

**Sustainable
Business
Awards**

ENTRY GUIDE.

sustainable.org.nz/awards

**20
21**



**Sustainable
Business
Network**



Enter the awards and celebrate sustainability

What are the Awards?

Running for 19 years, these are New Zealand's pre-eminent and longest-standing sustainability awards. They celebrate the contributions that businesses and individuals make to transforming New Zealand. And it's not just the big guns that win the awards: individuals, small businesses and not-for-profits also succeed across our wide category range.

The Sustainable Business Awards are a great way to celebrate your progress. The awards are open to anyone in New Zealand - individuals, organisations and businesses.

Reasons to enter

- Award winners and finalists get public recognition (lots of pats on the back!).
- Widespread media coverage of Awards winners.
- Success in the Awards can lead to valuable connections and collaborations.
- Entering is a great way to take stock of your sustainability progress – it captures a moment in time for your business, giving clarity to find new and improved direction.
- The Awards are open to anyone, at any stage of their sustainability journey – from those just starting out, to sustainability gurus.
- Finalists can choose to receive feedback from judges.
- Entering helps you celebrate your achievements.
- Entry is free and open to everyone...
 - what's not to like about that?





Entry process

1. What suits you?

Before you enter, decide which category suits you best. If you have trouble finding a fit, check out our category descriptions – or we can help you decide.

2. Get writing

Write up your entry on a downloadable form.

3. Back it up

Yes we want you to keep a copy of your entry, but we also expect you to back up your story with the reality of facts and figures. Include pictures and entertain us with video if it's your thing, all the while focusing on how you contribute to creating a sustainable New Zealand.

4. Send

Email your entry to awards@sustainable.org.nz by 5pm, 21 June 2021.

5. Judging

SBN staff compile all the entries, then hand them to our amazing independent judges. Our judges are experts in sustainability and business. They delight in inspirational stories of New Zealanders making a difference and know how to select those who shine a little more than others. If you're one of these you'll be selected as a finalist.

6. A finalist?

If you are selected as a finalist – congratulations! We'll ask you to elaborate on your sustainability story with a Stage Two form. We'll guide you through this.

7. Celebrate!

Well done! Whether you're announced as a finalist or not, you are making a difference. Book a ticket to our online Awards event and celebrate with others making New Zealand a more sustainable nation.

HANDY TIP:

Make sure that you save the PDF entry form to your computer and open the saved PDF using a PDF reader software. Adobe Acrobat Reader DC is free to download, and best practice software for reading and using PDF forms. [It is downloadable here.](#)

Some computers will open a PDF in an internet browser window by default, and this will NOT save your entry information!

Supreme Award

All category winners are considered for our biggest award...

the **Transforming New Zealand** award, presented to the best of the best.

Psssst!

Before entering the awards, sit down with a cuppa to work through these categories. Most people feel at home with one or two of the categories, but if you can't decide we can help...

Going Circular



This award is sponsored by Auckland Council

Traditional businesses are predominantly based on a linear 'take-make-waste' model. But as pressure on resources grows we need to shift to a more circular economy. This is where the lifecycle of materials is maximised, usage optimised, and at the end of life all materials are reused - keeping resource and material in useful 'loops'.

Opportunities for circular economy innovation abound at every stage in a business. Going circular means designing your products or services to help create a low carbon circular economy in New Zealand.

This award will be presented to an organisation that is making demonstrable progress towards going circular.

Enter if your organisation is using circular economy principles to go circular. This could include innovative product, material or service design, product life extension (e.g. by repair, remanufacturing or reuse), product stewardship, dematerialisation, 'product as a service', the 'sharing economy', or creating value from waste.





Sustainability Superstar



This award is sponsored by NZI

Individuals can make a big difference to sustainability within organisations – whether they're at the highest level or on 'the shop floor'. They inspire buy-in at all levels of the business with creative engagement, and walk the sustainability talk. We're looking for a sustainability champion who has brought about change and inspired others.

