



PELICAN NEWS

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Blue Skies forecasts a brighter 2022



People from across all of Blue Skies operations in Africa, South America and Europe, came together during the first week of December for

our annual group conference. Like last year, it was a virtual conference which allowed us to involve more people from across our sites and engage in lively debate on a number of key topics that concerned the future of the business. Following what has been a very challenging year for Blue Skies, some exciting plans were presented around the group's ambition to unlock profitable growth, diversify into new products and markets and drive sustainable efficiencies across all areas of the business. The conference also provided a platform for our 2021 Above and Beyond Awards, which recognises people who have gone to extraordinary lengths to help the business work towards its strategic goals. The full list of our Above and Beyond winners can be found on page 2.

Blue Skies gives over 41k meals to Felix Project



Earlier this year, Blue Skies partnered the Felix Project to redistribute surplus fruit to charities and schools. Felix's Site Supply Coordinator, Katie Pope, explains the impact that this has had so far...

'The Felix Project is so pleased to be partnered with Blue Skies. Since the start of our collaboration in September this year, 17,458kg has been kindly donated which is the equivalent of 41,565 meals! The Felix Project rescues good quality surplus from the food industry that cannot be sold and would otherwise go to waste. We then sort the supplies and redistribute it to those in need including homeless hostels, community kitchens, women's refuge centres, services for the elderly, foodbanks and schools in deprived areas across London. Our food partners, such as Blue Skies, enable us to continue our mission of getting good quality, nutritious supplies to people in need by making use of surplus in the UK's food supply, saving it from becoming waste and harming the planet. Thank you for your support!'



INSIDE THIS MONTH:

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- P4** Blue Skies Brazil participates in health and safety initiatives

ABOVE AND BEYOND

2021 AWARDS

Congratulations to the winners of our 2021 Above and Beyond Awards. They were announced in a virtual awards ceremony during the Blue Skies conference which was hosted by Waydu Nhlapho from Blue Skies South Africa. The winners are shown below.



DRIVING EFFICIENCIES

Pawel Gwizdala, UK

Improving productivity by implementing automation



ACCELERATING PROFITABLE GROWTH

Matt Farebrother, Pitsford

Going to extraordinary lengths to build our UK business and secure growth

Diederick Olijve, Netherlands

Laying the foundations to enable growth in Europe



ENABLING DIVERSIFICATION

Ekramy Kamal, Egypt Juice

Pivoting the juice business to supply hotels



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Prince Asimani, Ghana

Laying our natural habitats at Kua land and naming tree species at the fresh-cut site



CARING FOR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Koto Venace, Benin

Growing Benin sports and fitness club from zero members to 80% of staff!



BLUEPRINT AWARD

Flavia Mometti, Brazil

Finding a solution to reduce waste to landfill by 75% in 2021



CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

David Moeketsi, South Africa

Keeping the factory going while riots and covid swept through the country

Factories receive top marks in ethical audits



Congratulations to Blue Skies Benin (pictured top) Ghana (pictured middle) and Egypt (picture bottom) for all passing their recent SMETA third-party ethical audits with zero non conformances. Well done too to Blue Skies Ghana Branded for passing their FSSC 22000 food safety audit with flying colours.

Introducing our 2021 Chairman's Award winner



Congratulations to David Moeketsi from Blue Skies South Africa on being awarded the 2021 Chairman's Award. David is the production manager in South Africa. He was picked by Anthony for keeping the South Africa ship afloat during what turned out to be an extremely challenging time for the site, with escalating cases of COVID and riots breaking out across the country.

Will you make personal pledge for the planet?

This month, Carrie Starkings encourages us to think about the choices we each can make to reduce our impact on the climate...



We have been living and working through unprecedented times over the past 2 years with the pandemic and increasing numbers of natural disasters. With the United Nations Climate Change conference wrapping up last month it got me thinking about all of the impacts that we as individuals have on the planet. Not only in our working lives but our personal lives too.

