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Glebe Cottage Wins Environmental Leadership Award

Glebe Cottage, the eco-friendly card company, has become the UK's first greetings card manufacturer to win a top prize in the prestigious Business Commitment to the Environment (BCE) Environmental Leadership Awards. Glebe Cottage won the 'Product Premier Award' for its 'inspirational' commitment to eco-friendly publishing. The annual competition, established in 1975 by former British Rail boss Sir Peter Parker, recognises and rewards companies that protect and enhance the environment without compromising on business performance.

Accepting the award at a ceremony in London on the 8th of June, Glebe Cottage Director, Susanna Morrish, said "We were already excited to be the first greetings card publisher to be short listed in the 35 year history of the BCE Awards. Winning the top prize for the product category, which was open to all UK businesses, is simply fantastic. It helps to highlight our long-held belief that absolutely everybody has the power to make the world greener, businesses and individuals alike: it is just a matter of the choices we make. Winning this award feels like a real 'David and Goliath' achievement, particularly when you consider that last year's winner of this award (Sainsburys) employs over 150,000 people: there are only six of us!"

During the presentation of the 'Product Premier Award', the judges stated, "What impressed us was that Glebe Cottage is truly leading the industry. The environment is fully embedded in Glebe Cottage's business model, and they produce every card to a strict environmental standard. This company has taken a conscious decision to target the mass market, not the niche 'green' market, as they believe that this approach will deliver the biggest environmental impact. Furthermore, they have taken every opportunity to tell their competitors about what they are doing so that the industry, as a whole, can become greener." The judges went on to quote Sharon Little, the CEO of the Greetings Card Association who said "Glebe Cottage is a tiny company that punches above its weight: It has been responsible for opening many publishers' eyes."

For more information about Glebe Cottage's trail-blazing environmental commitments please visit www.glebe-cottage.co.uk or call Susanna Morrish on 01626 369269. Glebe Cottage's full range of eco-friendly products will be on show at the Autumn Fair (NEC) in Hall 4, stand F39.



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Editors Notes

- The Business Commitment to the Environment (BCE) Environmental Leadership Awards scheme was established in 1975. Since then, it has been showcasing UK environmental excellence and recognising businesses whose activities enhance or protect the environment while meeting commercial demands. The BCE Awards are the UK's oldest environmental awards and are also the only nationwide UK awards open to all sectors and technologies. BCE is unique in that it is run by business rather than any regulator, authority or government agency, and specifically rewards the efforts of business to address environmental issues without regulatory intervention. Under the scheme, UK businesses compete to show best practice in areas such as climate change, air quality, waste management, resource efficiency, and protecting Britain's countryside and natural resources.
- In November 2008, Glebe Cottage won Gold at the International Green Apple Awards in the highly competitive printing and publishing category. The highly prestigious international award for environmental best practice was awarded in recognition of its trail blazing environmental approach within the Greeting Card Industry. The Green Apple Awards campaign is run by The Green Organisation, an independent, non-political, non-profit organisation that recognises, rewards and promotes environmental best practice around the world. It's supporters include the Environment Agency, the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and various other professional bodies.
- Glebe Cottage was the first UK greetings card publisher to achieve CarbonNeutral® status in November 2007.
- In November 2006 Glebe Cottage Ltd became the first direct-to-retail greetings card publisher in the UK to obtain an FSC chain of custody. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) manages the only internationally recognised forest certification standard that ensures buyers that timber comes from environmentally and socially responsible forest management.
- In May 2006 Glebe Cottage was the first UK greeting card publisher to start using compostable packaging for its cards. The company uses recycled envelopes for all of its products and only works with environmentally responsible printing companies.
- Glebe Cottage's unique eco-commitments include:
 - ✓ Compostable bags
 - ✓ FSC & recycled content boards
 - ✓ Low-or-no-alcohol print technology
 - ✓ 100% recycled envelopes
 - ✓ Vegetable-based inks
 - ✓ Green energy
 - ✓ UK Printers
 - ✓ CarbonNeutral® Company
- Glebe Cottage Ltd publishes calendars and greetings cards covering fine art, photographic, floral, children's and Christmas, using distinctive artwork from contemporary artists throughout the UK.
- Additional resources
 Glebe Cottage's BCE summary - <http://www.bceawards.org/product-premier-award-3/>
 Glebe Cottage's BCE video - <http://www.youtube.com/user/BCEAwards#p/u/2/r7wkmmE4IGU>
- Contact:
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- Supporting images:
 Sample images of cards published by Glebe Cottage are available on request.