

Giant Green

Business Awards 2009

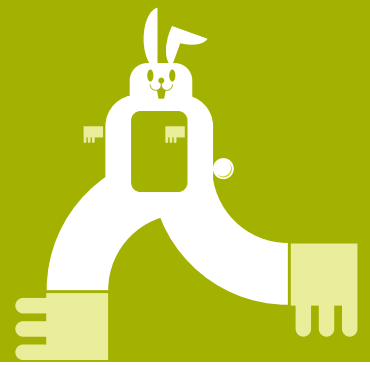
Guidance Notes



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Organisations that encourage sustainability and embed environmental values throughout their business deserve to be recognised. Islington Council's Giant Green Business Awards do just that, by honouring those organisations which have demonstrated their commitment to improving the environmental sustainability of their business and in turn the borough as a whole.

This information is designed to help you complete your application for the Giant Green Business Awards. Applications will only be accepted with a completed application form. Please feel free to attach any supplementary evidence such as reports, photos or press cuttings.

Background information

Please provide contact details and background information on your organisation. Information on the size of your business is requested in order to allow a fair comparison to be made. There will be two awards for each category: one for small businesses (up to 50 employees) and one for medium to large sized businesses (50+ employees). The awards are open to businesses, charities, community groups, social enterprises and schools.

Eligibility

These awards are only open to organisations operating from or based in the London Borough of Islington and only achievements from the last 12 months will be recognised.

Category

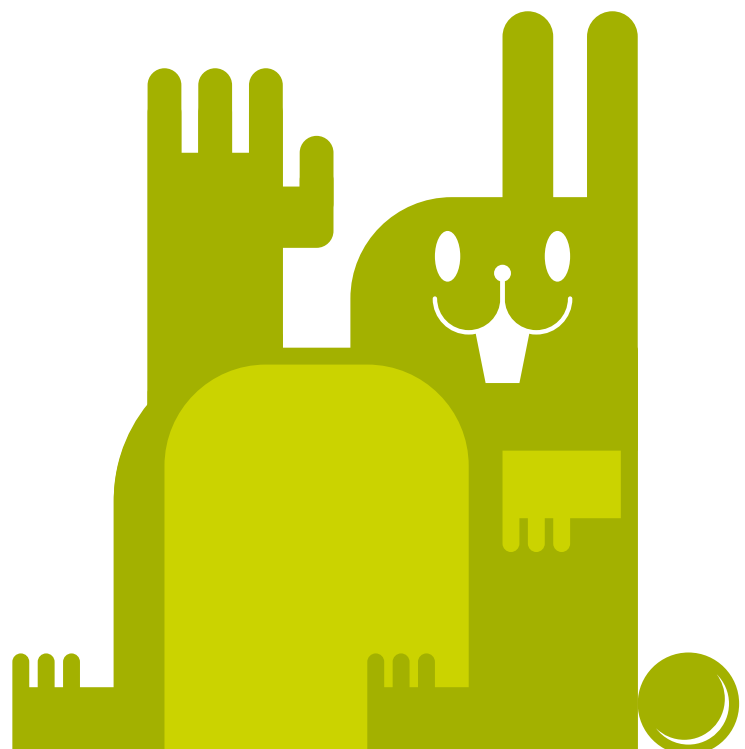
There are six categories and you may enter your organisation in as many as you like.

The categories are:

1. Sustainable Transport
2. Waste Minimisation
3. CO2 Reduction
4. Green Champion
5. Innovation
6. Natural Islington

From the winners of these six categories the judges will select an overall Giant Green Small Business winner and Giant Green Medium/Large Business winner.

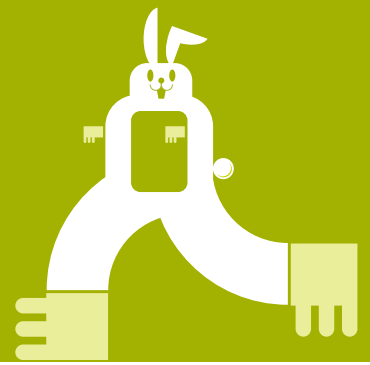
In addition there is a People's Choice award, voted for by the public. Nominees for the People's Choice award are the winners from last year's awards.



