

The logo features the word 'CREST' in a light green, outlined font, with a small globe of the Earth as the letter 'C'. To the right, '23' is written in a solid blue font. Below 'CREST' and '23' is the text 'BUSINESS AWARDS' in a solid blue font.

# CREST23 BUSINESS AWARDS

SURREY'S ONLY GREEN BUSINESS AWARDS CELEBRATING A BETTER TOMORROW

A white rectangular box with rounded corners containing the event title in a bold, dark green font.

## CREST23 Awards Convention

WWF Living Planet Centre, Woking

26 October 2023

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# Awards weather stormy start to develop into a year-round collaboration

by Carol Miller and Terry Tidbury, Co-Directors CREST Business Awards

THE 2023 journey to the CREST23 Business Awards Convention has been exciting and challenging and, as it began life just ahead of the COVID pandemic, it has weathered its fair share of storms!

However, just like anything that is worth fighting for, the programme has gained in value to help businesses to meet the challenges of the climate crisis.

Rebranded with even more award categories, we began the year with the launch of the CREST Consortium, which is a think tank created to achieve a year-round collaboration between businesses and academics to achieve environmentally sustainable businesses.

Working in partnership from the outset with the Institute for Sustainability at the University of Surrey, we set out to establish a green business hub for Surrey that will set a template for the UK's business sector.

The Institute, which was itself established in October last year, has opened up the opportunity for members of the Consortium to have access to its network and the expertise of more than 200 academics at the University of Surrey.

At the same time as the rebranding and Consortium were happening, we continued to receive feedback on the work by the Centre for Environment and Sustainability at Surrey University with CREST22 winners who received free consultations with CES academics.

These varied from the husband and wife team at Dorking-based Crumbs Brewery to blue-chip company McLaren Applied, based in Woking.

It was, therefore, a great honour when the HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux, officially declared this year's awards open to 2023 entries in March at an event hosted by a CREST22 winner, Clandon Wood Nature Reserve and Burial Ground.

The CREST Business Awards family continues to grow exponentially, through the support of people

like Simon Ferrar, founder of Clandon Wood, and Danielle Bekker, whose business Binary Botanical was a CREST21 winner, and who, having sold her business, has volunteered her help and been one of our judges.

Indeed, our event at the WWF's Living Planet Centre became a Convention because of the number of activities we have included.

Of these, we feel honoured to inaugurate the CREST Awards Seminar, and welcome our long-standing friend Joanna Yarrow and Professor Lorenzo Fioramonti. They are providing insights into what environmental sustainability looks like for businesses and how important it is for them to embrace it.

It is a unique opportunity and our privilege to have two such distinguished experts at CREST23 and we believe the seminar will be a valuable experience for attendees with the growing interest today in greener business operations and products.

However, there is clearly still confusion over what sustainability is, terms such as Net-Zero, as well as the commercial impacts, the what and the whys involved.

At the same time, we see the return of the Green Business Exhibition following its success last year. It was welcomed as a great platform for businesses and an opportunity to network and share green initiatives with like-minded people.

Thank you to everyone attending the CREST23 Business Awards Convention and to all our sponsors and supporters.





# Academic support a clear element of awards success



CREST Consortium think tank met for the first time in February 2023, developing out of the CREST Business Awards programme as a year-round initiative.

CREST23 is only in its third year as Surrey's only green business awards presentations, but work began on the programme in 2019.

Carol Miller, Co-Director of CREST Business Awards, who conceived the idea, explains: "It was clear to me from the outset that an essential part of the successful delivery of the awards was the advice and support of academics on environmental issues.

"In Surrey, we are fortunate to have access to this expertise at the University of Surrey, where its academics work at the cutting edge of sustainability with national and international organisations."

The experts at the university's Centre for Environment and Sustainability generously offered free consultations to the winners of CREST Awards, increasingly considered an important business investment with the Net Zero deadline fast approaching.

Through our partnership with the CES we welcomed an opportunity to connect with the Institute for Sustainability at the University, launched in October 2022, and Professor Lorenzo Fioramonti, the founding director.



**CREST Co-Director Carol Miller (far right) leads the consortium launch meeting.**

It gave us the springboard we were seeking to offer business leaders the chance to build on green initiatives, share ideas, and importantly have invaluable advice of experts.

With the support of the institute, we have been able to press ahead with our offer of membership to the CREST Consortium.

Nathalie Hinds, Head of Partnerships at the Institute for Sustainability, says: "This is about connecting like-minded leaders and bringing together social and natural scientists, technologists and non-academic stakeholders from the public, private and third sector, to drive change."

The awards encourage businesses to adopt greater sustainability by celebrating the work they are doing to protect the environment; the consortium aims to build a template for businesses to follow to make

it easier for them to evolve their green profiles and meet Net Zero targets.

The institute has brought together the huge variety of initiatives focused on sustainability and the environment in about 45 departments, including the CES, to form a hub that can draw on the expertise of more than 200 academics.

Recognising the role of the awards and the consortium, Prof. Fioramonti says: "I see no reason why the CREST Consortium should not play a key part in making Surrey a leader in business sustainability."

Recognition of how far CREST Business Awards have come and the valuable part they have to play as part of Surrey County Council's Greener Futures Programme was set out at the official launch of CREST23 in March by the HM Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux.



**Carol Miller (third left) fellow CREST co-director Terry Tidbury (first right) with awards launch guests of honour (from left) Woking MP Jonathan Lord, Michael More-Molyneux and Katie Sargent Greener Futures Group Manager at Surrey County Council.**



# Supporting your business to **grow greener**

Surrey County Council is working with partners to help Surrey become net zero by 2050 to help tackle climate change today and for our future generations.

Find out about the grants and loans that are available to help your business to be greener and decarbonise at **[surreycc.gov.uk/businessfunding](https://surreycc.gov.uk/businessfunding)**



**SURREY**  
COUNTY COUNCIL



## Green Business Seminar

# Two outstanding speakers

## Joanna Yarrow

LEADING environmentalist Joanna Yarrow returns to Surrey's only green business awards to lead a seminar on sustainability for CREST23 Business Awards Convention.

Founding partner at M&C Saatchi LIFE, Joanna is the former head of sustainable and healthy living at IKEA.

She is an established sustainability speaker and presenter following a career that includes working as a sustainability communications consultant for organisations such as BT, Tesco, Royal Mail and the Earth Centre.

Joanna also co-founded and ran the sustainability company Beyond Green, where she led a portfolio of strategy, development and communications projects for clients including Audi, the Premier League and P&G.

Joanna became a household

presenter of BBC 3's Outrageous Wasters and has covered consumer-focused sustainability stories on a range of TV lifestyle and current affairs programmes.

She has also written books including 1,001 Ways You Can Save the Planet, How to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint and Ecological! and fronted consumer behaviour-change campaigns including the Ariel/Energy Saving Trust energy and water-saving campaigns and the Future Friendly Awards – all focusing on making sustainable living mainstream.

