



ENTRY CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES

23. RUSHLIGHT CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Award

Awarded to the most significant technological development or innovation that prevents, reduces or treats pollution or noise or other such contamination of land, water or air.

Background

The polluter pays principle is well established and most readily actionable in the case of land or water contamination. The cost of remediation, linked with both the cost of landfill, new technology and insurance premia, can be prohibitive. The economics are such that contamination avoidance is paramount. If contamination is found, then effective clean-up is key. The focus on brownfield development in towns to address housing shortages and the need for new facilities has increased the market for contaminated land remediation.

In total, it is estimated that 77% of marine pollution is from land-based activities, 12% from maritime transport and 10% from dumping. It is reported that 8 million pieces of litter are washed into the sea every day and 46,000 pieces of discarded plastic currently float in every square mile of ocean.

Air quality is a direct concern for vulnerable individuals with respiratory issues, but it is also generally important for everyone. EU Directives set ambient air limits for ozone, benzene, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, lead, oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter. With the principle of Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) where all pollutants from an industrial source are considered together and a raft of legislation such as The Clean Air Act, Cleaner Vehicles initiative, Large Combustion Plants Directive, Solvent Emissions Directive and the Petrol Vapour Recovery Directive, this is an area of increasing complexity and concern throughout the world .

While noise is often forgotten in the context of pollution, it can be the most aggravating in the short term and have long term health issues if the noise is loud and persistent. Examples from the past have been in industry and construction where deafness and tinnitus have resulted before the adoption of hearing protectors. With 85db being the safe level of sound before harm to hearing can start to develop, machinery and processes which create louder noise adopt muffling technology to offset the noise. In construction,

the acoustic effect of materials is now a recognised factor in determining the design and substance of new developments.

Entrants

This category is designed to include any type of technology, innovation and procedure that either prevents air, land, water or noise pollution occurring or addresses it when it happens. Entrants can be, inter alia, service and product providers to industry, research groups, management companies, facility owners, designers, consultants, environmental specialists, land developers or other construction businesses, transport technologists, local authorities or other sector participants where emissions, leaching, noise or by-products can have a detrimental effect on the environment..

Purpose of the award

The award is designed to celebrate and publicise the significant developments and innovation that have taken place to address air pollution, noise pollution and contamination of land and water. It can inform the consumer about what is happening, encourage best practice and promote processes that are available across the sector.

Specific criteria

The key criteria that the judges will be focusing on are:

1. The importance and novelty of the innovation in addressing a specific issue (/20)
2. The “cleverness” of the innovation, which may include either its simplicity or its complexity (/20)
3. The evaluation of the innovation: the bigger the problem that has been solved or the greater the technology advancement that has been made the better (/15)
4. Whether and how the innovation can be replicated, sold or multiplied to increase the beneficial effect for society (/15)
5. Evidence of the efficacy or effect of the innovation (/10)
6. The holistic impact of the innovation on the environment. (/20)

Entry form

The Entry Form has the following sections to be completed:

- **Summary:** This is where you set out a synopsis of what the process or technology is and does. This summary will be used as the descriptor should you be shortlisted
- **Project status:** This is where you explain the stage that the project, innovation or technology has reached.
- **Description:** Please set out under this heading as much detail as you can to make the technology development, innovation or process understood. You can include confidential and commercially sensitive information here and it will be treated as such, provided you mark it as being sensitive.
- **Innovative aspect:** This is where you explain the really clever bit. How have you addressed the problem or avoided the issue or organized the process? Again, please mark “commercially sensitive” or “confidential information” accordingly.

- **Benefits:** This is where the evaluation of the concept will be made. Please include in here as much evaluated detail of the benefits as possible. Examples include some sense of financial benefit, cost savings, price adjustments, expected or achieved sales effects, greenhouse gas emission reductions or other directly attributable benefits of the process or technology. Third party verified data is especially valuable.
- **IP ownership:** Set out here who owns what patents associated with the technology and clarify precisely the development that has been achieved by the applicant organization(s).
- **Additional information:** No form can cater for all eventualities and so this provides space for further explanation or details.

Lastly, if the form does not provide enough space or the questions are not directly relevant, then please send further material as an attachment to your entry email. Up to two attachments can be sent, each one no more than 5Mb in size.