

31 January 2008

## **PRESS INFORMATION**

### **Phone Co-op shortlisted for major business award**

The Phone Co-op, the UK's only telecommunications co-operative, has been shortlisted in this year's Fast Growth Business Awards.

The co-operative is one of four finalists in the Green Business of the Year category which recognises businesses with a strong green ethos and a demonstrable commitment to minimising their environmental impact.

Organised in conjunction with *Growing Business* magazine, the Fast Growth Business Awards is an independent scheme designed to celebrate the UK's fastest growing businesses and the people running them. The awards are judged by a panel of entrepreneurs, industry experts and business journalists including Peter Jones, entrepreneur and star of BBC's *Dragons' Den*. Winners of the Fast Growth Business Awards will be announced at an awards ceremony at the London Marriott on 12 March 2008.

The Phone Co-op has just announced record results in terms of growth and profitability. Over the past year, the co-operative has also succeeded in further improving its environmental record, with a significant reduction in paper usage and a rise in the number of businesses journeys by rail, bus, bicycle or foot.

Vivian Woodell, chief executive of The Phone Co-op, attributes success to "the co-operative difference. As an organisation owned by our customer-members, it's fair to say that the evolution of our sustainable approach reflects their interests and concerns. Indeed, they actively encourage us to pursue continual improvement in this area and also support us in our view that our responsibility to operate in an environmentally sustainable way does not end with our own activities."

The Phone Co-op's environmental policy commits the co-operative to a series of measures, including using public transport for business journeys, improving energy efficiency, recycling all office waste, using green electricity, reducing paper usage, reducing CO2 emissions and also offsetting all remaining CO2 emissions, including those of its upstream suppliers. In 2007 the co-operative launched a Sustainability Fund to which both The Phone Co-op and customers contribute and which is used to finance further improvements in its environmental performance.

For further information about the Fast Growth Business Awards visit [www.fgba.co.uk](http://www.fgba.co.uk) or call 020 8334 1648.

- ends -

## Notes to editors

**The Phone Co-op** is the UK's only telecommunications co-operative, procuring telecommunications services on behalf of its customers, many of whom are co-operatives, charities and other not-for-profit organisations. The Phone Co-op's service has been taken up by over 15,000 customers, including Christian Aid, Amnesty International, Triodos Bank, the Centre for Alternative Technology, Salford City Council and Unison. The Phone Co-op was voted runner-up in the 2007 Fixed Service Provider of the Year awards organised by the Federation of Communication Services. As a co-operative owned by its customer members, The Phone Co-op distributes any profits which are not re-invested back to members via a dividend based on each member's spend and through a loan fund which supports other co-operatives.

For more information, visit [www.thephone.coop](http://www.thephone.coop)

**Growing Business magazine** is the UK's most popular magazine for entrepreneurs. Launched in 2001, Growing Business is established as the most trusted and requested small and medium sized business magazine. Full of success stories, it provides readers with practical advice, inspiration and information, all presented with a strong emphasis on what it takes to successfully grow a business. Visit [www.growingbusiness.co.uk](http://www.growingbusiness.co.uk) for more information.

In addition to headline sponsor T-Mobile, other sponsors of the awards include: The Royal Bank of Scotland, Business Link and PLUS

## Contacts

For press information about The Phone Co-op, please contact:

Claire Jarvis

T: 0845 458 9013

M: 07773 845568

E: [claire@thephone.coop](mailto:claire@thephone.coop)

For press information concerning the Fast Growth Business Awards, please contact:

Ella Gascoigne

Crimson Business

T: 020 8334 1682

E: [ellag@crimsonbusiness.co.uk](mailto:ellag@crimsonbusiness.co.uk)