



**Embargoed until Nov 30th 2012**

## **Elan Hair Design claim the British Chamber's Sustainability Award**

An eco-friendly hair salon that has reaped the benefits of 'going green' has been awarded the Sustainability title at the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Chamber Awards.

Elan Hair Design, which employs 14 people in Inverurie, beat off competition from hundreds of companies from across Britain to bring the prestigious title back to Scotland.

The company impressed judges with the way it has instilled a culture of sustainability right across the business, investing £250,000 into creating what is believed to be the UK's most eco-friendly hair salon.

This commitment has seen it implement a number of measures to save energy, reduce waste and increase the 'feel good' factor of using hairdressing and beauty treatments that leave a positive effect on the environment.

Carbon-zero furniture has been purchased, PV panels installed to generate electricity, the adoption of LED lighting to reduce electricity usage and basins that cut water consumption by 64%.

All of this has translated into a 20% increase in turnover for Elan Hair Design and the creation of new jobs.

Over 500 guests were on hand at the Guildhall in London to witness the culmination of the competition, which is the flagship event in the BCC's 'Business is Good for Britain' campaign.

Joining Elan Hair Design on the podium were eight other organisations, including a global pharmaceutical specialist, an entrepreneurial funeral director and an international wholesale exporter.

The winners were:

- Austin's Funeral Directors' Claire Austin (Entrepreneur of the Year)
- Biotec Services International (Achievement in International Business)

- Freshney Place Shopping Centre (Marketing Campaign of the Year)
- Prism Total IT Solutions (Excellence in Customer Service)
- Ramsden International (Business of the Year and Outstanding Business Achievement)
- Simply Bows and Chair Covers (Most Promising New Business)
- Thomsons Online Benefits (Excellence in Innovation)
- The Trafford Centre (Commitment to People Development)

President of the British Chambers of Commerce Martyn Pellew said: “At the start of this year we asked businesses to show us why they are good for Britain and I’m delighted with how they have responded.

“We had a record number of entries from all over the UK, with some excellent tales of innovation, job creation, growth and export success.”

He continued: “Elan Hair Design is a fitting winner of the Sustainability Award and shows what can be achieved with a committed management team and a strong vision.”

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Chamber Awards 2012 is now in its 9th year and are supported by the RBS Group, BT Business, Dell, DHL Express, Westfield Health, Club Wembley and Acua Limited.

**ENDS**

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### **British Chamber Awards**

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) is the national voice of local business.

The BCC sits at the heart of a powerful nationwide network of Accredited Chambers of Commerce, serving over **100,000 businesses** across the UK, which **employ over five million people**.

For more information visit: **[www.britishchambers.org.uk](http://www.britishchambers.org.uk)**