



## CELEBRATE WITH A GREEN RIBBON

New Zealand is a beautiful, lush country. We have the sea, stunning mountains, rivers and lakes and fertile countryside. Our natural environment is important to us – we've got to protect it.

The Ministry for the Environment's Green Ribbon awards are a great way to highlight the work being done in our communities, raise awareness of environmental issues, and recognise the individuals, groups and organisations working hard to make a real difference.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Green Awards, and I'm encouraging you to put forward a nomination. It's easy to do - you don't even need to collect information yourself.

Just email the nominees details to [green.ribbon@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:green.ribbon@mfe.govt.nz) and your candidate will be invited to submit a nomination.

Judging criteria focus on projects that have significant environmental benefit, are innovative, and have measurable results.

The new categories this year reflect our key environmental issues and identify areas where we can all lend a hand.



## PROTECTING OUR BIODIVERSITY

New Zealand has at least 80,000 native animals, plants and fungi. Many of these native species are found nowhere else in the world making our biodiversity very special. The award recognises practical actions that will protect and preserve New Zealand's unique species and enhance our bio-diversity.

## **REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS**

Climate change is already affecting our climate and is likely to impact on agriculture and other climate sensitive industries, native ecosystems, infrastructure, health, security, society and the economy. This award recognizes those who have taken active steps to develop and implement strategies, programmes, products or services which reduce greenhouse gas levels.

## **CARING FOR OUR WATER**

By international standards, freshwater in New Zealand is both abundant and clean. We generally have plenty of rain which replenishes our streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater. However protecting the country's freshwater bodies to ensure continued access to clean, quality, freshwater resources now and for future generations is a growing challenge. This award recognised efficient water use, actions to improve water quality and projects that protect and conserve water.

## **MANAGING OUR WASTE**

Every year, New Zealanders send about 3.2 million tonnes of waste to landfills. The majority of this waste is not reprocessed or recycled, and does not break down over time. To improve the environmental future of New Zealand, we must find more effective and efficient ways to reduce, reuse and recycle all reprocessed waste. This award is recognises programs, services and products, that significantly reduce or remove the production of waste.

## **IMPROVING AIR QUALITY**

Clean air contributes to our quality of life. Approximately two thirds of New Zealanders live in areas that can experience air pollution. This award acknowledges those who have successfully made substantive and long-term air quality improvements.

## **PROTECTING OUR COASTS AND OCEANS**

Being an island nation, the health of our ocean, our land and our people is inextricably linked. Our ocean has immense value to life and supports a wide diversity of plants, animals and food resources. This award recognizes those who demonstrated innovation and initiative in implementing practices for the protection, restoration or enhancement of marine or coastal eco-systems.

I think most of us understand that New Zealand's environmental issues won't be solved by government agencies alone. Businesses, communities and individuals all have a part to play, and local leadership is crucial.

Everyone appreciates their contribution being noticed, so here's your chance to throw the spotlight on the people you know doing good work in this area.  
Do it now!

Nominations close April 16. For more information go to [www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/awards/green-ribbon](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/awards/green-ribbon)

Have a fantastic Easter! I hope you get to enjoy New Zealand's great outdoors.

**UPCOMING EVENT:**

NOISY EXHAUSTS UPDATE MEETING

DATE: Monday 26th April 5pm

VENUE: Presbyterian Support on Bealey Avenue.

See you soon.

Cheers Nicky

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