

MEDIA RELEASE

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Product Stewardship Excellence Awards 2022

Award Winners Announced

NSW's Return and Earn Container Deposit Scheme, Dulux Trade's paint pail return-recycle scheme, Fairview Ecoloop's solution for aluminium cladding, Remondis Australia's Stewardship Tracking App and Biopak's Compost Connect were all honoured at the Product Stewardship Excellence Awards in Sydney tonight.

The Product Stewardship Excellence Awards recognise achievements across stewardship outcomes for collective schemes and individual businesses, the use of digital technology and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

There were six categories judged by a panel of national and international experts across industry, government, research and stewardship organisations chaired by Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence director Dr Damien Giurco.

"The breadth of entrants and depth of innovation in this year's Product Stewardship Excellence Awards show just how much progress is being made in working to mainstream product stewardship with associated benefits for our society, Australia's economy and the environment," said Dr Giurco.

The winners and highly commended (if awarded) are set out below.

1. **Best Stewardship Outcomes – Collective Scheme**

Winner: **Return and Earn NSW Container Deposit Scheme**

Judges said: Return and Earn have demonstrated strong stewardship outcomes for the community and environment. Judges noted a commendable use of data around engagement and participation including via an Impact Calculator to help users understand the positive impact of their involvement in the scheme. Social and economic outcomes were well-evidenced, and consultation is currently underway to expand the scheme to include glass wine and spirit bottles.

2. **Best Stewardship Outcomes – Individual Business or Brand (Large companies 200 + employees)**

Winner: **Dulux Trade**

Judges said: Dulux have developed an initiative to encourage the return of used 15L paint pails then recycling them into durable new paint pots and roller trays to sell back through their trade and retail channels. Judges thought the circular nature of Dulux's application and the linking of the program to their core business was unique. They were also impressed with Dulux's performance on social outcomes, creating jobs and manufacturing new products in Australia.

3. **Best Stewardship Outcomes – Individual Business or Brand (SMEs < 199 employees)**

Winner: **Fairview**

Judges said: Fairview's Ecoloop is a recycling solution for aluminium composite panel cladding aimed at diverting 100% of waste from landfill as part of a national replacement of non-compliant cladding. Judges were inspired by the complete circular nature of their program, and its successes in ensuring that each component of the separated materials were further utilised, namely aluminium, polyethylene, ferrous metals, mixed residuals. They also noted that the program has considerable potential to be scaled.

Commendation: **SVC Products Pty Ltd**

SVC Products is a Victorian precast concrete manufacturing business who have actively collaborated with external partners to develop and refine products for improved stewardship outcomes and environmental benefits.

4. Excellence in Design for Product Stewardship

Judges did not award a winner in this category.

5. Excellence in Digitalisation for Product Stewardship

Winner: **REMONDIS Australia**

Judges were impressed by the level of innovation demonstrated across this category, making this a very difficult category to decide upon. They determined Remondis' Product Stewardship Tracking App was worthy of the award, as their digital information had considerable capacity to reduce contamination. Particularly, Remondis' bespoke digital application enables them to track every collection from transfer stations in Queensland and Victoria and supports the effectiveness of their collection contract with Paintback.

Commendation: **Global GreenTag International Pty Ltd**

Global GreenTag currently certify over 16,000 products for over 230 manufacturers with factories in over 22 countries and the data from their platform supports the wider adoption of product stewardship.

6. Excellence in Emissions Reduction through Product Stewardship

Winner: **BioPak**

Judges said: BioPak's product stewardship initiative, Compost Connect, seeks to close the loop on compostable packaging and divert food waste from landfill, connecting businesses with composters to turn these resources into composted soil. Judges were impressed with BioPak's approach to the design of its compostable packaging and to reducing methane emissions relative to food waste going to landfill, whilst cycling nutrients via compost. Judges noted that the application emphasised the need for a national, consistent approach to compostable packaging and food recovery.

Product Stewardship Champion of the Year

The Product Stewardship Champion of the Year award is bestowed by the directors of the Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence, to recognise an Australian individual or team who has had a singular impact in driving stewardship forward in Australia.

Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Environment, Western Australian Local Government Association was named the **Product Stewardship Champion of the Year Award for 2022**.

Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence Director Rose Read said:

"Rebecca has devoted much of her professional life to waste reduction and environmental management in local government. She has been a forthright and constructive advocate always focused on outcomes and impact, and her efforts and influence have extended nationally.

"In her role as Manager of Waste and Environment with the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), she has proactively elevated local government as an essential stakeholder, partner and provider in several product stewardship and EPR schemes.

“Rebecca understands the fundamental purpose, role and value of product stewardship and the need for manufacturers, brands and retailers to play a stronger role in taking responsibility for the products they place on the market,” said Rose Read.

The Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence thanks Ecycle Solutions, MobileMuster and Veolia for their generous sponsorship of the 2022 Product Stewardship Excellence Awards.

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About the Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence

The Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence was established in December 2020 by a consortium of UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures, the Australian Industry Group and Cox Inall dentsu in partnership with the Australian Government through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. It was established with the assistance of a grant from the Australian Government.

The Centre holds the required knowledge and expertise in product stewardship scheme design and implementation, education, training, research, policy, community engagement, supply chains, logistics, government liaison and business engagement.

www.stewardshipexcellence.com.au