

Brussels, 2 June 2006

Green Week 2006: Commission presents environment awards for businesses, cities and schools

German car maker Volkswagen and five companies from Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK last night won the European Business Awards for the Environment 2006. The 2006 European Mobility Week Award for local authorities went to the City of Copenhagen, while school children from Latvia and Greece took the top honours in this year's Green Week School Competition. The winners and runners-up for each award were announced and given their prizes by Nicholas Hanley, head of DG Environment's communication and governance unit, at a ceremony in Brussels. The event forms part of Green Week, the European Commission's annual conference and exhibition dedicated to the environment, which this year focuses on protecting biological diversity.

The **European Business Awards for the Environment** recognise outstanding corporate contributions to sustainable development. The awards, presented every two years, are given in four categories: products, processes, management and international cooperation. Reflecting growing business interest in contributing to environmental sustainability, this year's competition attracted a record of 139 entries from 23 countries. The winners were chosen by an independent jury of 12 environmental experts representing industry, public authorities, non-governmental environment organisations and academia.

The results for each category are as follows:

Product award (recognising new products or services that contribute to sustainable production and consumption patterns)

- Joint winners: **Windsave Ltd (UK)**, for a compact wind turbine designed for private homes and offices that delivers renewable electricity directly into their mains supply; and **DTS OABE SL (Spain)** for an environment-friendly insecticide lacquer for use in urban pest control.
- Runner up: **VA Tech Hydro GmbH & Co (Austria)**, for an innovative concept for producing hydro-electricity from existing weirs and dams using tailor-made generators and turbines.

Process award (for new environment-friendly production technologies and processes)

- Winner: **Volkswagen AG (Germany)**, for developing on a commercial scale a mechanical process for extracting usable secondary raw materials from the residues from vehicles shredded at the end of their useful life.
- Runners up: **Fortum Power and Heat Oy (Finland)**, for developing a cost-effective technology for reducing emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) from power plants; and **Ten Cate Advanced Textiles BV** and **Color Wings BV (Netherlands)**, for developing a digital technology for printing and finishing textiles using exactly dosed drops, thereby improving both environmental and economic performance.

Management award (recognising companies managed in ways that allow for continuous and measurable improvement in their environmental performance)

- Winner: **Sotral SpA (Italy)**, for introducing an environmental approach into the catering logistics sector, including the use of innovative environmental performance indicators.
- Runners up: **Aceria Compacta de Bizkaia SA (Spain)**, for a series of environmental management measures, including the installation of monitoring systems for collecting information on pollution; and **General Electric Hungary Ltd Light Source Factory (Hungary)**, for exemplary environmental performance at its plant, the world's largest light bulb producer.

International Co-operation Award (for international partnerships that contribute to environmental protection, economic development and social equity in a developing country or country in transition)

- Joint winners: **iD-L inspired innovations (Netherlands)**, for a project making fashion products from recycled plastic bags that provides work for over 50 deprived people in the slums of Delhi, India; and **YIT Rakennus Oy (Finland)**, for construction of a wastewater treatment plant in St Petersburg, a major contribution to reducing pollution of the Baltic Sea, under the first public-private partnership in Russia.
- Runner up: **BASF AG (Germany)**, for making available to developing countries a management tool developed in-house for identifying opportunities to improve the eco-efficiency of products and processes.

The **European Mobility Week Award** is given annually for the promotion of best practice in sustainable urban transport by local authorities in connection with European Mobility Week. The theme of last year's Mobility Week was 'Clever commuting.' The 43 entries received were assessed by an independent panel of experts who selected the top three as follows:

- Winner: **Copenhagen**, for using Mobility Week to test locally generated ideas and traffic plans for improving the traffic situation in the city, for promoting car-sharing throughout the week and for reserving city-centre access for pedestrians and cyclists for three days.
- Runners up: **Budapest** and **Koprivnica** (Croatia).

The **Green Week School Competition** encourages schoolchildren to learn about environmental issues and express themselves artistically. This year's competition, on the Green Week theme of biodiversity, attracted a record of 7,050 entries in the two categories – paintings and drawings (for individuals, 5-10 years old) and digital videos (for teams of up to four, 11-16 years old). Entries have to be supported by the school and teachers are encouraged to make the submissions part of a class activity. A European network of teachers in the field of environmental education and external film experts assisted the Commission in judging the winners.

Artwork:

- 1st prize: Anastasija Čaplinska (age 7), Latvia
- To [view entry,](http://greenweek2006.eun.org/apps/eun_apps/greenweek2006/output/entry.cfm?id=2383) click http://greenweek2006.eun.org/apps/eun_apps/greenweek2006/output/entry.cfm?id=2383
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- 2nd prize: Elif Demir (9), Turkey
- http://greenweek2006.eun.org/apps/eun_apps/greenweek2006/output/entry.cfm?id=4879
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- 3rd prize: Anna Parvanova (7), Bulgaria
- http://greenweek2006.eun.org/apps/eun_apps/greenweek2006/output/entry.cfm?id=4481
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Videos:

- 1st prize: 8th High School of Thessaloniki, Greece (Team: Christina Sotiriou, Efstratios-Maximos Kechagias, Athanasios Karras, Sophia Mourtzilaki)
- To [view video,](http://greenweek2006.eun.org/apps/eun_apps/greenweek2006/output/entry.cfm?id=2491) click http://greenweek2006.eun.org/apps/eun_apps/greenweek2006/output/entry.cfm?id=2491
- 2nd prize: Atanas Dalchev School, Bulgaria (Team: Veselina Mireva, Panka Mireva, Nadezhda Ilieva)
- http://greenweek2006.eun.org/apps/eun_apps/greenweek2006/output/entry.cfm?id=1763
- 3rd prize: Základní umelecká škola Domažlice, (Arts School of Domažlice), Czech Republic (Team: Renata Kinzlová, Lucie Hinterholzingerová, Clarissa Spáthová, Zuzana Oríšková)
- http://greenweek2006.eun.org/apps/eun_apps/greenweek2006/output/entry.cfm?id=7621

Further information:

European Business Awards for the Environment:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/environment/awards/pressroom_en.htm

European Mobility Week Award:

http://www.mobilityweek-europe.org/page_27.html

Green Week School Competition:

http://greenweek2006.eun.org/ww/en/pub/greenweek_2006/home.htm

Green Week programme:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/conference.html>

Barbara Helfferich: 02.29.82010 or 0496/58.38.29

Lone Mikkelsen: 02.29.60567 or 0498/96.05.67