This award will be presented to a person who has gone above and beyond to bring about sustainability change in Aotearoa, progressing social and/or environmental action, either within their organisation or in the wider community.

Enter if you (or someone you know) is passionate about making change, is an inspiration to others, and has personally made an important difference to sustainability in New Zealand.

Change Maker



**Environmental
Protection Authority**
Te Mana Rauhi Taiao

This award is sponsored by Environmental Protection Agency

Young people can make a big difference to sustainability within the organisations they work for, and in the wider community. They will be critical for ensuring New Zealand is a hub full of businesses that do well and do good - for the benefit of our environment, business and people.

This award will be presented to a young person (aged 30 or under) who has gone above and beyond to drive sustainability change in Aotearoa, progressing social and/or environmental action, either within their organisation or in the wider community.

Enter if you (or someone you know) is passionate about making change, is an inspiration to others, and has personally made an important difference to sustainability through their work.

Note the date
to email us your completed
entry forms: **by 5pm, 21 June**

Social Impactor



This award is sponsored by MAS

Good businesses operate with a conscience, making sure people involved in or affected by their activities are better off than they would be otherwise. They bring about positive outcomes for the environment and economy. They create change for good for the people and planet around them.

This may be through products or services, in-house wellbeing policies, supply chains, procurement, location, investment or through business models. The people impacted could include employees, local communities and the wider population.

This award will be presented to an organisation that is deliberately and consistently improving people's lives through its day to day business practices. Social good is integrated throughout the whole organisation.

Enter if you are creating positive social impacts through all your operations.

Outstanding Collaboration



This award is sponsored by Toitū Envirocare

The best organisations look far beyond their own walls. They create and foster connections that generate positive impacts on people's lives – on health, nutrition, housing, employment, community and more. These connections draw on the strengths and unique advantages of those involved to deliver impact which could not have been achieved alone.

Collaborations might be between businesses, social enterprises, community organisations, not for profits or local/national government.

This award will be presented to organisations that have collaborated for good with outstanding results.

Enter if you are collaborating with other organisations to solve an issue for Aotearoa.

Choose
to enter one or
more categories that
suit your organisation





Good Food



This award is sponsored by New World

Good Food is safe, healthy, nutritious, affordable and produced in a sustainable way. It contributes to local economies, reduces waste and inefficiencies, and protects water, soil and biodiversity. It is transparent about where it comes from and how it is produced. It also enhances cultural food practices and seeks to ensure that everyone has access to good food.

Technology and innovation are helping us to improve our food system for a better New Zealand. And businesses have a vital role to play, through the way food is produced, made, distributed and sold.

This award will be presented to an organisation that is transforming the food system to create a positive impact on people and/or the environment.

Enter if you are working on solutions to issues in the food system such as reducing food waste, improving food literacy, helping your community have access to healthy food through regenerative agriculture or organics, new distribution models, packaging, whole systems thinking, or through work on resilient and equitable systems.

Restoring Nature



This award is sponsored by Department of Conservation

Our nature is the foundation of New Zealand's economic, cultural and social success, but it is under pressure. In many cases it is being degraded or even lost. This category celebrates businesses that put the restoration of nature at the heart of their sustainability journey.

This award will be presented to a business, or a business in collaboration with other organisations/individuals, taking a leadership role in restoring New Zealand's nature.

Enter if you are a business that goes above and beyond to restore nature and regard it as integral to operating sustainably. Restoration may include a focus on freshwater, wetlands, habitats, native species or the marine environment. It may be achieved directly by the business and/or through its customers and staff, supply chain, or in partnership with others.

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Climate Action Leader



This award is sponsored by EECA

Addressing the challenge of climate change must be a priority for businesses. How they respond will determine whether we succeed in meeting our 'net zero carbon' goal for Aotearoa, especially in making significant emissions reductions in the next 'decade of action', starting now.

