



*Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats
Europäischer Gesteinsverband
European Aggregates Association*

2016 UEPG Sustainable Development Awards

Terms of Reference



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1. Introduction

The European Aggregates Industry supports the principles of sustainable development and is committed to operate with care and concern for the environment, for its neighbours and for society as a whole.

The UEPG Sustainable Development Awards illustrate this commitment by promoting the spread of best practice and by encouraging projects that go well beyond what is required by planners or regulators, set new standards of excellence and provide an inspirational example that others can follow.

2. Background

UEPG launched the first European Restoration Award scheme in 1997, which was followed by a second scheme in 1999 and a third in 2001. On all three occasions, Member companies from 8 nations received awards. The first and second official presentation ceremonies, with participation of Members of the European Parliament, were held in Strasbourg, and the third took place in Brussels.

Building on the success of this program, it was decided in 2005 to enlarge the scope to all aspects of sustainable development with the UEPG Sustainable Development Awards. Over 150 participants attended the 2007 Award Ceremony in Brussels including presentations of 26 company cases from 10 countries across Europe. In 2010 the Sustainable Development Awards achieved 30 entries from 10 Member States, a special award was dedicated to Biodiversity, the awards ceremony with 100 head of the industry took place in Munich, Germany.

In 2013, few new features, the Sustainable Development Awards achieved a record of 51 entries from 14 Member States. The awards ceremony welcomed almost 130 participants from all over Europe, among them, honourable Members of the European Parliament, representatives from the European Commission and Minister in Brussels, Belgium. Nineteen entries, both SMEs and larger companies across received top-level Awards from the internationally-renowned Jury, while the remaining entries received Certificates of Excellence.

All entries were featured in a brochure which immediately became a distinguished UEPG calling-card right to the highest industry and political levels.

The Sustainable Development Awards brochures from 2005 to 2013, which are distinguished UEPG calling-card right to the highest industry and political levels, can be downloaded from <http://www.uepg.eu/publications/sd-awards>.

The 2016 Sustainable Development Awards will therefore be another milestone event in the UEPG calendar. As UEPG is now represented in 30 member countries, and the numbers of categories and entries per country have been increased, it is hoped that the 2016 ceremony will showcase a record number Awards of which the aggregates industry can be truly proud.

3. Objectives

- Objective 1** to reward aggregates companies that have successfully integrated the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into their operations by concrete achievements well beyond what is expected.
- Objective 2** to create a more positive understanding and appreciation of the key role played by the European Aggregates Industry, in order to ensure sustainable access to resources.
- Objective 3** in particular, to encourage SMEs (small medium enterprises) to implement best practices in all three pillars of sustainable development.

4. Awards and Certificates

Awards

The Jury has full discretion on the number of Awards it makes, depending on the quality of the entries.

However as a guideline it will in principle intend to make awards in each of the Categories outlined in Annex III.

It will also in principle try to spread the Awards across as many countries as possible.

It will also in principle try to give special consideration to the challenges of SMEs, and accordingly where possible will try to spread the Awards fairly across both SMEs and larger companies

Certificates

Recognition of achievement for each application not receiving an Award will take the form of a signed certificate, thus making every entry a winner.

5. General Rules and Conditions for participation

1. Entry is open to companies which are members of UEPG National or Regional Associations, or are a direct member of UEPG where no association yet exists.
2. Entry is not open to UEPG National Associations.
3. Entries are limited to **eight** per country which is Full Member or **four** per country which is an Associate Member, ideally but not necessarily spread across the various categories; where a company is a direct Associate Member that company is limited to **one** entry for that country.
4. The entry of full or associated member associations should be supported by **Certificate C1** (See Annex I), ideally signed by the Secretary General of the sponsoring Association; and a **Certificate C2** (See Annex II), ideally signed by the Chief Executive of the company concerned giving assurance that the submitted project will be maintained to at least the same standard as that existing at the date of entry, during the time that responsibility for it remains to the company. Associated Company Members are asked to produce **Certificate C2** only.

Depending on the category, an additional independent acknowledgment would be an advantage. (See examples Annex III)

5. UEPG Members are invited to send to the UEPG General Secretariat, **by 4 April 2016**, all documents for the entries **electronically** (please do not send hard copies) including the following:
 - (a) Certificate by the National Association (C1) (optional)
 - (b) Certificate by the company (C2) (optional)
 - (c) A short document (**5-10 pages**) preferably in **English** outlining the key points of the entry including pictures of the site.
 - (d) A one-page Executive Summary
 - in English (mandatory)
 - in the language of the country where the project is implemented
 - (e) Six or more high quality recent photographs of the project in digital format (JPEG or PNG file, minimum resolution 1800x1200 pixels).
 - (f) Videos (DVDs) presenting the project are excluded in order not to disadvantage SMEs.
 - (g) The company logo in digital format (JPEG or PNG file, minimum resolution 600x600 pixels).

6. Selection of Applicants at National level

Selection of Applicants will be made in accordance with the following principles:

1. Selection of applications at national level will be made by each UEPG Member Association, or by the individual Company where there is no association
2. Each UEPG Member Association may use its own assessment criteria that it considers appropriate. However, the project needs to be recognised nationally as a good example of sustainable development achievement and be worthy of a European award. In addition, UEPG Member Association can refer to Annex IV (Examples of project areas that could be eligible for an award)
3. The project should focus on a specific quarry or pit site, or a location in the case of marine, recycled or manufactured aggregates.

