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**Caring for the Environment Award**

**Entry Criteria for MERCHANT MEMBERS**

**Criteria:**

This award is open to **WCoBM Merchant Members** who demonstrate sustainability, carbon reduction, resource efficiency and/or environmental improvement in their working practices. It will recognise **companies and individuals** from within the Livery whose efforts have resulted in a positive impact on the environment and society and can clearly demonstrate how their business has improved its sustainable and environmental credentials over the past 12-24 months. This could be, for example, in the areas of new product development, packaging, waste management, recycling, operations, logistics, lighting and heating, or contribution to your local community.

**Evaluation Criteria**

**Judges will be using the following criteria as a guide to evaluating your entry:**

* **Environmental benefit:** does the entry clearly identify environmental benefit?
* **Resource efficiency:** does the entry clearly identify doing more with less?
* **Innovation:** does the entry demonstrate new and effective solutions to existing problems?
* **Long term benefit:** does the entry clearly identify long-term sustainability?
* **Social benefit:** have communities or areas benefited? If so, in what way?
* **Economic benefit:** have reductions or savings been achieved? If so, in what way?
* **Staff commitment:** In what way does the entry demonstrate staff commitment to new environmental practices or the development of existing practices?
* **Individual contribution:** In what way has the individual clearly identified and demonstrated its contribution and commitment to new environmental practices or the development of existing practices within its business?
* **Future development plans:** Does the entry include next steps for ongoing development of existing or new practices?

**Company Entry:**

In no more than 1,000 words, describe why you think your company’s environmental practices, environmental projects or initiatives should be considered for this award, covering the following areas as applicable:

* What were the environmental objectives?
* How were the outcomes measured against the objectives? For example, what has been achieved in terms of cost savings, improved efficiencies or working environment, reduced carbon footprint, reduced waste or positive environmental impact on the local community? This could be in the areas of:
	+ Improved efficiency in the management of unwanted waste materials such as packaging and pallets
	+ Improved stock control for more efficient use of delivery vehicles
	+ Reduction of single use plastics across the business.
	+ Dedicated recycling programs for damaged and unwanted stock.
	+ Switching to electric fleet
	+ Contribution to the local community eg tree planting to offset carbon
* What prompted your business to drive the environmental working practices/ project(s)/initiative(s) forward?
* Was there anything innovative about the environmental practices/project(s)/ initiative(s)?
* Do you have a dedicated team looking after the company’s environmental/ sustainability objectives? If so, give details.
* Who and/or what benefited, and how?
* What are the longer-term benefits to your business, staff, customers and/or local community?
* What did you learn from the new environmental practices/project(s)/initiative(s)?
* Are you planning any further developments? If so, give details.
* Who in your business (whether a team or individual) do you think should be recognised for their efforts in helping your company drive forward new environmental initiatives and achievements, and why?
* Have you achieved any relevant accreditation or awards relating to the working practices/project(s)/initiative(s)? If so give details.

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| **Liveryman/Freeman Name:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Company Name:** |  |
| **Company Size (no. of employees)** |  |

**Individual MERCHANT MEMBER Entry:**

To be considered for this award, describe in no more than 1,000 words how your own work has influenced new or the development of existing environmental practices, projects or initiatives in your business, covering the following areas as applicable:

* What were the environmental practices/project(s)/initiative(s) you proposed?
* What influenced the above direction?
* What were the objectives and how were they communicated to influencers in your business?
* How were the outcomes measured against the objectives? For example, what has been achieved in terms of cost savings, improved efficiencies or working environment, reduced carbon footprint, reduced waste or positive environmental impact on the local community? This could be in the areas of:
	+ Improved efficiency in the management of unwanted waste materials such as packaging and pallets
	+ Improved stock control for more efficient use of delivery vehicles
	+ Reduction of single use plastics across the business.
	+ Dedicated recycling programs for damaged and unwanted stock.
	+ Switching to electric fleet
	+ Contribution to the local community eg tree planting to offset carbon
* Was there anything innovative about the environmental practices/project(s)/ initiative(s) you suggested/introduced/developed?
* Do you have a dedicated team looking after the company’s environmental/ sustainability objectives? If so, give details.
* Who and/or what benefited, and how?
* What are the longer-term benefits to your business, staff, customers and/or local community?
* What did you learn from the new environmental practices/project(s)/initiative(s)?
* Who else in your business (whether a team or individual) do you think should be recognised for their efforts in helping your company drive forward new environmental initiatives and achievements, and why?
* Are you planning any further developments? If so, give details.

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| **Liveryman/Freeman Name:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Company Name:** |  |