Joanna's vast experience has played a key role in the formation of M&C Saatchi, which is a strategic and creative consultancy on a mission to make sustainable living mainstream. It works with businesses and brands to inspire and enable better living within planetary limits.



## Professor Lorenzo Fioramonti



PROFESSOR Lorenzo Fioramonti is the founding director of the Institute for Sustainability at the University of Surrey and a former member of parliament and minister of education, university and research in the Italy government.

He is passionate about sustainability education and research and his books include Wellbeing Economy: Success in a World Without Growth (MacMillan 2017) and The World After GDP: Economics, Politics and International Relations in the Post-Growth Era (Polity 2017), which have been featured – among others – by Bloomberg and the Financial Times.

Lorenzo's opinion pieces have been published by The New York Times, Financial Times, The Guardian, Foreign Policy, Harvard Business Review, TruthOut, Die Presse, The Conversation, Das Parlament, Der Freitag, The Mail & Guardian, Business Day and [www.opendemocracy.net](http://www.opendemocracy.net).

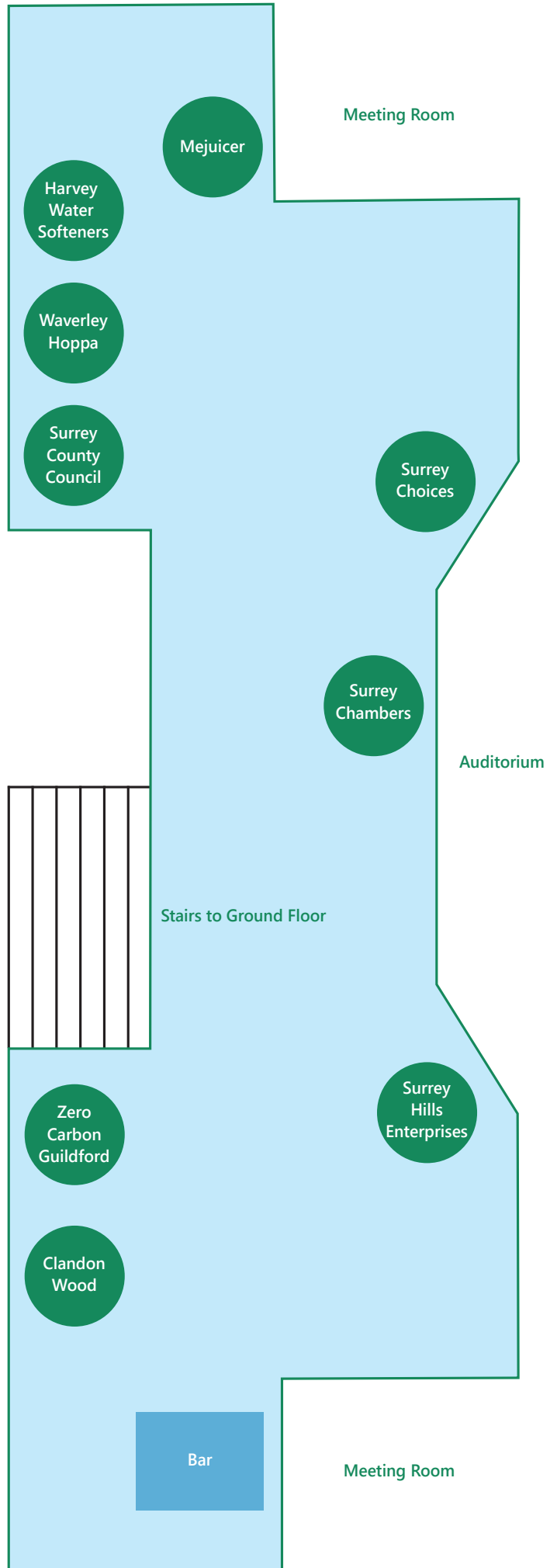
Lorenzo is a member of the Club of Rome – a leading international institution dedicated to rethinking growth through a wellbeing lens – and the co-chair of Surrey County Council's Greener Futures Board.

He is also a sought-after public speaker on issues regarding sustainable wellbeing, governance innovation and purpose-driven business. If you want to know more, Lorenzo's personal website is [www.lorenzofioramonti.org](http://www.lorenzofioramonti.org).

Green Business Exhibition

# Make sure you meet the exhibition stallholders

**The stands are on the Balcony at the WWF Living Planet Centre**





## The exhibitors

### Surrey County Council

Surrey CC is the headline sponsor without whom CREST Business Awards would not be possible. In July 2019, the council followed the Government's lead by declaring a Climate Emergency and committed to becoming net zero carbon by 2050. In order to meet this challenging target, it recognised that it must work with partners, residents, businesses and the Government to reduce carbon emissions produced in Surrey.

The council agreed an ambitious climate change strategy, the Greener Futures Investment Programme, to work closely with its borough and district partners. The strategy sets out an emissions reduction pathway for themes including transport, energy, housing and development and buildings and infrastructure. It commits the council to reduce carbon emissions from its corporate estate to net zero by 2030. The level of investment – approximately £297million over five years – surpasses previous investment by the council in mitigating the effects of climate change.

### Surrey Chambers of Commerce

Surrey Chambers of Commerce is the county's largest independent not-for-profit business support and networking organisation. It utilises the expertise and experience of thousands of businesses and sitting at the heart of the business community, Surrey Chambers of Commerce acts as a catalyst by connecting you to opportunities, skills, knowledge and valuable contacts.

Sponsors for the Sustainability Hero Award, Surrey Chambers of Commerce have been immensely supportive of the CREST Business Awards.

### Clandon Wood Nature Reserve and Burial Ground

Clandon Wood – winners of our 2022 Sustainability Impact award – is 31 acres of traditional wildflower meadowland, lakes, wetland and young woodland situated off the A246 Epsom Road at West Clandon. Their national award-winning naturally managed burial ground provides the perfect final resting place for you or a loved one whatever faith, belief or thinking.

Clandon Wood was designed as a nature reserve as well as a burial ground. Careful management by professionally qualified personnel with expertise in conservation and arboriculture enables the creation of a lasting legacy for future generations.

### Harvey Water Softeners

Harvey Water Softeners, based in Old Woking, is proud to be an official member of the Made in Britain campaign, in recognition of its efforts to promote excellence in research and development for British manufacturing.

The company's vision is to have softened water in every home in the UK. It says everyone "would benefit from a water softener, if it makes sense for one person, then it makes sense for everybody. Water is used every day and softened water does any job better than hard water."

### Waverley Hoppa

Waverley Hoppa is a registered charity whose services can be used by virtually anybody who does not have access to any other means of affordable transport.

Its mission is to provide a cost effective, quality transportation service to people who are unable to access ordinary transport for reasons of infirmity, disability, vulnerability or isolation.

### Surrey Choices

Surrey Choices provide a range of support services which are dedicated to improving the independence, confidence and life skills of disabled people, autistic people and those with other support needs, whatever their age, in the local community.