7. Judging

All entries will be examined by a **UEPG Sustainable Development Awards Jury**, which will consist of internationally-recognized independent experts, in order to bring credibility to the results. This would involve a wider, 'politically'-balanced European overview in support of the programme objectives. The Jury would consist of four members including representatives from academia, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and the communication sector.

Chairmen of the UEPG Committees may be Members of the jury as observers only. They will provide technical advice to Jury Members.

The activities of the Jury will be coordinated by the UEPG General Secretariat.

The decisions of the Jury shall be final.

8. Evaluation Methods

The *UEPG Sustainable Development Awards Jury* will evaluate applications as follows:

- By scrutiny of the documentation submitted with the entry to confirm that it meets the criteria agreed by UEPG.
- By an assessment of the supporting evidence, especially the photographs of the site and the two Certificates provided by the Member Association.
- By consultation with a relevant independent third party if the Jury so decides, but not without specific prior permission of the company concerned.

9. Timing

Selected national applications will be forwarded to the UEPG General Secretariat so that all the documentation including photographs and the 2 Certificates are registered with the UEPG General Secretariat for the scrutiny and decision of the Jury.

March 2015	Launch
4 April 2016	Deadline for reception of applications at UEPG level
2 May 2016	Send applications to UEPG Jury
Mid June 2016 (tbc)	Jury meeting in Brussels, Belgium
16 November 2016	Awards Ceremony in Brussels, Belgium



ANNEX I

Certificate from the sponsoring National Member

Certificate C1

Name of the National Association:

Address:

Name of the company:

Name of the submitted Project / achievement:

Location of the quarry site:

I confirm that the company has achieved a level of sustainable development best practice in the category (*tick the corresponding box*):

- Restoration
- Environmental best practice
- Local community partnership
- Health & Safety best practice
- Economic contribution / added value to society
- Operational best practice, process or product Innovation
- Best practice in innovation or recycling, marine or manufactured aggregates
- Special Award for Biodiversity

Name of National Association

Secretary General

Date:

Signature:



ANNEX II

Certificate from the Company

Certificate C2

Name of the company:

Address:

Number of employees in the company (please tick)

- 1 to 50
- 51 to 150
- 151 to 500
- More than 500

Name of the submitted Project / achievement:

I confirm that project which we submitted to our national association for the category:

- Restoration
- Environmental Best practice
- Local community partnership
- Health & Safety best practices
- Economic contribution / added value to society
- Operational best practice, process or product innovation
- Best practice in innovation or recycling, marine or manufactured aggregates
- Special Award for Biodiversity

will be maintained to at least the same standard as that existing at the date of entry, during the time that responsibility for it remains with our company.

Name of a Director of a company:

Date:

Signature of a Director of a company:



ANNEX III

Categories and examples of additional acknowledgment

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PILLAR	CATEGORY	OPTIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY
ENVIRONMENT	Restoration	Letter from an Environmental or Planning (Permitting) authority or NGO
	Environmental Best Practice	Letter from an Environmental Authority For ISO 14001: certificate from ISO For Natura 2000: letter from authorities in charge of implementing Natura 2000
SOCIAL	Local Community Partnership	Letter from the Mayor / Local Authority
	Health & Safety Best Practice	Letter from the Health & Safety authority
ECONOMIC	Economic contribution / added value to society	Letter from relevant authorities or NGO
	Operational Best Practice or Process or Product Innovation	Letter from national Trade Association
	Best Practice or Innovation in Recycling, Marine or Manufactured Aggregates	Letter from relevant authorities or NGO
BIODIVERSITY	Special Award for Biodiversity 2016	Letter from an Environmental or Planning (Permitting) authority or an NGO



ANNEX IV

Examples of project areas that could be eligible for an award

ENVIRONMENT

Restoration

Agriculture; reforestation; landscape; biodiversity; sport; education and culture; 'hard' end uses (housing, industrial estates).

Environment best practice

Efficiency in resource conservation ; noise, dust, vibration, energy; contribution to biodiversity; prevention of water pollution; voluntary initiatives; water consumption; re-use of materials; waste management; ISO 14001; traffic.

SOCIAL

Local Community partnership

Education; communication and dialogue; site visits; contribution (non economic) to the community; addressing local concerns; heritage (archaeology, etc.).

Health and safety best practice

Operation safety; involvement; safety organisation; index; research and development into safety issues; competence assurance; occupational health; worker participation.

ECONOMIC

Economic contribution / added value to society

Outstanding actions related to Economic, Social and Environmental contribution to society.

Operational best practice and initiatives, Process or Product Innovation

Outstanding actions related to development of process (such as water use minimization) or product innovations (such as new applications).

Innovations in Recycled, Marine or Manufactured Aggregates

Research and development for design of the site / operation

SPECIAL AWARD/S "BIODIVERSITY"

Outstanding actions related to the protection, improvement of existing or the creation of new habitats/species.