

The Scottish Council (Development and Industry) (SCDI) award for excellence in environmental sustainability has been presented to the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA), following the launch of the industry's ambitious environment strategy.

Our picture shows Julie Hesketh-Laird, SWA director of operational and technical affairs, receiving the award from Crawford Gillies, chairman of Scottish Enterprise



Environmental Summary

In August 2009 the Climate Change (Scotland) Act was passed into law, unanimously, by the Scottish Parliament. The bill sets out specific targets on emissions of greenhouse gases and environmental reporting.

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Summary

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 42% on 1990 levels by 2020
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% on 1990 levels by 2050
- From 2020 emissions must reduce by at least 3% per annum
- Government must calculate and report emissions produced anywhere in the world that result from Scotland's consumption of goods and services
 - ie you cannot 'hide' your emissions by outsourcing work to China
- Emission reduction targets also include Scotland's share of emissions from international shipping and aviation

In response the SWA produced an Environmental Strategy document designed to support the government legislation and reduce the environmental impact of the industry.

SWA Environmental Strategy Summary

Reducing gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels

- By 2020 ensure that 20% of our industry's primary energy requirements will be derived from non-fossil fuel sources
- 80% by 2050

Water Management

- Engage with relevant authorities in the development of Scotland's River Basin Management Plans to ensure that a sustainable and good quality water supply is maintained

Packaging Materials and Waste

- By 2020 we will reduce by 10% the average unit weight of our packaging materials
- By 2020 we will ensure that 40% of our product packaging will be made from recycled materials
- By 2020 we will ensure that all our packaging will be reusable or recyclable
- By 2020 we will send no packaging waste from our packaging operations to landfill

Casks

- Seek to ensure that in future all casks bought into the industry are made from oak sourced from sustainable forests

Work in partnership with our supply chain

- Work with supply chain stakeholders in areas which are not under our direct control (e.g. maltings, glass manufacturers and transport/distribution)

Within TEG a core Environmental Team, led by Graham Hutcheon has been created to formulate a TEG Environmental Strategy which supports the SWA and government targets.