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Corporate Awards Category

FAQ - nomination, submission and judging process

Q. What is the difference between the corporate awards category and the other Australian Sustainability Awards?

A. The corporate awards are designed for ASX-listed companies that have taken strides to become more sustainable. The judging process also takes advantage of the fact that listed public companies experience a high level of scrutiny and engagement from corporate sustainability researchers and consultants - specialists who form the nominating committee and judging panel. Hence these awards represent a unique collaborative effort on the part of these specialists to acknowledge outstanding contributions in corporate sustainability from year to year.

The other category in the awards is designed for the responsible investment sector. It operates with a different judging process and a somewhat different judging panel.

Q. Who makes the corporate award nominations?

A. Nominations are for specific achievements in a particular category and are received by a nominating committee of sustainability research specialists like Innovest, CAER, Corporate Monitor, Monash Sustainability Enterprises, CGI Glass Lewis and SIRIS. In 2008 we also invited nominations from Ethical Investor readers. A copy of the nomination form will be available soon on the awards website.

Q. Can the company see the nomination?

A. No. Some researchers prefer that this process be kept confidential. Ethical Investor will detail the nominated project or initiative when it calls for submissions.

Q. How do we approach our submission without knowing full details of the nomination?

A. The purpose of the company submission should be to outline a broader range of specific achievements in the nominated category over the last 12 to 18 months. Also, state why those achievements are distinctive, innovative or best

practice for your sector. The judging panel will review both the specific nomination and the broader achievements in the company submission.

Q. Are there any other requirements in the submission process?

A. Yes. All nominees will be contacted by Ethical Investor to provide artwork and a logo to be used when acknowledging their nomination during the awards presentation. Nominees will also be asked to provide any video content relevant to the activities or which they have been nominated. This video content will be viewed by the judging panel and selected videos will feature in the awards presentation. Ethical Investor may also ask selected nominees to participate in a video-recorded interview that will also be used as content for the awards ceremony.

Q. Does the submission need to mention our broader sustainability achievements?

A. No. Stick to the nominated category. The judging panel will be provided with other information about this which will be used when they assess the Sustainable Company of the Year Award.

Q. Who is on the judging panel?

A. The judging panel for 2009 includes:
Peter Murphy, Christian Super
Susheela Peres da Costa, Regnan
Terence Jeyaretnam, Net Balance
Talieh Williams, UniSuper

The panel is chaired by Ethical Investor's Michael Walsh in a non-voting capacity. All of the judges are experts in the field of corporate sustainability and have extensive knowledge of how corporate Australia is changing in this area.

Q. Are there specific criteria for judging the awards?

A. Yes, but these awards are not a balanced scorecard affair. They are designed to single out companies that have excelled in each category over the last year or so. This may come about due to a vast improvement, innovation, sector leadership or commercial success. That said, judges also like to see that winners have their bases covered in other areas of sustainability performance.

Q. Will we be contacted after making our submission?

A. Usually no, but we may have more questions after the judging panel meets to clarify any particular issues.

Q. Do the same old companies figure in each year's awards?

A. Only when they consistently post outstanding achievements. More commonly, a prior winner in one category may win another category or may take out the Company of the Year Award. Each year the nominating committee is encouraged to find new companies to put forward.

Q. When will we know if we have won?

A. Winners are only announced at the awards ceremony. The element of surprise is good theatre.

Q. How can I find out more?

A. Read last years awards coverage in *Ethical Investor*
<http://www.ethicalinvestor.com.au/Awards/2009/EI82AwardsSection.pdf>.

Q. What happens at the awards luncheon?

A. After the Keynote Presentation each award nominee will be acknowledged briefly for their performance before the awards winner in each category is announced. This will include video content for selected award nominees. Each award winner will be invited to make an acceptance speech lasting up to two minutes. This is an excellent opportunity to talk about your achievements to a select audience of sustainability specialists (or as we call it, the *sustainability cognoscenti*). Each award comes with a trophy. After the awards each winner will be provided with the awards logo so that they can promote their award using the appropriate symbol.

Q. How is the sustainable company of the year award determined?

A. There are two awards: Large Company = ASX200; Small Company = any other ASX listed company. All nominated companies are in contention for this award. Once the judges have determined the category awards, they then assess the broader sustainability performance of the nominees. The inputs into this process include the nomination, company submission, Corporate Monitor ESG company reports and the judges' own knowledge of corporate sustainability. The judges also determine about five finalists for the company of the year awards, which are also announced at the awards luncheon.