Its objective is to allow every person the chance to fulfil their potential and reach their goals, through enjoying, learning and achieving.

### Zero Carbon Guildford

Zero Carbon Guildford's objective is to help the borough of Guildford reach carbon neutrality by 2030, through the development of a community-led climate action plan.

In 2021 it launched ZERO, a vibrant town centre to act as the focal point for building a community led climate action plan. ZERO hosts a wide range of events, installations and exhibitions, talks and workshops, and lots more, to help drive engagement in climate action.

### Mejuicer

Mejuicer is a sustainable ginger shot making company headed up by founder, Joe Roberts-Walker. Joe started the company in 2021 after spending a long winter in lockdown and desperate to become a key worker. The aim was to provide community driven nutrition in a sustainable way.

The enterprise is all about delivering the freshest and tastiest juices to the local community in a sustainable way to demonstrate that things can be done differently.

### Surrey Hills Enterprises

Surrey Hills Enterprises is a Membership organisation which among other activities is working to support local enterprises, developing a thriving rural economy, promoting sustainable tourism, increasing environmental sustainability and motivating the community to "Buy Local". As a Community Interest Company, funds generated from its work go back to support the work of enhancing Surrey Hills, its landscape and local communities.

Award Sponsor

# Sustainability benefits environment

## Holdsway

HOLDSWAY is proudly sponsoring the Crest Business Awards for the third year running, supporting the Sustainability Impact Award for larger businesses with a turnover of more than £1million.



Business and organisational efficiency demand a rigorous focus on reducing waste, whether in materials, energy, human effort, investment or time. We salute all organisations which are working hard to be more efficient.

Holdsway introduces interim executives to companies to help them accelerate change and implement more efficient ways of working. Launched in Woking 10 years ago, Holdsway is now one of the UK's leading firms in its field.

Values of relationship-building, community support, and a pro-social motivation to help others, in combination with our expertise in

selecting executives who deliver successful change underpins the company's success.

Its clients are at the forefront of positive and rapid change. It has introduced

executives to design, launch and market sustainable bank notes, to implement the technology to enable scale up of electric commercial vehicle production and to finance and expand solar power infrastructure construction to mention a few.

All these companies are responding to rapidly changing market environments. Holdsway's

interim executives help them deliver efficiency improvements across operations, supply chain, commercial, customer service, finance, technology and digitisation.

The Crest Business Awards raise the profile of a positive environmental strategy. Holdsway says that using all its available resources – including people – in the most efficient ways possible has long-lasting and positive results for businesses and the environment.

Successful organisations continually focus on efficiency, optimising resources and ways of working. Its interim executives bring that sense of urgency, championing business efficiency!

**Holdsway partner  
Nick Diprose.**



## CREST Business Awards are dedicated to protecting wildlife and the natural environment





# Holdsway is Helping Businesses Accelerate Change

Holdsway are thrilled to support Surrey's CREST Business Awards for the third year. Established in Woking ten years ago, we are one of the UK's leading interim management firms, introducing leadership expertise to accelerate change.



*Nick Diprose and Mary Murphy of Holdsway.*

Our interim executives have launched electric vehicles, sustainable banknotes, built solar energy infrastructure, and accessible medical technology. We call them Expert Game Changers because they are the catalysts of change across the economy.

Successful change means engaging with people and the CREST Business Awards engage with us all, encouraging us to think and act differently.

We are sponsoring the **Sustainability Impact Award** for businesses turning over at least £1 million. The shortlist acknowledges companies making a positive impact on people's lives through their products, services, well-being policies, supply chains, location, investment, or business models.

Congratulations to all those shortlisted and a huge thank you to all businesses across Surrey working towards a sustainable future!



**Contact us to accelerate change:**

T : 0203 053 4438 [www.holdsway.co.uk](http://www.holdsway.co.uk)

Mail: [nick.diprose@holdsway.co.uk](mailto:nick.diprose@holdsway.co.uk)



## CREST23 Business Award Categories and Sponsors

# Categories expanded to meet developing trends

THE award categories for 2023 have been increased to meet the developing nature of sustainability, particularly with regard to the work by businesses and organisations.

**Smarter Transport** recognises companies moving away from fossil fuels and towards low carbon transport solutions such as measures that facilitate working from home, adoption of innovative technologies, moving to lower impact transport modes – public transport, car sharing, cycling etc.– or improving existing transport modes – sponsored by **Surrey County Council**.

**Restoring Nature** acknowledges initiatives that identify the importance of nature conservation and celebrates businesses that put the restoration of natural environments, plants and animals at the heart of their sustainability journey – sponsored by the **WWF-UK**.

**Sustainability Impact Award** acknowledges companies taking a leading role to make a positive impact on people's lives through their products, services, wellbeing policies, supply chains, location, investments or through business models.

In recognition of the vast range of entries CREST Business Awards receives in this category it has been divided into two categories for 2023:

- >Smaller businesses with a turnover of under £1million – sponsored by the **Institute for Sustainability**.
- >Larger businesses with a turnover including and above £1million – sponsored by **Holdsway**.

**Circular Efficiency** recognises a need to shift to a low carbon and circular economy and to challenge a 'take-make-dispose' model. It seeks innovative businesses adopting a more circular solution to operate within sustainable, environmental means, that achieves greater resource efficiency and reduces waste materials, water and carbon emissions – sponsored by **Carol Miller Media**.



**Community Impact Award** wants to celebrate those businesses that demonstrate an innovative, collaborative and proactive approach to the community and its workforce by taking positive steps to support people involved or affected by their activities – sponsored by **Surrey Hills Enterprises**.

The **Transforming Food Award** acknowledges innovation to create a positive impact on people and the environment. The many initiatives can be in reducing waste and inefficiencies, protecting water, soil and biodiversity and being transparent about ingredients – sponsored by **Surrey Wildlife Trust**.

The 2023 **Sustainability Hero Award** acknowledges the impact a person who has gone "above and beyond" in bringing about sustainable change by inspiring and leading others within their organisation or wider community to change – sponsored by **Surrey Chambers of Commerce**.

The recipient is based purely on the judging panel's choice, having assessed all the businesses, organisations and individuals who are presented in the category entries.

For the first time, the judges have introduced three named finalists in this award, in recognition of the very high standard of individuals they had to choose from.



