sustainability Dashboard

Going Circular

Sponsored by Auckland Council

Winner: Wishbone Design Studio

Commendations:

- EcoStock Supplies Ltd
 - Ethique
-

Efficiency Champion

Sponsored by Ricoh

Winner: Christchurch International Airport Limited

Commendation: Foodstuffs NZ Ltd

Restoring Nature

Sponsored by Department of Conservation

Winner: Zealandia

Commendation: Auckland Whale & Dolphin Safari

Transforming Food

Sponsored by Yealands Family Wines

Winner: Common Unity Project Aotearoa

Commendations:

- Otago Locusts Limited
 - Pakaraka Permaculture
-

Hardwired for Social Good

Winner: Bayfair Shopping Centre

Commendation: Little Yellow Bird

Partnering for Good

Winners:

- Auckland Whale & Dolphin Safari
 - New Zealand Post & New Zealand Red Cross
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Revolutionising Energy

Sponsored by EECA Business

Winner: Vector

Commendations:

- Bayfair Shopping Centre
- Reid Technology Ltd

Smarter Transport

Sponsored by Opus International Consultants

Winner: Flip the Fleet

Commendations:

- Ecotricity
- New Zealand Post

NZI Greatest Contribution to a Sustainable New Zealand

Winner: New Zealand Post

Commendations:

- Wishbone Design Studio
- Common Unity Project Aotearoa

About the Sustainable Business Network

The Sustainable Business Network is New Zealand's largest and longest-standing organisation dedicated to sustainable business. It includes hundreds of businesses that connect through events, resources and projects to help New Zealand become a more sustainable nation.

Our independent network is open to all organisations actively working to improve their sustainability performance.

www.sustainable.org.nz

For the latest news on sustainable business, sign up to our [newsletter](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About the NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards

The NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards, which have been running for 15 years, are the pre-eminent and longest-standing sustainability awards in New Zealand. The Awards recognise and celebrate success in sustainability. They are free to enter and open to anyone in New Zealand. The winners of the 2017 Awards will be announced on 30 November.

www.sustainable.org.nz/awards/

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