

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release 3rd Dec 2015



Celebrating environmental excellence

At its annual reception, Society for the Environment celebrated the success and impact of environmental professionals, embedding sustainability across a wide array of industries. The Society's Chair, Peter Matthews OBE CEnv, said 'being a registered environmentalist provides individuals with a demonstrable set of competences, valued by employers'.

Responding to a report (ref in footnote) highlighting the skills gap between the number of technicians presently working in the UK, and the 450,000 needed by 2020 to underpin a growing innovation economy, the Society has launched a new Register for Environmental Technicians and celebrated the awards of the first three REnvTech professionals to achieve this status through the Institute of Water.

Guest speaker, Kate Kelly HR Director of Anglian Water, explained why Anglian Water value professional development for their workforce, noting "Professional registration inspires trust; having competent, highly credible people working for us is very important, that is why we put external accreditation at the heart of our training programme"

The Society also heard from Guest Speaker Andrew Heald, Technical Director of the Confederation of Forestry Industry UK Ltd. Andrew spoke of the importance of collaboration and how the dialogue around natural capital was providing a common language across a broad range of sectors bringing a better understanding of the importance of natural resource management; a theme close to the Society's heart as it provides collaborative opportunities between its diverse professional partners, through environmental best practice and professional registrations.

The Society also honoured Dame Yve Buckland DBE with an Honorary Fellowship for her services to environmental stewardship, in particular as Chair of the National Consumer Council for Water for England and Wales. Dame Buckland nurtured collaborations with organisations including Energy Saving Trust and Waterwise to maximise consumer awareness of the importance of resource protection in water and energy use.

Finally, the winner of the coveted Chartered Environmentalists of the year was announced. This award is achieved by individuals nominated by 23 different professional bodies. This year's winner, Lucinda Gilfoyle, Catchment & Coastal Strategy Manager at Anglian Water, demonstrated wide reaching positive impact with her work to mitigate marine pollution and agricultural pollution to drinking water. All the finalists were highly commended by the Judges; details of their achievements can be found on the Society's website.

The Society's Chief Executive, Dr Emma Wilcox said: 'it was a real pleasure to present awards to such deserving individuals'. Our registrants and honorary fellows epitomise the professionalism of environmental roles right across the UK and should be congratulated in their personal achievements as well as the contribution that make to Society in general'.

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More information and photographs, contact the Society for the Environment, on 02476 796451 or email Kerry.geldart@socenv.org.uk

Note for editors:

- 1) The Society for the Environment is a leading independent, non-political umbrella organisation for environmental and sustainability professionals. Our purpose is to support and champion the role of environmental professionals everywhere in the pursuit of a sustainable future. The 24 institutions and learned societies that form our [membership](#) represent hundreds of thousands of practitioners, working across a broad spectrum of disciplines and sectors.
- 2) The Society's annual reception was held at The Crystal this year, [description] with a delegation of Honorary Fellows, industry and professional body representatives.
- 3) For further information on the work of the Society, see the website www.socenv.org.uk. Alternatively, contact Emma Wilcox, Chief Executive of the Society for the Environment: tel: 0845 3372951 emma.wilcox@socenv.org.uk

- 4) The members and Constituent Bodies of the **Society for the Environment** are:

Arboricultural Association (AA)
Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT)
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
Energy Institute (EI)
Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)
Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)
Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)
Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3)
Institute of Water (IWater)
Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)
Institution of Chemical Engineers (ICHEM)
Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
Institution of Engineering Designers (IED)
Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)
Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMECH)
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)

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Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)
Society of Environmental Engineers (SEE)
Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)