

1 July 2009

P R E S S I N F O R M A T I O N

Phone Co-op picks up two new awards

Within the past week, The Phone Co-op has won two new awards and been runner-up in a third.

The two new trophies in the co-operative's awards case are the Federation of Communications Green Award and the Co-operative Excellence Award for Reporting Standards. The Phone Co-op was also runner-up in the Sustainability category of the Oxfordshire Business Awards.

The Phone Co-op joined BSkyB as winners of the first ever Green Awards presented by the Federation of Communications Services. The awards were introduced this year to encourage the telecommunications industry to address environmental issues.

Chair of the judging panel Vic Clements of Oakmead Consulting explained, "We want to recognise those companies both large and small, who are making real progress in reducing the adverse environmental impacts of their business processes, products and services. Both the winners, BSkyB Ltd in the large company category and The Phone Co-op in the small company category demonstrated this. The judges noted that they also had a managed process that enabled them to set ambitious environmental performance targets and goals, commensurate with the type and size of their business, employ appropriate metrics, achieve these goals and strive for further improvement."

Later in the week at the annual Co-operative Congress, The Phone Co-op collected the Reporting Standards award for excellence in reporting its commercial, co-operative and social performance to its members. These were the inaugural Co-operative Excellence awards which have been conceived to

celebrate the important contribution made by pioneering co-operatives to the success and dynamism of today's co-operative movement.

Ben Reid, chair of Co-operativesUK, said: "The Phone Co-op has transformed the telecommunications industry, breaking through into a highly competitive market without sacrificing their co-operative, ethical and environmental credentials. This award recognises the sterling work they have done in reporting their performance to members."

Vivian Woodell, chief executive of The Phone Co-op, commented, "We are absolutely delighted to receive this recognition from both the FCS and Co-operativesUK. The Phone Co-op is owned and democratically controlled by our customer members, who have been actively engaged in helping to shape our policy of minimising our environmental impact. We believe that the foundation of a successful co-operative is a thriving, active membership made up of people who are well-informed about their co-operative, and keen to work together to shape its direction. In order to achieve this, we place a great deal of importance on how we report to, communicate with, and engage, our members, so it is very pleasing to be recognised for this important aspect of our activity."

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 Midcounties, Channel Islands, Southern, East of England, and Radstock Co-operative Societies, Suma Wholefoods, Christian Aid, Amnesty International, Triodos Bank, the Centre for Alternative Technology, Manchester City Council and Unison. 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

For further press information, contact:

Claire Jarvis

The Phone Co-op

Tel: 0845 458 9000

Mobile: 07773 845568

Email: claire@thephone.coop