**The awards finalists**

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<b>&gt; Restoring Nature</b>	Albury Organic Vineyard Roots for the Future CIC Plant Passion
<b>&gt; Sustainability Impact &lt;£1m</b>	Solarcycle UK For Earth's Sake Envorem
<b>&gt; Smarter Transport</b>	Cocoon Kids Waverley Hoppa Solarcycle UK
<b>&gt; Circular Efficiency</b>	For Earth's Sake Bee Friends Food Float CIC
<b>&gt; Transforming Food</b>	Mejuicer Foodfloat CIC Chimney Fire Coffee
<b>&gt; Community Impact</b>	Cocoon Kids Surrey Choices Zero Carbon Guildford
<b>&gt; Sustainability Impact &gt;£1m</b>	Waverley Hoppa Cleankill Pest Control Sea Change Wine
<b>&gt; Sustainability Hero</b>	Ben McCallan Mark Evenden Katy Markwardt

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## Convention Schedule

# WWF Living Planet Centre, Woking

## Thursday 26 October 2023, 2pm-8pm

**1.50pm Green Business Exhibition opens** – an opportunity to visit the exhibition stands and meet fellow attendees on the Living Planet Centre’s balcony

**2pm Business Awards Convention welcome** in the Auditorium, followed by presentations by Joanna Yarrow and Professor Lorenzo Fioramonti and a Q&A session

### **3.20pm-4.55pm Interval and another opportunity to visit the exhibition**

A small selection of light refreshments will be available at the centre during the interval. Attendees are welcome to visit nearby cafés that include Stretched & Fired at The Lightbox gallery. Re-entry to the convention is by presentation of lanyard badges.

**5pm The Awards Ceremony begins**, launched by the HM Lord Lieutenant for Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux

> **Restoring Nature Award** – Sponsored by **WWF-UK**, presented by Lauren Wiseman, WWF-UK Environmental Manager

> **Sustainable Impact Award for Businesses with turnover under £1m**, sponsored by the **Institute of Sustainability** and presented by Nathalie Hinds, the institute’s Head of Operations and Partnerships

> **Smarter Transport Award**, sponsored by **Surrey County Council** and presented by Matt Furniss, the council’s Cabinet Member for Transport

> **Circular Efficiency Award**, sponsored by **Carol Miller Media** and presented by Company Director Carol Miller, a Founding Director of CREST Business Awards

**6.15pm Interval and Networking Opportunity**, during which the exhibition on the balcony will remain open

### **7pm Awards Ceremony Resumes**

> **Transforming Food Award**, presented by Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Chief Executive of sponsors **Surrey Wildlife Trust**

> **Presentation by Cllr Marisa Heath**, Surrey County Council’s Cabinet Member for Environment

> **Community Impact Award**, sponsored by **Surrey Hills Enterprises** and presented by its Executive Director, Wendy Varcoe MBE

> **Sustainable Impact Award for Businesses with turnover over £1m**, sponsored by **Holdsway Interim Leaderships** and presented by Founding Partner Nick Diprose

> **Sustainable Hero Award**, presented by Sarah Butcher, Head of Membership for sponsors **Surrey Chambers of Commerce**

**Finale Co-Directors Terry Tidbury and Carol Miller close the convention**, joined by CREST23 Award Winners, Sponsors and Speakers



## Awards Ceremony Speakers

# Recognising reality of climate change

## Marisa Heath, Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment

MARISA is Surrey County Council's Cabinet member for Environment and is responsible for the authority's Climate Change Delivery Plan.

She first became a councillor in 2003, when she was elected to Runnymede Borough Council – while studying at Royal Holloway University in Egham.

She went on to be elected to the county council in 2006 and continued as a borough councillor until 2023.

She has 18 years of experience as a policy adviser and campaigner, working on issues relating to food production, food waste, conservation and animal welfare standards.

Having gained a strong understanding of legislation and policy making within Parliament, she has used this to work in areas relating to food production, welfare outcomes, climate change and biodiversity.

Cllr Heath is most interested in improving our food systems for the future, with a focus on supporting UK farming and reducing food miles, local procurement of food and



developing the role of plant-based foods.

She is CEO of the Plant-Based Food Alliance UK, a coalition of plant-based organisations representing food and drink producers, manufacturers, non-governmental organisations, retailers, nutritionists, academic bodies, and

consumer organisations from across the UK.

Surrey's Climate Change Strategy was published in 2020, in response to the county council and other local authorities declaring a climate emergency, which set a target for Surrey to become net zero by 2050.

The delivery plan supervised by Cllr Heath sets out what needs to happen over the next five years, the first step in a 30-year-long delivery phase.

The strategy recognises the evidence that climate change is real is beyond doubt and its effects are already being felt across the world.

An increase in man-made greenhouse gases will impact on the health, wellbeing and finances of Surrey's residents, businesses, landscapes and biodiversity for many years to come.

Cllr Heath was recently selected as the Conservative Party's candidate for the new Dorking and Horley parliamentary constituency, which also includes Fetcham, Bookham Mickleham and Headley.

# A focus on sustainability research

## Professor Richard Murphy

PROFESSOR Murphy has a BSc in Botany with Zoology from King's College London (1978) and a PhD in Plant Sciences from Imperial College London (1982).

He has worked in fungal biology, and in renewable materials and energy research in the UK, New Zealand and The Netherlands and has managed or participated in many wider international activities.

His research interests include fungal decay of wood and other ligno-cellulosic materials, anti-fungal treatments, plant-based bio-materials and bio-energy (biofuels and power), LCA and LCSA and Techno-Economic assessment to evaluate the sustainability of diverse systems.

His research has been funded by BBSRC, EPSRC, NERC, UK government, the European Commission and industry. He enjoys extensive international collaborations, has authored/co-authored more than 160 publications and conference papers and has co-founded three spin-out companies (Mycologix Ltd, LCAworks Ltd and LIXEA Ltd, formerly



*Professor Murphy launching the CREST 22 awards ceremony.*

Chrysalix Technologies Ltd.

In the last several years he has extended his research to novel applications of satellite Earth Observation to provide data supporting indicators of sustainability, such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Mining & Minerals (IOM3) and the Royal

Society of Arts (RSA). He has undertaken consultancy work on sustainability with The Coca-Cola Company, Braskem SA, Deloitte, and BT amongst others. He has also advised the UK Climate Change Committee on LCA and bioenergy, and was a member of DEFRA's Hazardous Substances Advisory Committee.

## Case studies

# Counting the value of being a part of CREST Business Awards

OUR biggest reward in organising CREST Awards is that these free to enter green business awards give real value to everyone involved.

The year-round work not only celebrates sustainability achievements by companies but also keeps the conversation going around their support and work to protect the environment.

In addition to media coverage, CREST is active on social media and through our sponsors, supporters and followers.

But, while public recognition is of huge commercial value to all our stakeholders, it is only a part of the value.

CREST Business Awards works in partnership with the University of Surrey and since our inception, the university's Centre for Environment and Sustainability has given award category winners the opportunity to receive free consultations with its academics on how they can achieve commercially viable goals to make them more sustainable.

Claire Brown, whose business **PlantPassion** was winner of CREST22 Circular Efficiency Award, knows first hand the impact of climate change.

## “I had a great consultation session, which gave me lots of ideas”

This year, PlantPassion celebrates its 10th anniversary, but the Surrey Hills flower farm where Claire grows her beautiful plants was badly hit by this year's long winter, which has contributed to a 50% year-on-year drop in sales so far this season.

