

The Rhondda's WORKERS Gallery, Studio and Workshop FINALIST FOR NEW GREEN GROWTH AWARDS

*Local arts venue the Workers Gallery has made it to the final of the awards after **impressing judges for their approach to driving growth through sustainability***

20th February 2025: The WORKERS gallery, studio and workshop in Ynyshir in the Rhondda Valley has been **selected as a finalist for the first-ever 'Green Growth Awards'**, a new national competition recognising small businesses leading the way in embracing sustainability to innovate and drive business growth.

Launched **by Small Business Britain, in partnership with BT**, the inaugural Green Growth Awards will award two sustainability grants of £5000 to two small businesses that have successfully boosted their bottom line by implementing sustainable initiatives. The grants will help provide additional funding for businesses to invest further in this area.

Dr Gayle Rogers who founded the Workers, a small but fierce independent gallery and creative space in 2014, has made it to the final round of the awards after impressing judges with her commitment to green growth. This **includes their investment in a cargo e-bike** initially to make local deliveries of orders, but the potential to do more with the bike soon saw it being utilised to delivery community library book loans and **to pedal power the Workers' 'gallery home visits' initiative.**

Gayle said *"My focus is sharing work that has a resonance for local people - that **can inspire reminiscence or storytelling**. The visits are a way to help tackle isolation and enable those living in the community to experience what is going on around them in a safe and familiar environment. I visit nursing homes, warm-banks and to those who are housebound with **unframed artwork and photographs, alongside books and catalogues relating to exhibitions**. Alongside I am there to talk through the work and offer activities like drawing or collage to help people respond in their own creative way to what they are experiencing. My eco- transport approach has expanded the gallery exhibitions reach into the community and I want that to develop further."*

On being named as a finalist, Gayle said: *"The cargo ebike was a game changer for my business. As **someone in my late-fifties I want to show people what is possible to do with an e-bike for a micro business like mine** and that age is not a barrier to cycling for work."*

*"On several occasions, there has been as much interest in my bike as in there has been in the artwork and orders I have been delivering - **inspiring conversations around sustainability, cycling, exercise for good mental health and travel.**"*

Richard Morgan who receives his orders via the initiative said *"**We live at the top of a big hill (it is Wales!), But that doesn't stop Gayle and the electric cargo bike making our delivery every month. It's the only" electric" delivery we get.**"*

The bike was christened ‘Leonora’ after the formidable suffragette and bodyguard to Emmaline Pankhurst, Leonora Cohen.

*“The Green Growth Awards recognise the outstanding small businesses that are not only leading the way in sustainability but are also **using it to fuel innovation and growth**,” says **Michelle Ovens CBE, Founder of Small Business Britain**.*

*“These **businesses are proving that greener practices not only benefit the planet but also create real business success**—whether through cost savings, waste reduction, or deeper customer engagement. Their passion and commitment are making a real impact on their communities and the economy.”*

The nation’s 5.5m small businesses are estimated to represent half of the UK’s business emissions¹ and the Green Growth Awards has been launched as part of Small Business Britain’s ongoing partnership with BT to empower UK small businesses **to better understand their environmental impact** and embrace more sustainable practices and growth opportunities.

*“The Green Growth Awards shine a spotlight on the small businesses that are not only driving sustainability but also setting the standard for innovation and growth,” said **Chris Sims, Chief Commercial Officer, UK Business, at BT**.*

*“It’s truly inspiring to see how these businesses **are leveraging sustainable practices to achieve real business success and create positive change** in their communities. We’re really proud to support this initiative.”*

BT is also a member of the Willow Review Steering Board; a new independent review aiming to underline the financial case for sustainability for small businesses, which has been spearheaded by Small Business Britain and is backed by the UK Government.

The winners of the Green Growth Awards will be announced at a special event at BT’s Headquarters in London on 11 March 2025.

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Notes to Editors

About Small Business Britain

Small Business Britain is the UK’s leading champion of small businesses, supporting the UK’s 5.5 million small businesses, no matter their location, their sector, or their ambition level.

¹ British Business Bank, ‘Smaller businesses and the transition to Net Zero’, page 7:
https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/sites/g/files/sovrnj166/files/2023-03/J0026_Net_Zero_Report_AW.pdf

Through a series of campaigns, networks, training and reports, Small Business Britain champions and informs small businesses in the UK. Committed to making entrepreneurship as inclusive as possible, it brings small business owners together to foster growth and increased confidence.

<https://smallbusinessbritain.uk>

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About BT Group

BT Group is the UK's leading provider of fixed and mobile telecommunications and related secure digital products, solutions and services. We also provide managed telecommunications, security and network and IT infrastructure services to customers across 180 countries.

BT Group consists of three customer-facing units: Consumer serves individuals and families in the UK; BT Business* covers companies and public services in the UK and internationally; Openreach is an independently governed, wholly owned subsidiary wholesaling fixed access infrastructure services to its customers - over 650 communication providers across the UK.

British Telecommunications plc is a wholly owned subsidiary of BT Group plc and encompasses virtually all businesses and assets of the BT Group. BT Group plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange. For more information, visit www.bt.com/about

**BT Business was formed on 1 January 2023 from the combination of the former Enterprise and Global units. It will commence reporting as a single unit from 1 April 2023, with pro forma reporting information to be produced ahead of BT Group's Q1 FY24 results.*

About the WORKERS Gallery, Studio and Workshop

The Workers is a **small business at the heart of a flourishing creative community**, in the Rhondda valley in South Wales. It is a small creative hub with a gallery exhibition space, an artist studio and woodworking workshop. It thrives on partnership-working and collaborations with the local community, national and local charities and schools. For more information visit www.workersgallery.co.uk

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@theworkersgallery>

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/workersgallery.bsky.social>

LinkedIn: <https://uk.linkedin.com/company/workers-gallery>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/workersgallery>

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