



NEWS RELEASE

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Hayes Knight becomes first accountancy practice to win a Sustainable Business Network Award

Chartered accountancy practice, Hayes Knight, are celebrating their success after winning the Emerging Large and Corporate category in the Northern Region Sustainable Business Network Awards last week.

The Emerging Large and Corporate category is for businesses that have actively begun implementing sustainable actions within the last two years, and have more than 20 employees.

Hayes Knight offers a range of services including business advice and improvement, audit and assurance, tax management and consultancy plus a specialist subsidiary company Sustainable Advantage.

The judging panel was impressed by Hayes Knight's comprehensive strategic thinking and integration of sustainability into all areas of business services.

By engaging teams from across the business in designing and implementing the sustainability projects Hayes Knight is shaping up to be a sustainability leader in accounting and financial services.

The judges noted that Hayes Knight has a strong understanding of their unique points of difference and potential to drive change, in all four pillars of sustainability.

Chairman Craig Fisher is clear on the business rationale for sustainability. "To help our clients and ourselves succeed in a world of increasing social, environmental and economic pressures, we recognised that we need to go beyond the numbers and understand the tactical and strategic benefits of sustainability".

"The accounting industry has a huge amount to offer in the sustainability arena and we see this as a great opportunity. While it is not always easy, we are continually challenging ourselves to think and act differently so we can help our clients succeed".

Nick Jones, Director of subsidiary company Sustainable Advantage has managed the strategy to date. "The senior management were adamant that Hayes Knight had to

improve its own sustainability before it could show clients and the wider market that Hayes Knight is living its values and taking a leadership role in this area.”

But there will be no resting on their laurels. “In a fast changing world if we are going to help our clients and ourselves succeed we need to be constantly vigilant to changes in the marketplace. As such our sustainability strategy will evolve and grow” Jones added.

Northern Region winners like Hayes Knight are now finalists in the national NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards, to be held in Auckland on Thursday, November 12.

Regional manager of the Sustainable Business Network’s Northern office, David Clendon, is delighted with the achievements of Hayes Knight and the other businesses that are going the extra mile to incorporate sustainability into their daily life.

“It’s encouraging to see so many businesses taking leadership positions in the sustainability space.

“Congratulations to all of our winners – they are proof that a holistic approach is not only good for the environment, it’s good for the bottom line as well, as these companies continually adapt and innovate to grasp the opportunities that exist even in tough economic times.”

Ends

Notes to editors

- The judging panel was made up of: Michael Le Roy-Dyson (Fulton Hogan); Sophie Heighway (Downer EDI); Helen Tregidga (AUT Business School); Joanna McKay (Ministry for Environment); Andrew Withell (AUT Design School); Carthew Neal (Fumes TV); Michelle Dawson (EarthAngel); Manuel Seidel (KBS Solutions)
- High-resolution digital photographs of award winners will be available from David Clendon on Monday, September 7. See contact details below.

About the Sustainable Business Network (SBN)

The Sustainable Business Network represents more than 700 organisations throughout the country, ranging from SMEs and not-for-profits through to large businesses and corporations.

SBN promotes sustainable business practice through networking, practical advice and the development of resources and tools. It focuses on leading, promoting and facilitating practices and procedures that enhance economic prosperity, environmental quality, social equity and business ethics.

SBN runs the Get Sustainable Challenge, the GreenFleet programme (including tree-planting offsets), and hosts the annual Sustainable Business Network Awards. SBN has also developed the online assessment tool www.getsustonline.org.nz, and is co-producer of the www.greenlist.co.nz green directory.

For further information please contact

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About Hayes Knight (NZ) Ltd

Hayes Knight New Zealand is an innovative chartered accountancy practice that works beyond the numbers to keep our clients' businesses future fit. Based in Auckland, we have a team of approximately 130 professionals with a wide range of technical expertise to assist clients in meeting the challenges of business. We have considerable specialist knowledge and experience in accounting, auditing, taxation, business development, information technology and financial management services. In addition our wholly owned subsidiary, Sustainable Advantage delivers consultancy services in the areas of sustainability, corporate responsibility, research and communications.

For More Information please contact:

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About The Sustainable Business Network Awards

The Sustainable Business Network Awards recognise businesses that are demonstrating leadership by embracing innovation, sustainability and regenerative practices in their day-to-day operations.

Northern region winners for the 2009 Sustainable Business Network Awards are:

Category	Winner(s)
Sustainable Business of the Year	ecostore
Trailblazer – Large and Corporate	ecostore <i>Judges commendation: Sinclair Knight Merz</i>
Trailblazer - Small and Medium	Kokako Organic
Trailblazer – Not for Profit	Framework Trust
Emerging – Large and Corporate	Hayes Knight <i>Judges commendation: SATO New Zealand</i>
Emerging – Small and Medium	The Conference Centre <i>Judges commendation: Borderless Productions</i>
Sustainable Design & Innovation	LanzaTech

Entering the annual SBN awards requires businesses to participate in one of the following:

- The SBN's 'Get Sustainable Challenge', covering eight areas of sustainable business practice;
- Entering the Sustainable Design and Innovation Award that covers products, services, and buildings.

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