

PRESS RELEASE

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Green Ribbon Awards celebrate greatest environmental achievements of UK and international politicians, business and charities

Leading instigators of the Paris climate change deal featured prominently in the awards as did motor companies for very different reasons, with Tesla being awarded for its pioneering energy storage solutions and VW awarded the Grey Ribbon Award for its use of cheat devices for emissions tests in its cars.

Parliamentarians, journalists, businesses and environmental figures gathered at the House of Commons Terrace Pavilion on Tuesday 3rd May for announcement of the 2016 award winners. The event was hosted by Jonathon Porritt and Baroness Parminter (Liberal Democrat Deputy Leader in the Lords and Spokesperson for Environment and Rural Affairs) and supported by the All-Party Parliamentary Environment Group. We were honoured to be joined by our special guest speaker, President of the Constitutional Council, President of COP21 and broker of the Paris climate deal Laurent Fabius.

CIWEM Chief Executive Terry Fuller said "These awards celebrate those who speak passionately and campaign tirelessly on the environment, demonstrate leadership and commitment and engender positive change in the way we as human beings interact with our fragile planet.

CIWEM's role with these awards is that of facilitator. As a professional institution we are staunchly independent and apolitical. We engage enthusiastically with parliamentarians of all political persuasion, advising where we can and helping to educate and drive forward effective solutions to a full range of environmental challenges."

Chaired by Terry Fuller, the twelve-strong judging panel of MP's, journalists and environmental campaigners selected the following winners on 22nd February 2016:

Parliamentarian of the Year (MP) - Nick Hurd MP

Nick is awarded for his leadership on pushing a green Conservative message from the backbenches, through his Chairmanship of the All Party Parliamentary Environment Group, as a Member of the Environmental Audit Committee and now through his work as DFID Minister.

Parliamentarian of the year (House of Lords) - Baroness Young of Old Scone

Baroness Young is commended for her work outside of the House, speaking out for environmental concerns relating to Brexit through her role as co-Chair of Environmentalists for Europe.

Parliamentarian of the year (MEP) - Catherine Bearder MEP

Catherine is awarded for her work championing stronger European targets for reducing air pollution in Member States and pushing to clean up the vehicle testing emissions regime.

Journalist of the year - Geoffrey Lean

Geoffrey Lean pioneered the role of environmental correspondent over 40 years ago, long before green issues became fashionable. He has been a tireless voice for conservation, with incredible attention to detail, showing scientific consensus and speaking out on climate change from the very beginning.

Best environmental journalism - The Guardian

The Guardian climate team has been selected for its exceptional coverage of the Paris climate conference and its parallel 'Keep it in the Ground divestment' campaign. The judges felt it worthy to reward the impressive level of commitment put in by the paper to non-partisan reporting of environmental issues.

Best environmental campaign by a non-governmental organisation - Green Alliance

Green Alliance is rewarded for its unique and brilliant campaign to broker a cross-party pledge on climate change prior to the General Election. Green Alliance is a charity and independent think tank focused on ambitious leadership for the environment. They stimulate new thinking and dialogue on environmental policy, and increase political action and support for environmental solutions in the UK.

Business commitment to the environment - Tesla

Tesla topped the business commitment to the environment category with serial technology entrepreneur Elon Musk at the helm. The company is constantly pushing the boundaries with innovative and game changing technology.

Most inspirational figure internationally - His Holiness Pope Francis

His Holiness Pope Francis has won the Green Ribbon Political Award for the most inspirational figure internationally for the Papal Encyclical *Laudato si'*.

Best environmental achievement internationally - Laurent Fabius, former French Foreign Minister, President of the Constitutional Council and President-designate of COP21

The Paris climate deal was undoubtedly the greatest achievement internationally in 2015, however it is unlikely that it would have been reached at all without the efforts of Laurent Fabius, French Foreign Minister and President of COP21. The judges chose to award Mr Fabius specifically for translating 195 nations' desires, disputes, and compromises into a document to save civilization from climate change.

Lifetime achievement award - Sir David Attenborough

A genuine broadcasting institution, he has achieved an impact like no other, bringing the wonders of the natural world to living rooms across the globe and inspiring countless budding naturalists and environmentalists to conserve and protect our imperilled planet.

Green Ribbon Award for special recognition of environmental achievement - Christiana Figueres

As Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change over the past 6 years, she has taken that mantle to the climate change struggle and turned the post-Copenhagen malaise into the Paris optimism and commitment.

Sir Ed Davey

Ed Davey is commended for his work as Minister for Energy and Climate Change in the Coalition Government to May 2015.

National Assembly for Wales

The Welsh Government is awarded for special recognition of environmental achievement for the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

It is with regret that the **Grey Ribbon Award for environmentally destructive contribution** is given to Volkswagen and those complicit in the emissions scandal. This year's grey ribbon award links air pollution, climate change, health impacts and greenwash all into one. This award is for knowingly deploying defeat devices leading to increased air pollution and for downplaying the extent of the emissions crisis. There was a manifest fraud throughout the business; 11 million cars worldwide had the software installed, 1.2m of them were in the UK. VW knowingly and intentionally cheated on emission tests.

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For more information, please contact Vicky West, CIWEM Publications and Media Coordinator, on 020 7831 3110, E: victoria@ciwem.org.

Notes to Editors

1. CIWEM, The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, is the leading independent Chartered professional body for water and environment professionals, promoting excellence within the sector. www.ciwem.org
2. For further information and full winner citations please see the Green Ribbon Awards webpage www.ciwem.org/greenribbon or follow @GRPAwards on twitter for updates.
3. The All-Party Parliamentary Environment Group acts to raise awareness of environmental issues to both Houses and is chaired by Richard Benyon MP.
4. Environmental Policy Consultants (EPC) founded in 1990 is Britain's leading specialist environmental lobbying and PR consultancy. EPC founded the Green Ribbon Political Awards in 1993.