



NI Social Enterprise Awards 2021 | Awards Guidelines

Please read the information below before completing any award application.

1.0 Award Categories

Category 1	NI Social Enterprise of the Year
Category 2	One to Watch
Category 3	Social Impact Social Enterprise
Category 4	Health & Social Care Social Enterprise
Category 5	Council of the Year
Category 6	Credit Union of the Year
Category 7	Education, Training & Jobs Social Enterprise
Category 8	Stakeholder of the Year
Category 9	Housing Association of the Year
Category 10	Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year
Category 11	Social Enterprise Leader of the Year
Category 12	Employee/Volunteer of the Year
Category 13	Consumer Facing Social Enterprise

2.0 Eligibility

Our Awards are only open to Social Enterprises that are based in Northern Ireland and you must meet the following eligibility to apply:

1. The business has a clear social or environmental mission that is set out in its governing documents.
2. Is an independent business and earns more than half of its income through trading
3. Is controlled or owned in the interests of the social mission.
4. Reinvests or gives away at least half of its profits or surpluses towards its social purpose.
5. Is transparent about how it operates and the impact it has.

The awards that social enterprises can enter are:

- All categories except Stakeholder of the Year and Council of the Year categories

The awards that non-social enterprises can enter are:

- Stakeholder of the Year and Council of the Year categories

The individual Awards you can enter are:(use separate nomination form not main application form)

- Employee/Volunteer of the Year
- Leader of the Year
- Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year

How to apply

Complete the application form and email it to awards@socialenterpriseni.org along with any supporting documentation (maximum 2 pieces*) by **midnight on 2nd July 2021**. You will receive a confirmation of receipt email within 72 hours. If you do not, please contact us to ensure your application was received

Attachments required

Your accounts need to clearly demonstrate that your organisation:

- earns at least 50% of your income through trading
- reinvests or gives away at least half of your profits or surpluses further your social purpose

Your governing documents need to clearly demonstrate that the business:

- has a clear social or environmental mission that is set out in its governing documents
- is an independent business
- is controlled or owned in the interests of the social mission

Media Information: Please provide the following information. This should include:

- 50 words summary of the organisation
- High resolution logo

3.0 Application Timescale

There are a few dates that are important with regards to your application:

- **24 May 21** Awards open for applications
- **2 July 21** Awards application process deadline
- **Aug 21** Judging of Applications
- **Sept 21** Shortlisted organisations notified.
- **15 Oct 21** Awards Nights Ceremony

Any questions?

If you have any questions or queries about the Awards, please email awards@socialenterpriseni.org or ring David on 07936 931462.

4.0 Category Criteria

NI Social Enterprise of the Year

A social enterprise that has been operating/trading and can evidence the criteria below but that it has also demonstrated and promoted social enterprise beyond the sector.

- Excellent vision and strategic direction
- Clear leadership and management of the organisation
- A high degree of customer satisfaction
- A clearly evidenced social, environmental and community impact
- Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth.
- Good brand awareness and communication outputs
- Evidence of creativity and innovation

One to Watch Award

A social enterprise that has been operating less than two years as of April 2019 that can clearly demonstrate the criteria but also articulate its future vision and how it is going to achieve it showing growth in its model.

- A clear vision for the social enterprise
- A creative approach to problem-solving
- Excellence in impact, design, or growth since inception
- Potential for future success, in the judges' view

Social Impact Award

A social enterprise that can truly demonstrate and communicate their impact with their stakeholders. This award is not comparing the scale of different enterprises' impact, but their measurement and reporting process.

- Clear articulation of theory of change and impact, proving the organisations mission and objectives.
- Transparency in the process of findings (including stakeholder engagement)
- Includes good quantitative and qualitative evidence.
- Demonstrates its impact on a specified community, be it geographic or community of interest.
- Has communicated its impact in accessible and creative ways.
- Includes how it will utilise evaluation to improve its work

Health & Social Care

A social enterprise that has been operating for more than 2 years in the health and social care sectors that can demonstrate excellence in the following criteria.

