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### **STAGECOACH BIOBUS SCOOPS TOP HONOURS AT BUS AND COACH EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

The ground-breaking BioBus project in Kilmarnock, which operates from Stewarton to Darvel and runs on 100% recycled biofuel, won the Bus Operator Innovation award at the Route One Awards in Birmingham.

Stagecoach West Scotland's BioBus project came out on top as Innovation of the Year after trialling the UK's first vehicles to run on 100% recycled biodiesel. The biofuel is manufactured from used cooking oil and other food-industry by-products, which are from sustainable sources. The project also allows customers in the west of Scotland to exchange used cooking oil for discounted bus travel. Since the project began in October 2007, it has cut CO2 emissions from the buses by 80%, saved 1000 tonnes of carbon and more than 30 tonnes of used cooking oil has been recycled.

The *routeone* awards judges said of the project: "Without doubt the winning innovation has captured the hearts and minds of not only the community in which it serves but also much further afield. The results have surpassed all expectations."

Les Warneford, Managing Director of Stagecoach UK Bus, said: "A commitment to excellence, innovation, sustainability and customer service are at the heart of our approach to delivering bus services to our passengers."

"We are delighted to have received this awards which recognises the quality of our services and our people who ensure we delivery a first-class bus service. I would like to congratulate the winners on their well deserved recognition."

This is the latest set of awards for Stagecoach, which was named Bus Operator of the Year for its West Scotland operation in 2005 and 2006.

At last year's Route One awards, the judges honoured two Stagecoach managers, with nearly 90 years' experience in their respective fields.

George Connell, Traffic Manager at Stagecoach West Scotland, was named Bus Manager of the Year and Colleague Alex McSorland, Operations Manager at Ayr, was given the Special Award following nearly 50 years' service to the bus industry.

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