Businesses at the forefront of this response are embedding climate action across their operations. They are reducing their operational emissions. They are influencing their staff, suppliers and customers to have a much broader and deeper impact on emissions reduction. They are preparing for the effects of climate change. They inspire others to follow.

This award will be presented to an organisation actively leading and delivering impact and scale with their climate action. **Your focus is on reducing your own carbon footprint (including your supply chain).**

Enter if your business is taking strong and urgent action to reduce its climate change impacts, and being a climate leader.

Climate Action Innovator



This award is sponsored by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

Climate change is generating a myriad of new risks and opportunities. New products, services and business models are needed which help us move quickly to a 'net zero carbon' Aotearoa. Businesses providing these innovations are going a step further than simply reducing their emissions. They are moving towards a net zero impact, and some even becoming 'climate positive'.

This award will be presented to an organisation demonstrating innovation in climate action. **Your focus is on your product or service, to help others reduce their carbon footprint.**

Enter if your business has developed an innovative product, service or business model which is driving (or has the potential to drive) us quickly towards a 'net zero carbon' Aotearoa. Your organisation is addressing a significant emissions challenge area for Aotearoa, or offering innovation in carbon sequestration.

Choose
to enter one or
more categories that
suit your organisation





Tech for Good

In today's hyper-connected world, we use the power of technology in myriad ways, both simple and remarkable. Technology for good uses that power for the betterment of our people and planet.

Technology for good provides solutions to an issue or a need. It transforms the status quo. It can give agency to people and help them make more informed decisions. It can connect people and allow them to participate.

It could address health or care needs, or it might save energy or money. At the same time it retains people's privacy, ensures data security for businesses and users and improves accessibility through open technologies.

This award will be presented to a technological initiative designed for social or environmental change.

Enter if you are using technology for good in your business, or your business is technology for good.

Communicating for Impact

kind&co

This award is sponsored by Kind & Co

People want to know about the good businesses are doing. They want easily-accessible information to help them make purchasing choices that will have a positive impact on people and nature. Sustainability is more than making sure you have your own house in order. It's also about effectively communicating what you do, to the right people, through the right channels, to inspire people to make a difference.

This award will be presented to an organisation that is communicating sustainability through effective use of communication channels and audiences to make a tangible impact.

Enter if your organisation has run a successful and innovative communications campaign on a sustainability topic that has resulted in a measurable impact.

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Niggly questions?

Is my business too big or too small?

Any size organisation, as well as individuals, can enter the Awards. The judges will take the size of the organisation into account when considering the applications.

Can collaborations and partnerships enter?

Yes, the more the merrier! Sometimes collaborations take us to new and exciting places, so please tell us about them.

Can I enter if I have won before?

Yes!

Should I enter if I wasn't previously selected as a finalist?

Of course! We want to hear about your progress.

Do I have to be an SBN member to enter?

No! anyone can enter.

Can overseas projects enter?

Yes, you can enter overseas projects - but only if the technology and ideas were generated here in good old NZ.

Is it cheeky to nominate myself?

No! New Zealanders generally don't celebrate their own achievements and we want to change that. You can nominate yourself, someone can nominate you, or you can nominate someone else... However, you do need permission from the organisation involved if entering for them (with the exception of the Sustainability Superstar category).

Can I enter more than one category?

Yes, you can enter as many categories as you like, but get ready to spend a little more time - you need to fill in a separate entry form for every category you enter and provide details specific to that category.

Who gets to see my entry? Is it confidential?

Entries are compiled by the Awards Team at SBN and sent straight to our Judges. Your entry form is confidential, but if you are chosen as a Finalist, we'll want to tell everyone about the great work you're doing so make sure your initiative/project/business can be talked about!

Something else?

Contact us at awards@sustainable.org.nz and we'd be happy to help

On behalf of Sustainable Business Network,
our Awards sponsors and partners:

**Good luck
with your
Awards entry!**

sustainable.org.nz/awards

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