Asked if she felt CREST Business Awards has a part to play in celebrating and encouraging environmentally sustainable business practice, she said: “Yes absolutely, it was amazing to win an award as a “tiny” business and be able to say, look we won this because we are thinking about how we reduce our carbon footprint and shout about what we are doing.

“I had a great consultation session, which gave me lots of ideas for working with others, and I hope that I may become a case study or work project example for students at the university!”

Morgan Arnell, co-founder and “chief crumb” of CREST22 Business Awards Transforming Food winners **Crumbs**



*Morgan and Elaine Arnell, the husband and wife team who founded Crumbs Brewing, receive their 2022 award from the then Woking News & Mail editor Mark Miseldine.*

**Brewing**, says: “Following on from the CREST22 Awards presentation and exhibition at the headquarters of WWF UK, we are glad to say that, as well as positive media exposure and recognition, we now provide WWF with our range of beers!

“As winners, we were awarded a free consultation with the CES and in addition to that we were able to work with them through their SME voucher programme.

“We have already engaged with the university and it has been really valuable to gain their support in fully assessing our carbon footprint and how we can make process improvements in the future.”

The company's biggest sustainable activity is obviously the one that is core

“Winning this award means a great deal! We're fully committed to creating a more sustainable future, like everybody involved with the CREST Awards. It's truly an honour to be recognised.”

– Samir Maha, Business Director of McLaren Applied, CREST22 Smarter Transport Award winner

to their success – fighting the problem of food waste by turning unsold loaves into a range of delicious beers. His advice to other businesses is: “Simply start by doing something, however small. At least you've then started the journey and are already making a positive difference.”

**Holdsway** is a founding sponsor of the CREST Business Awards and is probably best placed to explain their continued

## “It has been really valuable to gain the university's support”

commitment to the awards and with the launch of CREST Consortium, it was also the first business to sign up to the think tank.

Nick Diprose, Holdsway founding partner and his business partner, Mary Murphy, believe their support for the CREST Awards programme is important in setting out their ethos as a company.

“CREST highlights the huge opportunity businesses have to make their businesses more efficient whilst also aligning their actions with what is good for our planet.

“We actively promote the CREST Awards throughout our network – we always get

*Continued on Page 15 >>>*



Case studies

**Sponsorship by BNI Surrey most certainly set a great example and set out a really strong message.**

**– Jonathan Hamilton, former director of BNI Surrey, which sponsored the Sustainability Impact Award**

really positive feedback. There is clearly a growing interest in aligning business initiatives with actions on climate change.”

Holdsway was launched 10 years ago with a mission to help businesses accelerate change. The Woking-based firm is now one of the UK’s highest ranked interim management firms.

Speaking of Holdsway’s experience, Nick adds: “We see growing demand for environment, sustainability and green expertise. Embracing the challenges and opportunities of climate change will demand change management expertise.”

**DreamingFish Productions**, specialising in video and animation, has been key to the delivery of CREST Business Awards from their launch in 2020. So it was very exciting when the award-winning creative agency decided to be CREST23 Awards media sponsor.

Phil Miller, DreamingFish Managing Director, says: “As a company, we take our ‘We care’ value very seriously and this involves actively supporting our partner charities, focusing on the environment and sustainability, and working with the local community.

“Supporting the CREST23 Business Awards enables us to directly target both sustainability and the local community, so for us was a simple decision to be involved.

“As a small business, it can often be difficult to know what we can do to be more



*Holdsway founding partner Nick Diprose and partner Mary Murphy.*



*Phil Miller, Managing Director of DreamingFish.*

sustainable in the way we operate. We feel that the CREST Awards aim to raise the profile of businesses within Surrey that are doing their bit to tackle the climate crisis,

amplifying innovation and best practice from across the county is really important.”

DreamingFish uses its work with CREST as a case study within our proposals to highlight how it is helping to tackle climate change indirectly.

Phil adds: “The businesses that we work

**CREST Awards provides an opportunity to shine a light**

with range from multinationals to start-ups, but the majority are looking at what they can do to reduce their impact on the planet. It’s been a slow burn for many companies but as we now know just from watching the news, doing nothing is no longer an option. The CREST Awards provides an opportunity to shine a light on companies that are already making a difference and to inspire companies who are beginning their journey.”



*A face-to-face session at a BNI Surrey training event.*

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**Award Sponsor**

# Collaborating for a greener future

## Surrey Chambers of Commerce

SURREY Chambers of Commerce is delighted to be supporting the CREST Awards again this year and is privileged to be presenting the prestigious Sustainability Hero award.



The chambers represents hundreds of member companies in Surrey on a national and international platform. It is the county's largest independent not-for-profit business support and networking organisation, providing support and networking opportunities for members who include CREST Business Awards winners.

Sitting at the heart of the business community, Surrey Chambers of Commerce acts as a catalyst by connecting its members to opportunities, skills, knowledge, and valuable contacts. It is able to utilise the expertise and experience of thousands of businesses involving 55,000 people.

Surrey is one of the most successful and productive areas for business in the UK. With an economy worth more than £40billion and a net return of taxes of more than £6bn to the government, it is a county that embraces innovation and is a fantastic location to run a business.

With easy access to two major airports



**Sarah Butcher, Surrey Chambers Head of Membership.**

and fast routes into London, a company is well placed to expand its market from a base in the county. As well as this, organisations using the latest technology from the 65,000 businesses in Surrey make up an economy offering virtually any product or service required.

Chambers is actively involved with initiatives such as Surrey Climate Commission, Clean Growth and Green Innovation focus groups and are keen to help support the businesses community in the move to achieving a cleaner, greener carbon neutral county, so being involved in the CREST Awards is a terrific way to support these initiatives.

Sarah Butcher, Head of Membership for Surrey Chambers, says: "Through the hard work and sheer determination of businesses across Surrey great strides are being made to help achieve a cleaner, greener, carbon neutral county through innovative and collaborative action and ideas."

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# Grants can increase rural prosperity

## Surrey County Council

RURAL England Prosperity Fund grants of up to £50,000 are now available to fund capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure in the rural areas of



Guildford, Waverley and Tandridge districts.

Small businesses in any of the three rural areas can apply for grants of up to 50% of their project's capital costs. The programme aims to strengthen the local rural economy.

Surrey County Council is looking for projects that create jobs or grow the local rural economy such as farm diversification, food and drink produce, business development, community café or village shops. To find out more, visit [www.surreycc.gov.uk/ruralprosperity](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/ruralprosperity).

The objectives of the programme are to support rural development, job creation, growth and community enterprise. All

projects will be prioritised according to which ones will deliver the greatest economic, environmental and social benefits.

Projects must demonstrate value for money and additionally including how they contribute to Net Zero and nature recovery objectives.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund is funded by the Department for Environment



*Going green helps preserve Surrey's beautiful, diverse countryside, from rolling farmland to wooded hills and expanses of heathland.*

Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) as part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda.

