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STAGECOACH WINS SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

- **Bio-bus project named Best Process at 2009 VIBES Awards**
- **Second high-profile honour of the year for groundbreaking scheme**

Stagecoach celebrated success on Tuesday 24 November after winning another major environmental award for its innovative Bio-bus project.

The groundbreaking Stagecoach West Scotland initiative – which involves running buses on recycled cooking oil – won the award for Best Process at the VIBES (Vision in Business for the Environment) of Scotland Awards in Edinburgh. The Best Process award recognises the development and application of a new production technology that has made an outstanding contribution to sustainable development.

The VIBES award is the second honour the Bio-bus project has received in the past two months, after also being named Best Green PR Campaign at the inaugural Scottish Green Awards in October.

Managing Director of Stagecoach West Scotland, Sam Greer, said; "This award further demonstrates our commitment to tackling the challenge of climate change by encouraging greater use of public transport as well as reducing our own carbon footprint as a company. We're delighted that our innovative Bio-Bus project has been recognised and would also like to thank our partners in the scheme, East Ayrshire Council and Argent Energy Ltd."

"We hope that by promoting our message of greener, smarter travel through low-carbon, good value and reliable public transport, we can encourage our customers and staff to think about ways in which they can live greener lives."

Stagecoach introduced the UK's first Bio-bus scheme on the Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Darvel service in October 2007. The project involves running eight vehicles on 100% bio-diesel which is manufactured from used cooking oil and other food industry by-products, all from sustainable sources. As part of the scheme, customers are also encouraged to exchange used cooking oil in return for discounted bus travel. Since the initiative was launched, it has cut CO2 emissions from the buses by 80%, saving 1470 tonnes of carbon, and more than 66 tonnes of used cooking oil has been recycled. The Bio-bus scheme was originally planned as a six month project but it is still going strong and is now entering its third year!

In 2008 the Biobus also won the 'Bus Operator Innovation Award' at the nationwide Route One awards in Birmingham and came highly commended in the 'Contribution to Sustainable Transport' category of this years Scottish Transport Awards.

About the Awards

VIBES is a partnership between: Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Environmental Protection UK, Envirowise and NetRegs, with support from Business Environment Partnership, CBI Scotland, Energy Saving Trust, Federation of Small Businesses Scotland and Forward Scotland.

Now celebrating its ten-year anniversary, VIBES recognises and rewards the efforts of Scottish businesses to become more efficient and competitive through improving environmental performance and benefiting a company's bottom-line.

VIBES chair Alan Farquhar commented: "All of the VIBES finalists recognised today are leading the way in their commitment to reducing their businesses' environmental impact. In what is the tenth year of VIBES, the judges were once again impressed by the winners' outstanding achievements – both in terms of their business savings and their environmental improvements and they deserve to be praised."

A total of eight awards were handed out at the 2009 VIBES Awards ceremony which was held at the Scottish Parliament. The VIBES judging process included a site visit to each of the shortlisted companies and the final judging panel was made up of David Sigsworth Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Chairman, Alf Young, Policy Editor of Glasgow Herald, and Iain McMillan, Director of CBI Scotland.

As a VIBES award winner, the Bio-bus scheme will now automatically be considered for the prestigious 2010 European Business Awards for the Environment (EBAE).

Scottish Green Awards

The inaugural Scottish Green Awards, created by Scottish Business Insider in association with ScottishPower took place on Thursday 1st October at the Science Centre, Glasgow.

It is vitally important not to forget one of the world's most pressing issues - our environment! With growing fears about the effects of global warming and the pollution it is becoming increasingly important for individuals, companies and organisations to do all they can to protect our fragile world.

For this reason Scottish Business Insider decided to establish this high profile annual focus for activity promoting Scotland as a country that encourages sustainability, tackles climate change and is committed to improving energy efficiency.

For further information on Stagecoach's commitment to environmental issues and measures the Group is taking to tackle climate change, visit www.stagecoach.com

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