- Excellent vision and strategic direction
- Clear leadership and management of the organisation
- A high degree of customer satisfaction
- A clear evidenced social, environmental and community impact
- Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth.
- Good brand awareness and communication outputs

Council of the Year – Social Enterprise Strategy Development

Designed for Local Councils who can truly demonstrate their commitment to the promotion, support and growth of the Social Enterprise sector and communicate their impact with within their geographical area

- Able to articulate the steps taken to support the Social Enterprise sector
- Explain their key aims and objectives of how they support the sector
- Can demonstrate that they support the growth of the Social Enterprise sector as part of the Councils wider Strategy

Credit Union of the Year – Community Impact

Designed for Credit Unions that can truly demonstrate and communicate their impact with their stakeholders and members. *This award is not comparing the scale of different credit unions but their impact on their local communities.*

- Excellent vision and strategic direction
- Clear leadership and management of the organisation
- A high degree of member satisfaction
- A clearly evidenced social, environmental and community impact.
- Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth.
- Good brand awareness and communication outputs
- Evidence of creativity and innovation

Please note. We may give out 2 awards dependent on the differing size and scales of credit unions that apply

Education, Training & Jobs Social Enterprise of the Year

A social enterprise that has been operating for more than two years in the education, training or employment sectors that can demonstrate excellence in the following

- Excellent vision and strategic direction
- Clear leadership and management of the organisation
- A high degree of customer satisfaction
- A clear evidenced social, environmental and community impact
- Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth.
- Good brand awareness and communication outputs

Social Enterprise Stakeholder of the Year

Designed for organisations from outside the Social Enterprise sector who can clearly demonstrate their support for the sectors growth.

Please note: you do not need to meet all of the following points

- Includes Social Enterprises in their supply chain and can demonstrate this.
- Be able to explain the benefits/impact of working with/supporting social enterprises
- Provides advice, financial, investment, legal etc to the social enterprise sector
- Developed a support programme to help build the capacity of the social enterprise sector
- Have a clear business strategy to embrace the social enterprise sector

Housing Association of the Year – Community Impact

Designed for Housing Associations that can truly demonstrate and communicate their impact with their stakeholders and tenants. .

- Excellent vision and strategic direction
- Clear leadership and management of the organisation
- A high degree of customer satisfaction
- A clearly evidenced social, environmental and community impact
- Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth
- Good brand awareness and communication outputs
- Evidence of creativity and innovation

Please note. We may give out 2 awards dependent on the differing size & scales of organisations that apply

Young Entrepreneur of the Year – PLEASE USE SEPARATE FORM

To champion the success of our Young entrepreneurs and leaders, this award will be presented to an individual within the world of social enterprise who exhibits some, or all, of the following:

- Be between 18 and 35 years old.
- Exemplify leadership in their field.
- Demonstrate the importance of entrepreneurship as a way to effect positive change.
- Have achieved tangible and material entrepreneurial success [revenue and number of employees can indicate this].
- Who has set up a social enterprise/in process of setting up a social enterprise?
- Is the leader of a social enterprise or in a senior management role?

Social Enterprise Leader - PLEASE USE SEPARATE FORM

To champion the success of our entrepreneurs and leaders, this award will be presented to an individual within the world of social enterprise who exhibits some, or all, of the following:

- Created significant, positive change for society by demonstrating socially entrepreneurial behaviours, beyond the day-to-day expectations of any job they may have, to tackle any social and/or environmental issue.
- Helped strengthen the voice, raise the debate, or shine a spotlight on what the social enterprise movement is, achieving either nationally, within a particular sector or industry, or within a particular sphere of influence.

Social Enterprise Employee/Volunteer of the Year- PLEASE USE SEPARATE FORM

Open to ANY EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER who has worked/volunteered with a Social Enterprise. This award will be presented to an individual nominated by their organisation who has demonstrated their commitment to the ethos of Social Enterprise and going above and beyond their role, within the world of social enterprise who exhibits some, or all, of the following:

- Represents excellence in their field of work
- Impressed you as an employee/volunteer
- Who understand Social Enterprise and how their role fits within the bigger picture of the sector?
- Who should be recognised for their outstanding work with your organisation?

Consumer Facing Social Enterprise

A social enterprise that produces or delivers a retail product or service, whose brand consumers in its market would know by name and can demonstrate the following:

- Be able to clearly explain what the brand is, what it stands for and its social mission
- Be able to demonstrate brand recognition in its marketplace and be able to demonstrate this through research, results, achievements and recognition
- Be recognisable as a brand either at a national level, or with plans and ambitions to achieve this
- Have achieved a particular status or point in its market where it is competing successfully
- Demonstrating growth in the last 12 months in sales, customers, brand awareness or other relevant metrics