In Surrey, it is being administered by Guildford Borough Council, Waverley Borough Council and Tandridge District Council, in partnership with Surrey County Council.



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# Leading on interdisciplinary research

## Institute for Sustainability

THE Institute for Sustainability at the University of Surrey is supporting the award for businesses with a turnover of under £1m.



The Sustainability Innovation Hub is a part of the institute that is a centre of activity which brings together researchers from across disciplines and organisations.

It nurtures ideas, encourages collaboration and supports the adoption of sustainable practices, products or services.

The hub's programme has been designed to help organisations such as businesses, government departments and/or social enterprises develop and/or fast-track the adoption of sustainable solutions.

It embraces agile innovation practices, collective intelligence and systems thinking approaches to address complex change, transformation and innovation.

The creation of a pan-university Institute for sustainability demonstrates the University of Surrey's commitment to be at the forefront of interdisciplinary sustainability research.

The institute was founded in 2022, with the aim of increasing the scale and enhancing the excellence of the University's research and innovation in priority areas.



*Business people during a networking event at Surrey Research Park, a University of Surrey Enterprise.*

Through cross-faculty, inter-disciplinary collaborations, and business and external partner engagement, it sets out to break new ground, producing world-class research and effecting significant change.

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# Just talking about greening is poor

## Carol Miller Media

CAROL Miller Media was set up as a public relations and communications consultancy in 2014 based on Carol's extensive experience as a journalist as well as internal and external communications specialist.



Carol has worked for UK and internationally based companies as a business based in Surrey. When she initiated the concept of CREST23 Business Awards, she saw it as an opportunity to create a positive narrative on the one subject that effects all of us – the need to protect our environment in the face of global warming.

She believes that sponsoring the Circular Efficiency Award Sponsor is at the heart of what we all must do meet the climate change challenge, while at the same time making business practices effectively potent.

Circular efficiency operationally makes good business sense, and the saying: "What goes around, comes around" is a truism that can be like an echo that comes back to you in sound waves, be it even from the smallest whisper.

"Being a sponsor for CREST Business Awards is an act of transparency and commitment that helps promote your business – great PR," says Carol. "Simply



talking about being greener is poor PR because, just like sound waves, it will return like a loud, and possibly distorted echo.

"In our multi-media world, reputation is a company's biggest asset. It's what makes you stand out from the crowd and gives a competitive edge. PR can help manage reputation by effective communication and by building good relationships.

"It creates third party recognition not through gimmicks and stunts but by understanding the needs and interests of stakeholders and engaging with them with respect and transparency."

Carol says she salutes all the businesses who entered this category and hopes they use their entry and their many forms of circular efficiency as powerful PR. These are the thought leaders who are making the best business sense and helping us all in the climate crisis.

**Award Sponsor**

# Mission to increase biodiversity and support the natural world

## Surrey Wildlife Trust



SURREY Wildlife Trust's mission is to increase biodiversity, bio abundance and the total area of connected land supporting nature in Surrey.

With the natural world facing unprecedented pressure due to human activity and climate change, it works with local communities, businesses, public bodies and individuals to build a better future for people and wildlife.

To deliver this, the trust manages more than 60 wildlife reserves in Surrey, covering over 5,000 hectares and supporting diverse and abundant wildlife including many nationally rare or threatened species.

It encourages and empowers people of all ages and from all parts of the community to connect with, value, and take practical action for nature. Increasingly, it enables nature's wider recovery by helping other landowners and land managers across the county to work more sustainably and deliver nature-based solutions to the challenges that face us all.

Surrey Wildlife Trust is the CREST23 Award sponsor for Transforming Food.

The trust's CEO, Sarah Jane Chimbwandra says: "Sustainability in food production is key to maintaining the health of local habitats for nature and the wider resilience of the natural world that sustains us, as well as our own wellbeing.

"We are proud to be associated with a programme that recognises the steps some of our best businesses are taking to put concern for nature at the heart of their operations."

For more information about how to support the trust and its work, visit [www.surreywildlifetrust.org/support-us](http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/support-us).



**Surrey Wildlife Trust volunteers working on a heathland nature reserve.**



**The Chalkhill Blue butterfly can be found on sunny, chalk grassland sites in Surrey. Photo by Jim Higham.**



**A hibernating dormouse, pictured by wildlife photographer Danny Green. Dormice are at risk due to the lack of proper long-term woodland and hedgerow management.**

## Solutions put nature first

SURREY Wildlife Trust is involved in applying Nature-Based Solutions, initiatives that involve working with nature in order to protect and restore ecosystems, while also addressing challenges such as climate change or flood-risk management.

There are a number of government grants and other funding mechanisms available to support this approach. This makes putting nature at the heart of land management financially as well as environmentally sustainable and beneficial.

The solutions come in many shapes and sizes, from protecting or restoring existing ecosystems to new projects that protect or enhance the natural environment. These can range from the restoration of hedgerows, rivers and peatland to introducing beavers and planting woodlands.

The trust can work with landowners to develop plans and identify suitable solutions that could benefit biodiversity and potentially the wider community and the quest for a net zero carbon future.

With global biodiversity in decline and the threat of extreme weather events increasing, Nature-Based Solutions are more important than ever.



## The Judges

**Prof Richard Murphy** has a BSc in Botany with Zoology from King's College London (1978) and a PhD in Plant Sciences from Imperial College London (1982). He has in renewable materials and energy research in the UK, New Zealand and The Netherlands.

His research interests include techno-economic assessment to evaluate the sustainability of diverse systems. He has extended his research to novel applications of satellite Earth Observation to provide data supporting indicators of sustainability, such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Mining & Minerals (IOM3) and the Royal Society of Arts (RSA). He has undertaken consultancy work on sustainability with The Coca-Cola Company, Braskem SA, Deloitte, and BT amongst others. He has also advised the UK Climate Change Committee on LCA and bioenergy, and was a member of DEFRA's Hazardous Substances Advisory Committee.

**Ian Christie** is a senior lecturer at the Centre for Environment and Sustainability in Surrey. He is knowledge exchange co-ordinator for CUSP (Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity).

Ian has been at the University of Surrey since 2011, teaching and researching sustainable development. His interests are mainly in the political economy and ethics of sustainability; values and behavioural change in households, communities and large organisations; and policymaking for sustainability.

He has worked in various roles on CUSP's precursor programmes led by Prof Tim Jackson —RESOLVE and the Sustainable Lifestyles Research Group. Ian is an associate or trustee of several organisations concerned with sustainability, environmental policy and public engagement in policymaking and ethics: Green Alliance, Involve, Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development, New Economics Foundation and Theos.

**Katie Sargent** is the Environment Group Commissioning Manager at Surrey County Council. She leads on the work to reduce carbon emissions in Surrey to net zero by 2050, and by 2030 for the council's emissions.

She joined the council in 2019 and has overseen the development of Surrey's challenging climate change strategy and the council's £300million Greener Futures Investment Programme.

