

NEWS RELEASE
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Who is Bay of Plenty's most sustainable business?

The hunt for Bay of Plenty's most sustainable business has moved one step closer now this year's finalists have been selected.

Entries for the Sustainable Business Network Bay of Plenty Regional Awards, which closed on 11 July, were received from businesses of all sizes operating in diverse industries across the region.

Jo Wills, Regional Manager of the Bay of Plenty Sustainable Business Network, says the awards celebrate those companies that are making outstanding progress towards sustainability.

"The calibre of entries is extremely high this year as more and more local businesses are realising the benefits of adopting a sustainable approach.

"An emerging trend is the extent of sustainable activity our members are engaging in at both a strategic and operational level", says Jo Wills.

To enter the awards, businesses participated in the Sustainable Business Network's "Get Sustainable Challenge" or entered the Sustainable Design and Innovation Award.

The categories for the Bay of Plenty regional awards are:

- Sustainable Business of the Year (Principal Sponsor: Environment Bay of Plenty)
- Large Business, Trailblazer (Sponsor: Rotorua District Council)
- Large Business, Emerging (Sponsor: OfficeMax)
- Small Business, Trailblazer (Sponsor: Tauranga City Council)
- Small Business, Emerging (Sponsor: Ricoh)
- Sustainable Design & Innovation Award (Joint Sponsors: Locus Research and Scion)
- Productivity Award (Sponsor: New Zealand Trade and Enterprise)
- Non-Profit Award (Sponsor: Western Bay of Plenty District Council)
- Support Sponsor: Bank of New Zealand.

Jaysen Magan from Aotearoa Breweries, winner of last year's Bay of Plenty Small Business Emerging Award, says entering helped the brewery document their existing sustainability achievements and highlighted areas for improvement.

"We're on a path to be a truly sustainable business, so taking the challenge in 2007 helped us identify what we were doing well and where we needed to focus our future efforts.

“Being sustainable is ingrained into the way Aotearoa Breweries operates and taking the challenge again this year was a no-brainer – it’s allowed us to leverage the knowledge from within the Sustainable Business Network to improve our bottom-line, which is critical”, says Jaysen Magan.

John Cronin, Chairman of Environment Bay of Plenty and principal sponsor of the awards, says the council proactively looks for opportunities to spread the sustainability message.

“We are once again proud to be the principal sponsor of the Sustainable Business Network Bay of Plenty Regional Awards and congratulate those businesses who are taking a holistic approach to improving their performance.”

The awards are a black tie event to be held on Thursday, 4 September at the Distinction Hotel, Rotorua.

Winners of the regional awards automatically progress to the nationwide NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards to be announced in Auckland on 9 October.

Tickets are limited. To reserve a seat please email Andrea at andrea@sustainable.co.nz before 22 August. Tickets cost \$125 per person or \$1150 for a table of ten.

Ends

Notes to editors

High-resolution digital photographs of the finalists and award winners will be made available.

About the Sustainable Business Network

Nationally, the Sustainable Business Network represents more than 550 businesses from SMEs, consultants, research and academic staff, through to large businesses and corporations. The Network promotes sustainable business practice through networking, practical advice and support, research and policy. It focuses on leading, promoting and facilitating practices and procedures that enhance economic prosperity, environmental quality, social equity and business ethics.

www.sustainable.org.nz

www.getsustainable.org.nz

www.ebop.govt.nz

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