



29th April 2010

Media Release: Sustainable Business Network

BOP NZTE Productivity Award initiative expands into the Waikato

For immediate Release

A unique productivity assessment is providing Bay of Plenty and Waikato businesses with the opportunity to benchmark themselves and compete for an NZTE Productivity Award in each region.

The NZTE Productivity Award is part of the Waikato and the Bay of Plenty Sustainable Business Network Awards, which are held in September.

The Award targets business practices such as lean manufacturing or other systems that allow them to increase their output while reducing resource use, waste or time.

Jo Wills, Regional Manager of the Sustainable Business Network Bay of Plenty/Waikato, says, "We are really pleased to introduce the productivity assessment, which we developed in conjunction with NZTE, to the Waikato. The assessment garnered very positive feedback when it was launched in the BOP last year, helping to bridge the gap between sustainable practice and mainstream business."

SBN runs regional awards around the country, as well as the NZI National Sustainable Business Network Awards. However, the NZTE Productivity Award is exclusive to Bay of Plenty and Waikato businesses.

Trevelyan's Pack and Cool won the 2009 NZTE Productivity Award in the BOP.

"This is a way in which we can offer increased value to businesses located within these two regions where significant industry is situated. Highlighting the business case for sustainability through the principles of long term productivity is a key way that we believe we can assist business to be the driver for change in NZ," says Wills.

The award will take into consideration the strategic approach businesses have taken to productivity, as well as the influence they have had with stakeholders, including staff, suppliers and customers.

Lionel Crawley, NZTE's Regional Manager Bay of Plenty, says, "Productivity is of vital importance both for business success and to lift economic growth in our region. There is also a clear link between productivity and sustainability as both require a focus on reducing waste, so we are keen to see as many businesses as possible complete the assessment and enter the Award."

The Awards are free to enter for businesses in the Bay of Plenty and the Waikato. Businesses can contact Jo at jo@sustainable.org.nz to register for the award and receive the self - assessment.

Ends

About the Awards

The BOP Sustainable Business Network Awards present a unique opportunity for entrants to be recognised for innovation and leadership across any business type or industry.



An entry form will be available for businesses from 1st May 2010 and the award is open to any business in the Bay of Plenty and Waikato. The productivity assessment, which encompasses aspects of general sustainable business practice as well as a more targeted focus on productivity, is completed by businesses. It will be considered as a separate entry to the main Awards categories.

Judging will take place in August and finalists will be announced as part of the Waikato and Bay of Plenty SBN Awards communications. The award will be presented at the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Sustainable Business Network Awards held on 7th and 30th September 2010, respectively.

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About Sustainable Business Network

The SBN is a business network of 700-plus members, with regional offices in Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, Wellington and Nelson.

Sustainable businesses are cost-efficient and productive, attract and retain loyal customers, and offer a great place to work. We provide advice and support to help business succeed through becoming more sustainable. We support our members year-round with networking opportunities, practical tools, training and sustainability assessments. www.sustainable.org.nz

About New Zealand Trade and Enterprise

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) is the Government's national economic development agency. Our job is to lift New Zealand's economic performance by helping more New Zealand businesses to grow and compete internationally. Our services are tailored to business needs and include programmes to build international contacts, improve performance and provide access to capital and investment. We are a global organisation and our overseas networks provide the international connections businesses need to grow internationally and to attract investment into New Zealand. In 2008 we were judged 'best of the best' at the World Trade Promotion Organisation Awards.

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