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1. Sustainable Transport

This award recognises innovative schemes which encourage people to make more use of sustainable forms of travel, freight and logistics, or which reduce the impact of traffic and transport on the environment.

Category guidance:

- How have you supported staff and/or visitors to travel in a more sustainable way?
- If you have an active travel plan relating to the movement of staff and goods, has it resulted in the use of more sustainable means of transport? (You might consider including figures on mileage to and from work/mileage for work and the amount of miles now travelled more sustainably due to the travel plan)
- How have you improved your fleet's environmental performance?
- How have you achieved any reductions in freight/deliveries?

2. Waste Minimisation

This award recognises those organisations that have reduced the quantity of waste they produce and increased the amount they recycle.

Category guidance:

- Describe any initiatives to reduce waste and increase recycling and explain how successful they have been.
- Provide details of any initiatives where staff awareness and involvement have played a key role in the success of your waste minimisation and increase in recycling.
- How has the company benefited from sustainable waste management?
- If possible, include any figures on total waste produced and total waste recycled. Where possible, show how this has improved since last year.
- If you have any information on products reused (e.g. second hand) or products purchased that are made from recycled materials, please include this as well.

3. CO2 Reduction

This award recognises organisations that are taking steps to reduce their CO2 emissions, or adapt their operations to take into account the effect climate change will have on their business.

Category guidance:

- How is CO2 and energy reduction embedded in the policies, plans and structures of the organisation?
- How do you monitor energy and CO2 reduction in the organisation? Include facts and figures that show how you have reduced your energy usage and/or promoted energy efficiency.
- Some of the effects of climate change are now inevitable (e.g. extreme weather). If your initiative relates to taking these effects into account, describe how you have changed your operations, including supporting data if possible.
- To what extent have staff, customers or service users been involved in devising or implementing the initiative?

4. Green Champion

This award recognises those individuals within an organisation who are striving to improve the environmental sustainability of their business.

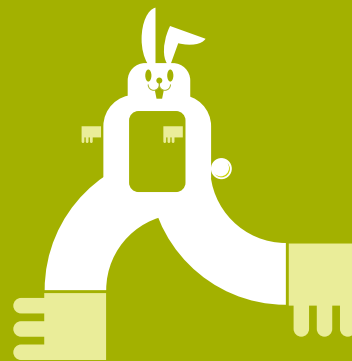
Category guidance:

- Explain how the Green Champion has promoted environmental responsibility and awareness within your organisation and how they have inspired colleagues and management.
- What innovative approaches has the Green Champion used to highlight and further the cause of the environment across your organisation?
- Describe any barriers to change that the Green Champion may have had to overcome.
- How has the Green Champion ensured that good practice is embedded within your organisation?

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5. Innovation

This category rewards innovative environmental management practices. Examples could include staff reward schemes, inventions, technology or anything creative that your organisation has introduced to improve environmental performance.

Category guidance:

- Provide details of how the innovation will improve/has improved the environmental performance of your organisation e.g. by reducing CO2 emissions, water, waste, journeys, sustainable purchasing, etc.
- How have you (or how do you intend to) share your ideas with other organisations.
- Explain how the innovation has improved practices or solved an existing problem.

6. Natural Islington

This category recognises initiatives that improve Islington's biodiversity and/or green infrastructure. This could include helping tackle climate change through absorbing carbon dioxide and tempering the urban heat island effect e.g. through green roofs or walls and roof gardens, food growing projects, reducing urban flooding e.g. through increased planting/grass/Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), protecting wildlife and promoting biodiversity e.g. through increasing 'green corridors' through the borough to help wildlife move around.

Category guidance:

- Describe any initiatives/improvements made to green Islington, such as those mentioned above.
- How has your organisation and/or Islington as a whole benefited from these improvements?

The deadline for entries is 31 August 2009.

Giant Green Business Awards Sponsors

We would like to acknowledge the support of our Gold Sponsor, **Enterprise** and our Silver Sponsors, **Ringway**, **Prevista** and the **Islington Climate Change Partnership**. Many thanks to them for helping us raise awareness of climate change and what we can all do together to tackle its impact.

If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please contact 020 7527 2000.

All completed entries should be sent by post to the address below or emailed to e: giantgreenbusinessawards@islington.gov.uk

**Giant Green Business Awards
Environmental Sustainability**

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