

MUNTONS IS NAMED UK'S GREENEST FOOD COMPANY

Sunday Times judges malt supplier to be greener than some of the world's biggest names

Muntons, a leading supplier of malt and malted ingredients, has been named the UK's greenest food company according to a new environmental ranking.

The Stowmarket-based business, which employs 260 people, was placed 20th in the latest Sunday Times Best Green Companies competition – higher than any other food and beverage supplier and beating a host of global blue-chip brands from across a range of other sectors.

It was the third year Muntons has featured in the Sunday Times Best Green Companies awards scheme, which recognises businesses of all kinds for their efforts reduce their impact on the environment. Muntons rose an incredible 21 places on last year's ranking to finish higher than the likes of drinks giant Coca-Cola, global banking colossus HSBC and DIY chain B&Q.

The judges of this year's competition were impressed by a number of initiatives, large and small, implemented by Muntons at its processing site in Stowmarket. These included:

- A £5 million investment in environmentally-favourable processing equipment to reduce energy usage and carbon emissions
- Installation of the most energy efficient kilning systems in the world
- A major initiative to investigate supplier sustainability programmes
- Conversion of previously unused land into fertile allotments on which Muntons staff are encouraged to grow their own vegetables

Alan Ridealgh, Managing Director of Muntons, said: "As a responsible business, I'm very proud that we have been named the UK's greenest food company. It reflects the substantial progress we've made in the past year to reduce the impact of our operations on both the local and global environment. Central to our approach is the idea that we should, wherever possible, make real carbon savings – rather than simply offsetting our activities. It's this philosophy that ensures we are now considered one of the top performing businesses in the country when it comes to green initiatives."

As well as its impressive overall ranking, Muntons also performed well in a number of sub-categories. It was judged 6th best in terms of the environmental training it gives its staff, 10th best for enabling staff to reduce the company's environmental impact, and it secured a Top 10 finish on the basis of the frequency of which it carries out environmental auditing.

Alan Ridealgh added: "It's important to remember that none of our achievements would have been possible without our wonderful and dedicated team, who are constantly looking at how we do things to see if they can be done in a more environmentally-friendly way. We won't be resting on our laurels. We'll be maintaining our efforts to see if we can achieve an even higher placing in next year's Sunday Times Best Green Companies competition."

ENDS

Editor's notes:

For more information about the green initiatives implemented by Muntons, or to arrange an interview with Alan Ridealgh, Muntons' Managing Director, please contact Suzanne Howe Communications on 01732 875697.

Company background

Founded 80 years ago, Stowmarket-based Muntons produces a range of malt products and malted ingredients for sale at retail and for use by food and beverage manufacturers. Major users of malted ingredients include: brewers, distillers, bakers and breakfast cereal manufacturers.

Sunday Times Best Green Companies methodology

Businesses acknowledged in the Sunday Times The Best Green Companies awards had to score well in two separate surveys. The employer survey covered environmental management policies, environmental training and internal consultation, energy consumption, waste production and recycling. This accounted for 70% of the final ranking. The employee survey ranked companies on 52 statements on the company's green practices, which staff rated on a seven-point scale from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". Example statements included: "my organisation always does what is best for the environment" and "my boss encourages me to think about energy saving". Results reported for individual questions in the employee survey represent the percentage of the maximum possible score on each question and are expressed as the "green score". Employee responses to these statements accounted for 30% of the final ranking.

*Muntons plc - Registered in England & Wales No. 176992
Registered Office: Cedars Maltings Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 2AG*

For further information please contact:

Muntons plc, Cedars Maltings, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 2AG
Telephone: 01449 618300 Fax: 01449 677800 Email: sales@muntons.com

www.muntons.com

