Finance for the Future Awards reward financial leadership in driving sustainability

Financial leadership which drives sustainable organisations was recognised at the Finance for the Future Awards. Six winners were announced last night following a record number of entrants for 2015. The awards celebrate organisations that are embedding sustainability with leadership and support from their finance teams.

The Finance for the Future Awards, founded by ICAEW and HRH The Prince of Wales’s Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S), and sponsored by Deloitte, are in their fourth year and recognise organisations which are transforming the way traditional business is done, using financial leadership to create more resilient business models.

The winners, with the judges’ citations, are:

Large Business Award - Sponsored by: Deloitte
Winner: Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission
"Their holistic approach to measuring the total social, environmental and economic impacts of major capital projects impressed the judges, along with the visible leadership from both the Finance Director and Sustainability Accountant. They were also able to demonstrate how the process had influenced decisions in practice to drive better outcomes for the business, environment and their local communities."

SME Award
Winner: FRC Group
"FRC stood out for the judges, as not only have the finance team helped to developed new approaches to measure social impact, but these are being used in practice to analyse their performance and make decisions at Board level that maximise social capital."

Highly commended: Adnams
"With the support from the very top of the organisation the judges felt that there is a clear focus on embedding sustainable practices in order to improve commercial outcomes. Through working with their value chain they demonstrated that lower carbon also equal slower cost."
Public Sector and Third Sector Award  
**Winner: Sussex Community NHS Trust**  
"It was clear that the leadership from the Finance Director and his team in driving the project was key to its success. The judges particularly liked how they used the link between improved environmental performance and improved care outcomes for patients to get staff buy-in for the programme within the Trust."

Driving Change in Others Award  
**Winner: Carbon Tracker Initiative**  
"The growing impact of Carbon Tracker’s work on both market participants and the regulatory community was easy to see. The judges felt that its work is making a significant contribution towards catalysing the transition to a more sustainable economy."

Innovative New Idea Award  
**Winner: bio-bean**  
"The judges were impressed by the ethos of Bio-bean, driving us all to view waste as resource, along with their innovative go-to-market sourcing strategy, often turning suppliers into users of their product."

Finance Leader of the Future Award  
**Winner: George Cobb, Group Sustainability Accountant, SSE**  
"The judges were impressed by George’s passion and advocacy for sustainability and how he has applied his accounting skillset to embed this into key finance activities. Whilst George has been given a degree of support from senior Board Directors, the onus to define and develop his role and the vision for sustainability within the SSE organisation has clearly been driven by him."

Richard Spencer, ICAEW’s Head of Sustainability, said: “When we set up Finance for the Future our aim was simple: to recognise the work of finance in driving sustainability. The winners of the awards have shown us that there are many new models which can achieve sustainable businesses. They have highlighted that we need to change our thinking, and what we do, to make a difference. All of our finalists, and especially our winners, are examples that business can learn from. We are already looking forward to expanding the finance for the future community and the innovative solutions that will arise.

Jessica Fries, Executive Chairman, A4S, said: “The award winners have earned their place as members of the finance for the future community. They have gone through a rigorous judging process and have successfully demonstrated how finance can lead the way to create sustainable organisations. Those recognised today successfully highlight how using finance skills to embed social and environmental issues within key decisions drives improved performance, demonstrating why all finance leaders should be considering these issues.”

For more information, visit [http://www.financeforthefuture.co.uk/](http://www.financeforthefuture.co.uk/)

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Notes to editors:

About the Finance for the Future Awards

The Finance for the Future Awards were developed by ICAEW and The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project in 2011 and they jointly run the awards and the Finance for the Future Community.

In 2015 there are six categories:

- **Large Business**
- **Public Sector and Third Sector**
- **Small and Medium Business**
- **Innovative New Idea**
- **Driving Change in Others**
- **Finance Leader of the Future**

Entrants are visited by two assessors who then shortlist the finalists who attend a judging day for a formal presentation.

The 2015 Judging Panel includes senior representatives of both co-founders organisations, past winners and experts in their field:

- Sir Gerry Acher CBE LVO
- David Allen, Finance Director, **Crossrail**
- Bhev Chandrasena, Managing Director EMEA, **HYLA Mobile**
- Bruce Davis, Joint Managing Director, **Abundance**
- Susan Davy, Group Finance Director, **Pennon Group**
- Mark Freebairn, Partner and Head of the Financial Management Practice, **Odgers Berndtson**
- Jessica Fries, Executive Chairman, **The Prince’s Accounting for Sustainability Project**
- Tim Haywood, Group Finance Director & Head of Sustainability, **Interserve**
- Stephen Ibotson, Director, Business, **ICAEW**
- John Lelliott, Finance Director, **The Crown Estate**
- Hilary Lindsay, Vice President, **ICAEW**
- Carlos Ludlow, Managing Director & CTO, **Enval**
- Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, Group Director of Finance & Resources, **Hadlow College**
- Sarah Nolleth, Director, **The Prince’s Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S)**
- Jon Parsons, Chief Financial Officer, **Environcom**
- Ian Rushby, Vice Chairman, **International Institute for Environment & Development**
- Liz Rylatt, Executive Director, Finance, Operations and Members, **ICAEW**
- Richard Spencer, Head of Sustainability, **ICAEW**
- Andrew Wright, **Treasurer to Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall**
ICAEW

ICAEW is a world leading professional membership organisation that promotes, develops and supports over 144,000 chartered accountants worldwide. We provide qualifications and professional development, share our knowledge, insight and technical expertise, and protect the quality and integrity of the accountancy and finance profession.

As leaders in accountancy, finance and business our members have the knowledge, skills and commitment to maintain the highest professional standards and integrity. Together we contribute to the success of individuals, organisations, communities and economies around the world.

Because of us, people can do business with confidence.

The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project

The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S) was established by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2004 to "help ensure that we are not battling to meet 21st century challenges with, at best, 20th century decision-making and reporting systems." A4S brings together leaders in the finance and accounting community to catalyse a fundamental shift towards resilient business models and a sustainable economy.

A4S works with the accounting and finance community to:

- Demonstrate the business case, increase engagement and build capacity to accelerate adoption of sustainable business practices.
- Develop practical tools, guidance and approaches that enable environmental, social and economic risks and opportunities to be reflected in decision-making.
- Facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for change through a shift to sustainable capital markets, and supportive regulatory and reporting regimes.

A4S has two global networks – the Accounting Bodies Network whose members comprise approximately two thirds of the world's accountants and the A4S Chief Financial Officers Leadership Network, a group of CFOs from leading companies seeking to transform finance and accounting.