

Press Release

BUSINESSWOMAN Liz Stewart from Ullapool scooped one of the first-ever *Champions for Sustainable Communities Awards* at a ceremony in Edinburgh on Tuesday March 18th.



She was the winner in the Business category and was presented with her award at Edinburgh's Apex International Hotel – a venue chosen for its environmentally friendly credentials.

Liz (53), the founder of Invisible Heating Systems (IHS), has been recognised for her efforts in providing free advice on renewables to the local community and guidance to local school children. Her company has also grown to become one of the largest employers in Ullapool and she has purchased land in order to provide quality, affordable, low-carbon housing for local staff.

Liz said: "I am delighted but a bit overwhelmed and gobsmacked by this. I am usually working behind the scenes in the office and I think the real thing here is all the people working hard to help make IHS a success.

"I live in a rural area and my goal as an employer is to sustain people in jobs and help to create low-carbon housing for them."

The award was made by Scottish designer and craftsman, Scott Irvine, using wood from fallen trees and fused glass off-cuts. Liz will also get the chance to visit another sustainable community project or similar experience in order to give her further inspiration for her work.

The organisation's Frazer Scott said: "All of our 20 finalists were of an excellent calibre and should be proud of their valuable efforts towards sustainability. However

there had to be one winner in each of the four categories and we are delighted to announce Liz Stewart as the best of the best in the Business category.

“At the heart of sustainable development lies the leadership and commitment to drive forward change. These awards were a great opportunity to honour individuals who have made a difference by improving the environment, economy and society at the local level.

“All the winners have shown outstanding endeavour that proves it’s possible to really achieve a better quality of life for future generations. It’s the power of individuals, such as these, that can make a real difference, and we hope the Awards will inspire others to make positive changes in their own communities.”



The three other winners were Ian Leaver from the Isle of Eigg (Community Group), Ian Mitchell from Invershin, Sutherland (International Development) and Helen Houston from Golspie, Sutherland (Public/Third Sector).

The nation-wide awards were devised to recognise individuals from across society who have led the way in improving the quality of a local environment in some way – whether that’s helping solve a community problem, transforming a piece of land or derelict space, or reducing climate change impacts.

Forward Scotland, a registered charity, is the country’s leading independent non-governmental organisation that works to make Scotland a sustainable nation in ways

that create economic benefits, improve health and well-being and address issues of social justice to help change people's lives for the better.

For further information on the work of Forward Scotland visit www.forward-scotland.org.uk or call us on 056000 10 560.

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

For the last 11 years Forward Scotland has championed an original approach to sustainable development. They carry out this work through a variety of projects and grant schemes, supported by information exchange. Forward Scotland is dedicated to improving local environments and helping communities to achieve a better and more sustainable quality of life.

Frazer Scott is the Acting Chief Executive of Forward Scotland.

If you require further press information please contact Stuart Hall or Annicka Ericsson on 01786 450675 or e-mail on stuart-hall@btconnect.com