Katie has worked in the environment field in the public sector since 2006, with roles at Camden Council and the Greater London Authority and has a Master's Degree in Environment, Society and Policy from the Open University.

**Danielle Bekker** loves food and innovation and has spent most of her career working the beverage innovation space for two FTSE 10 organisations. She launched her own business in the drinks industry and was fortunate enough to be a CREST winner in 2021.

Her current focus is as a trustee for The Sophie Hayes Foundation, which provides women survivors of trafficking and modern-day slavery with the skills and confidence necessary to help them achieve sustainable freedom, and as a non-executive director for Blossom.LGBT – which was founded in 2019 by volunteers who wanted to change the way young LGBTQ+ people connected and quickly discovered the huge need for supportive spaces for LGBTQ+ young adults.

Danielle was winner of the CREST21 Awards Transforming Food category and volunteers her support for the CREST programme.

**Natalie Hinds** leads the Operations and Partnerships for the Institute for Sustainability at the University of Surrey. She also leads the institute's Innovation Hub Programme, focusing on the development of strategic collaborations to drive transformational change.

Other projects that she is involved in include driving the university's performance in the Impact Rankings, contributing as a member of the Surrey Research Park Sustainability Group and collaborating with the Student Enterprise to advance innovation in sustainability.



*Prof Richard  
Murphy.*



*Ian  
Christie.*



*Katie  
Sargent.*



*Danielle  
Bekker.*



*Natalie  
Hinds.*

## The Judges

**Lauren Wiseman** Lauren is the Environmental Manager at WWF-UK, responsible for ensuring that WWF “walks the talk” by reducing their environmental impacts and managing their emissions footprint. She not only provides advice and guidance on all things sustainability, but also encourages staff to lead more planet-positive lives too.

Talking about the progress made by the WWF-UK in sustainable procurement recently, she said there is always room to improve and sustainability is a journey. However, WWF-UK had made a good start on embedding policies and processes to ensure staff are considering economic, social and environmental factors in their purchasing decisions.

Lauren says electronic equipment, although essential to business operations, has a large environmental and social footprint. In our homes we reuse electronics, and many people choose refurbished or pre-owned tech. Bringing these sustainable consumption practices to the workplace is essential for reducing our ecological footprint and preserving the planet’s natural resources. WWF-UK hopes more businesses will follow suit and give refurbished electronics a try.

**Sarah Butcher** joined Surrey Chambers of Commerce in April 2014 after a 12-year career at the University of Surrey. Starting out as the Export Surrey project lead, she spent the first two years supporting Surrey businesses with their export endeavours and building connections internationally within the global chamber network.

As head of membership, she is passionate about helping local businesses grow and prosper whether they are a sole trader or a corporate company. Actively involved with Surrey Climate Commission, Clean Growth and Green Innovation focus groups, she is keen to help support the businesses community in the move to achieving a cleaner, greener carbon neutral county.

**Vicky Fletcher** is the Chief Marketing Officer at Surrey Research Park, which is home to more than 200 businesses from start-ups to multinationals, but it offers much more than managed office spaces.

Its innovation ecosystem, whether it’s investment or funding, networking opportunities or the chance to work with the UK’s leading advisors and academics, helps businesses to succeed.

Working within a vibrant community that creates, collaborates and cultivates change, Vicki is a strategist for commercial growth, digital marketing, PR, branding and partnerships and thrives working alongside brilliant business leaders and entrepreneurs, supporting innovative businesses to scale-up.

**Terry Tidbury** Terry Tidbury is a retired accountant who has more 40 years’ experience with international blue-chip organisations across a variety of business sectors.

Having been brought out of his initial retirement in 2014, Terry led the successful efforts to ensure the survival of the Woking News & Mail and return the title to readership growth in a climate of decline for local newspapers.

Terry retired again in 2022, after ensuring the paper’s survival through delivering a printed edition every week throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The News & Mail title has since been sold to a new owner.

While he plays a lot more golf these days, Terry remains a co-director of CREST Business Awards.

CREST Business Awards helps Terry remain focused on our environment. He says working with the experts at the University of Surrey is not only a privilege but an immense pleasure.

Terry added: “The work undertaken in developing these awards has opened my eyes to the fantastic and exciting strides being taken by organisations in and around Surrey and I am honoured to have been asked to join the panel of judges.”



*Lauren Wiseman.*



*Sarah Butcher.*



*Vicky Fletcher.*



*Terry Tidbury.*



## Media Sponsor

# Helping companies reduce their impact on the planet

## Q&A with DreamingFish Productions

**DreamingFish Productions, specialising in video and animation, has been key to the delivery of CREST Business Awards from their launch in 2020. An award-winning creative agency, based in Woking, has an international portfolio and this year it decided to increase its support for CREST23 Awards as Media Sponsor. Phil Miller, Dreaming Fish Managing Director, explains why...**

### 1. Why have you chosen to be a CREST Business Awards Media Sponsor?

DreamingFish is very proud to have been involved with the CREST Business Awards since its inauguration.

As a company, we take our 'We care' value very seriously and this involves actively supporting our partner charities, focusing on the environment and sustainability, and working with the local community.

Supporting the CREST Awards enables us to directly target both sustainability and the local community, so for us was a simple decision to be involved.

### 2. How do you feel CREST green business awards programme will help in the climate crisis challenge?

As a small business, it can often be difficult to know what we can do to be more sustainable in the way we operate. The CREST Awards look to raise the profile of businesses within Surrey that are doing their bit to tackle the climate crisis, amplifying innovation and best practice from across the county.

### 3. Your business has been working with CREST Awards since they launched, what has been your role and do you feel you



*The award-winning DreamingFish team inspire with creative video and animation.*

### have helped them to develop?

This is the third year that DreamingFish has been involved in the awards and our role is to provide filming, animation and design services in the lead-up to the event, and then technical services during the ceremony including live streaming and AV support.

I'm hopeful that our services have helped the awards to reach a wider audience and ensure a smooth delivery of the awards ceremony itself, both physically and virtually.

### 4. Have you been able to share your part in CREST Business Awards and in what ways? Has it added to your brand profile?

We've been very pleased to include the CREST Awards as part of our push to be a greener company and to help support other companies on their journey to Net Zero.

We've also used our work with CREST as a case study within our proposals to highlight how we are helping to tackle climate change indirectly.

### 5. Dealing with the wide variety of businesses that you work with, have you noticed a change in attitude over climate change?

The businesses that we work with range from multinationals to start-ups, but the majority are looking at what they can do to reduce their impact on the planet.

It's been a slow burn for many companies but, as we now know just from watching the news, doing nothing is no longer an option.

The CREST Awards provides an opportunity to shine a light on companies that are already making a difference and to provide inspiration to other companies who may be just beginning their journey.





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# We must collaborate to create a future for wildlife and people

**WWF-UK**

WWF is the world's leading independent conservation organisation. Its mission is to create a world where people and wildlife can thrive together.



