



Sustainable Mann 2023

Clare Barber MHK, Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture, speaking notes

Good morning, everyone.

Thank you for coming along today for the presentation of the Sustainable Mann accreditations for 2023.

I am Clare Barber MHK, Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture and Vice-chair of UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man.

And I am pleased to be joined today by Dr Michelle Haywood MHK, political member for Environment in DEFA.

UNESCO Biospheres promote sustainable development, conservation and learning.

The Sustainable Mann workshops, held again this autumn, were arranged and run by UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, as part of its strategy 'Working Together for a Sustainable Future'.

That strategy pledges that we'll encourage learning about, and adoption of, more sustainable ways of living and working.

It adds that we will be a catalyst for good decision-making and innovative solution finding.

And it states that we will empower people to drive change and make a difference, no matter how small.

In delivering the workshops for a third year, we have worked with the Department of Enterprise, Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce, Net Zero Isle of Man, the One World Centre and University Isle of Man.

We thank them and it's good that some of them are represented here today.

We are grateful to trainers who have given us their time and expertise, too, often on top of busy day jobs. Again, it's good to see some of the trainers today.

And thanks go to Biosphere Partner St John's Mill for hosting us each week and ensuring the smooth running of the event.

But today's event is to celebrate your achievements.

Businesses, at whom these workshops are primarily aimed, and other organisations can make a large contribution to a sustainable future, whether through their investing and

purchasing; their processes and procedures; the way they power and 'green' their buildings; the way they deal with waste; the ways they choose to travel, and in many other ways.

Their good endeavours can influence their workforces, their customers and the wider community.

In total, 24 businesses and organisations attended the Sustainable Mann workshops this autumn, and 11 of you attended all six to gain the Sustainable Mann accreditation.

We are all time pressed and it is quite a commitment to give up six Tuesday mornings to take part in these workshops, both for your organisation and you.

We thank you for this commitment.

We hope you benefited from the workshops – and that you have taken your learning back, to your colleagues, your boards, your shareholders and stakeholders and your ESG groups.

Only if some of the learning is implemented will the workshops have been beneficial, to you and our UNESCO Biosphere.

Before presenting you with your certificates, just a few more helpful aids to make you aware of.

For colleagues who were unable to attend the workshops, there is an excellent Sustainable Mann toolkit on the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man website that you can dip in to at any point and use in a self-paced way.

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man runs a Partner scheme via which organisations pledge their commitment to a sustainable future in six areas. Some of you are already Partners but, if you are not, then you might like to use your success in these workshops as a catalyst to apply and join.

From time to time we host events for the business community and we hope to shortly announce an exciting speaker to deliver our UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Lecture, concentrating on leading on sustainability, so keep an ear out for that publicity.

And, finally, you'll receive by email an electronic copy of your certificate, together with a logo you can use in your marketing, and a photo from today's event. We'll be putting out publicity, hopefully later today, and we'd invite you to share your successes with your audiences, too.

Now to our presentations and we'd invite you to come forward and receive your certificate and pose briefly for a photo taken by Jo.

At the end we'd ask everyone to join a group photo.

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