

PRESS RELEASE
Thursday, 19 August 2010

HR Professionals Urged to Nominate Graduate Green Shoots of Talent

HR managers within organisations that have invested in green jobs and skills are being encouraged to nominate their graduate staff for a leading industry award.

The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) is calling to HR managers and other line managers for entries into its 2010 **Graduate of the Year Award** because it believes there is a key opportunity for private sector organisations to present their dedication towards the professional development of its workforce as well as first class environmental maintenance.

IEMA's **Graduate of the Year Award**, sponsored by Land Securities, recognises the environmental talent and organisational achievements of practitioners that have graduated from an environmentally-related course within the past three years. It is awarded annually as part of IEMA's dedication, as the respected voice of the environmental profession, to promote the skills and value of young and recently-trained practitioners.

Being shortlisted or even winning the Award provides an unrivalled developmental opportunity for the individual Graduate but also demonstrates an organisational interest and investment in staff development. Jonathan Nobbs, Professional Development Manager at IEMA, explains how involvement in this award has multiple business case benefits; *"Young and recently trained practitioners face a large challenge in making environmental changes to business but with their recently acquired knowledge and zeal, they also have a lot to offer their organisation. For human resources to recognise this and nominate their Graduate practitioners for this award shows real environmental dedication and commitment to the professional development of their staff."* said Nobbs.

As Graduates cannot enter via their own application (all candidates must be nominated by their employer or by clients/customers of the organisation) and with less than six weeks to go before the entry deadline for the Award, IEMA is calling for business entries by Friday 10th September.

The winner of the IEMA Graduate of the Year Award 2010 will receive their a £2000 cash prize and one year's free IEMA Graduate membership at a ceremony during IEMA's **Environment and Business: The challenge and the opportunity** Conference on 1st November at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in influential Westminster. The nominating Manager/CEO will also be invited to attend, where they can network with some leading names from the environment and business arenas.

Full details of how to nominate, the rules of entry, the judging schedule and all nomination forms can be found at www.iema.net/graduateaward. For more information on IEMA, its policy, position on green jobs and skills as well as the Environment and Business conference contact Communications Co-ordinator Katrina Pierce at k.pierce@iema.net or any contact details listed at the at the bottom of this release.

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Notes to Editors

1. The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) is the membership body for environmental practitioners, placing environmental professionals at the heart of change.
2. IEMA helps its members to make a strategic environmental difference by embedding environment in decision making at all levels. We do this by helping members develop the right combination of knowledge about key environmental issues; the ability to apply key tools in practice; and required skills through knowledge exchange, research, conferences, training and publications.
3. With over 15,000 members working across business, consultancy, public and local authorities IEMA is the most authoritative professional body in the UK for environmental practitioners.
4. The Environment and Business: The Challenge and the Opportunity conference will be held on 1st - 2nd November 2010 at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster.
Day 1: Environmental Challenge – Shaping the UK's Infrastructure and Economy
Day 2: Transforming Business – Environmental Opportunities and Competitive Advantage
By attending IEMA's major conference of 2010 delegates will gain crucial knowledge of how the environment provides opportunities and challenges to the UK economy and its role as a key driver for future business planning. <http://www.iema.net/conferences/iemaconference/2010>.
5. For more information on IEMA, its events, conferences, services, membership, training and publications, please visit www.iema.net.
6. For further comment, interview requests, photographs or IEMA logos, please contact Communications Co-ordinator Katrina Pierce at k.pierce@iema.net or 01522 540069.

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