To achieve the mission, it is finding ways to help transform the future for the world's wildlife, rivers, forests and seas; pushing for a reduction in carbon emissions that will avoid catastrophic climate change; and pressing for measures to help people live sustainably, within the means of our one planet.

WWF works with governments and companies to change the way they do business and have a positive impact on the natural world like Building Sustainable Food Systems and its Livewell programme working on sustainable diets that looks at the food changes needed to keep temperature rise below 2 degrees.

The Promoting Sustainable Economic Policy helps governments move towards sustainable, nature positive economies and Promoting Sustainable Finance helps the finance sector reduce its impact on the nature world.

Nature in the UK is in crisis. But,



*Above – Habitat loss causes food shortages for orangutans, our largest arboreal mammal. It's also reducing the size of the lowland forests in which they live a solitary existence.*



*Left – Lions once roamed throughout all of Africa and parts of Asia and Europe but are now found only in sub-Saharan Africa and in India's Gir National Park.*

together, we all have the power to make a real difference, says WWF. The Peoples Plan for Nature is a unique collaboration powered by the WWF, the RSPB and National Trust created for the people, by the people of the UK.

It sets a vision for the future of nature, and the actions we must all take to protect and restore it. – that's why WWF UK is sponsoring the CREST23 Restoring Nature Award



*Relentless poaching for their horns and loss of their natural habitats, has led to a catastrophic fall in black rhino numbers.*

## Why support CREST?

**WWF-UK is proud to be hosting this years' CREST23 awards for the second year. From combating climate change, fixing the food system, protecting thriving habitats and restoring nature, the sheer scale of the global challenges ahead of us means thinking big and collectively.**

**The charity collaborates and works with like-minded businesses and organisations that share its vision of a sustainable future.**

**Being a sponsor of the CREST awards is the perfect opportunity for it to engage with the local community to share and champion corporate responsibility for the environment and sustainable futures.**



**Award Sponsor**

# Collaborating for a common vision

## Surrey Hills Enterprises

SURREY Hills Enterprises takes great pride in sponsoring the Community Impact Award Category – at a pivotal celebration of Surrey's sustainable business achievements.



**Wendy Varcoe.**

Established in 2012, it is a membership organisation with a vibrant community of businesses, individuals, and organisations passionate about sustainability and community development. Through networking events and collaborative projects, it provides a platform for members to learn, share experiences, and grow together.

"We deeply appreciate the value local businesses bring to our communities," said Surrey Hills Enterprises Executive Director Wendy Varcoe. "We actively promote our members to a wider audience, encouraging the community to support their local

businesses through events, markets, social media and publications.

"Whether it's promoting local produce, artisans, venues, experiences or services, our work is dedicated to nurturing the economic well-being of our community. This collaborative spirit ensures that our region thrives economically while maintaining its distinctive character."

The Surrey Hills trademark serves as a

platform for recognising and building a reputation of local provenance, quality, and sustainability within the Surrey Hills.

As a Community Interest Company, money generated by the organisation's work is reinvested to support the enhancement of the Surrey Hills, its landscapes and local communities, a commitment aligning seamlessly with the CREST23 Awards values.

Wendy has more than 20 years' of experience working within land regeneration, environmental improvements and conservation including working for the first Groundwork Trust in St Helens and projects regenerating London's canals.

Over the last 20 years her work has focused on supporting local communities in Surrey. "A huge congratulations to all the remarkable winners and runners-up at the CREST23 Awards," she said. "Together, we envision a sustainable and thriving future for Surrey, driven by our shared commitment to positive change."

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- CONNECT
- PROMOTE
- SUPPORT
- REPRESENT

## WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A MEMBER

Running or owning a business is challenging! By joining Surrey Chambers of Commerce, you can grow your network locally, nationally and internationally. By being a Chamber member, you can connect with potential new customers, find great suppliers and be part of a thriving business community.

### CONNECT

- ✓ BE PART OF THE LARGEST NETWORKING GROUP IN SURREY
- ✓ WE CONNECT OVER 5,000 BUSINESSPEOPLE EVERY YEAR
- ✓ IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO HUNDREDS OF MEMBER COMPANIES WHO COULD BE CUSTOMERS, SUPPLIERS OR REFERRERS
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- ✓ ACCESS TO "INVITATION ONLY" TOPIC OR SECTOR-LED ROUNDTABLE EVENTS \*



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- ✓ TAP INTO A WEALTH OF CREDIBLE ADVICE, GIVING YOU THE CONFIDENCE TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS AND POTENTIALLY SAVE YOU TIME AND MONEY.
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# Sign up to an exciting initiative



THE CREST Business Awards programme has continued to flourish in 2023 and our most exciting initiative has been the CREST Consortium.

The consortium is a limited membership group for businesses who want to demonstrate their commitment to environmentally sustainable business practices as a think tank with year-round collaboration with the Institute for Sustainability at the University of Surrey.

It is for business leaders committed to achieving their net zero targets, and a series of CREST23 events and see the value in our aim to set a template for sustainability for all UK Businesses.

By becoming a part of CREST's growing platform, your organisation can

improve its own sustainability package through networking opportunities, as well as marketing.

The opportunity of two years membership and discounted award sponsorship gives incredible value through interaction with like-minded businesses as well as academics working in the environment and sustainability field including members of Surrey County Council's Greener Future programme.

Membership of CREST Consortium adds major value to the work of member companies in sustainability and could potentially be a very powerful point of contact for businesses and Surrey University.

## Early bird offers

**WE ARE** able to continue to offer free to enter nominations to the awards by any company operating or based in Surrey thanks to our award category sponsors and supporters.

**To be a part of Surrey's only green business awards initiative you can take advantage of a special early bird offer, available until 1 December 2023.**

**Businesses and organisations are invited to sponsor an award category at the next CREST Awards Convention for just £1,850, with all the full benefits and opportunities offered under our Award Category Sponsorship packages.**

**The two-year membership package to become a member of the Consortium is also being offered at an early bird rate of £3,000. Members who wish to take up award category sponsorship can do so for the two-year period for just £1,000.**

**For more information, visit**

<https://crestawardssurrey.co.uk/crest23-sponsorship/>.



**Ecowise from CREST Business Awards is your chance to get an overview of what's new on the green business front.**

Sustainability is an overused word and can be regarded as a burden or, worse still, a tick box exercise. **Ecowise** is a straight-talking newsletter and in addition to news from the **CREST Awards** programme – our sponsors, partners and supporters – you can discover how organisations in the public and private sector are finding that greener business makes practical and financial sense.

It's free to sign up to **Ecowise**, published monthly. Simply fill in the form on the link below!

Once you have signed up you will receive the password to access our back issues of the Newsletter on our Ecowise Newsletter page.

**To sign-up for our Ecowise Newsletter visit:** <https://crestawardssurrey.co.uk/ecowise-sign-up/>



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