I have made a personal pledge along with my family to change practices, make wiser choices and question the 'norm' to make the planet a better place. This starts at home with small changes, changing the types of light bulbs we use in the house, buying only what we need and could not grow ourselves, not to support fast fashion, changing purchase habits to refill and recycle rather than increasing landfill, pass on/donate toys and books that have been outgrown, participating in community tree planting projects, etc.

As a family we have also done research into internet search engines, finding out which ones are powered by alternative energies and emit less carbon to produce the search results. The research is interesting and as a family we have settled to use Ekoru as our internet search engine of choice, there are many options on the market but this one is the best fit for us. Ekoru are powered by sustainable hydro power, where the alternatives are mixed power sources and produce only 0.1g CO2 for a search (vs 2.46g of CO2 for Google), they also clean up the oceans and replant seagrasses. If you would like to see more have a look at this link <https://www.ekoru.org/cause/>

Why don't you assess what you are doing in work and at home and see if there are any small changes you can adjust to make the planet a better place. We are 1 week away from 2022, what changes can you make to get 2022 off to a positive start?

Share your ideas with the wider Blue Skies family to see if it is something we all can take on board, please send your ideas to www.global.blueskies.com/planetpledge

"It's hard to tread lightly when you continue to accumulate"
Craig Smedley

UK staff sign up to veganuary



A number of staff at Blue Skies Pitsford have signed up to take part in Veganuary. Veganuary encourages people to try a plant based diet during the month of January as a way of protecting the environment, preventing animal suffering and improving the health of millions of people. We'll provide an update in the next newsletter on how our volunteers got on. In the mean time, you can find out more at www.veganuary.com

Blue Skies UK get in the festive spirit



Blue Skies UK held a Christmas Celebration this month and gave out some awards. The following people received trophies:

Ion Grumeza: The funniest person of Blue Skies

Karina Luczkow: The biggest chatterbox of Blue Skies

Adam Sitek: The 'Mother Hen' of Blue Skies (looking after others)

Roulla Demetriou: The best dressed person of Blue Skies

Andrzej Krzemieniewski: The star of Blue Skies

Flowers were also presented to Karolina Ciogliene, Alicja Popiel and Marcelina Greiner to say 'Thank you' for organizing outdoor work events and barbecues for the entire Blue Skies team.

Blue Skies Brazil brings festive cheer to elderly



This month, staff at Blue Skies Brazil participated in an event called 'Cantata Natalina' which aims to bring festive cheer to elderly people in Mogi das Cruzes, where Blue Skies is located. They took part in a Christmas Choir and delivered gifts including fresh-cut mango donated by Blue Skies. Pictured above (top left) is Flávia Mometti and Fernanda Castro with the First Lady of Mogi das Cruzes and Pamela, who is responsible for organising the event. Pictured top right is some of the event organisers with a selection of our donated fruit. Pictured bottom is the Christmas Choir performing for a group of elderly people. Many thanks to Samanta Eleutério de Lima Queiroz for the report.

Meet Aminath Yacoubou



Pictured: Here is Aminath Yacoubou who joined us last month as technical manager in Benin. She works closely with and is ably assisted by Elinam Atigan - Internal Auditor for Benin - looking into the refractometer. *Photo by Stephan Morris.*

Fond Farewell



Blue Skies UK is saying goodbye to Paulina and Jarek. Our Production team leader Bozek Jaroslaw and Bozek Paulina, site Administrator, are returning back to their home country to start a new journey. It was a pleasure for us to work with them. We will miss them a lot and we became a family through these years working together. We want to thank them from all Blue Skies family and we wish them all the best. *By Indre Vaitkeviciute, Blue Skies UK.*

Congratulations



Congratulations to Blue Skies Egypt Production Engineer Sara Saber who married her partner ?? in November. And Happy Borthday to Wagdy Mohamed and Mohamed El Nahas, also of Blue Skies Egypt, who both celebrated their birthdays on November 25th.

NEXT MONTH

- We reveal which Foundation projects will received funding in 2022
- News on an exciting new initiative to tackle the plastics problem