



Scottish Council for
Development and Industry

PRESS RELEASE

FIRST SKYE SOCIAL FIRM ACHIEVES SUSTAINED SUCCESS

18 September 2009

A Skye business's success in creating a growing market for recycled wood furniture and leading a sustainable future for the island has been recognised with a prestigious prize.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability was last night presented to Touchwood Recycling based in Uig. Skye's first social enterprise, established in 2002, it recycles wood which would otherwise be landfilled into useful items for homes and gardens and creates quality furniture from various recycled woods like whisky barrel oak. Waste wood is also used to create fuel, mulch and compost.

The company has expanded into the recycling of fallen trees, with 150 tons achieved in the first year and double planned for 2009. Other plans include furniture pick up and restoration for resale or to pass on to social organisations. Touchwood Recycling employs a significant number of people who have disabilities or health problems, or who are long term unemployed.

The presentation was made by HSBC's Chief Executive Officer for Scotland, John Rendall, at the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's 10th Highlands and Islands Annual Dinner and Business Excellence Awards, which attracted 350 guests from around the region.

John Jones, Managing Director, Touchwood Recycling, said:

"We are always trying to achieve realistic targets, we know that we must develop and expand procedures. With careful but deliberate long-term strategies expansion and growth has been achieved."

Calum Macdonald, SEPA's Director of Environmental and Organisational Strategy, said:

"The SCDI Highlands and Islands awards offer an ideal opportunity for SEPA to engage with business and history in this region. The event is always a huge success, and the SEPA Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability has been presented to a great initiative, which not only generates sustainable economy for the area, but also creates employment opportunities in the region. As a second generation sgiannach, I am also delighted to see the award go to a company from Skye."



Scottish Council for
Development and Industry

PRESS RELEASE

The full winners list of winners was:

- Caledonian MacBrayne Award for Excellence in Tourism - Grenitote Travel, North Uist
- Crown Estate Award for Excellence in a Marine Business - The Underwater Centre, Fort William
- Global Energy Award for Excellence in People Development - Alcan Aluminium UK, Fort William
- Gordon & MacPhail Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship - Freda Newton, Owner and Managing Director, Jacobite Cruises, Inverness
- HSBC Award for Excellence in International Business - Lossie Seafoods, Buckie
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise Award for Excellence in Research and Innovation – Blueshell Mussels, Shetland
- SEPA Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability - Touchwood Recycling, Uig, Skye
- SCDI Award for Highlands and Islands Young Engineers Club of the Year – Tarbert Academy, Argyll
- SCDI Highlands and Islands Chairman’s Award for Outstanding Business Achievement – Marine Harvest, Fort William

This year’s event was the 10th SCDI Highlands and Islands Annual Dinner and Business Excellence Awards and it was held at The Drumossie Hotel in Inverness. The evening was hosted by Fred MacAulay and after dinner entertainment was provided by Sandi Toksvig.

ENDS