

INSTITUTE'S FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL GRADUATE AWARD WINNER REVEALED

An inaugural award recognising outstanding graduates working in the environmental sector was presented at an Institute ceremony in Bournemouth last week.

The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment's (IEMA) Graduate Award was held on 4th June at the Bournemouth Pavilion as part of the IEMA Conference 2008. It was presented to Donna Phillips, Assistant Environmental Manager of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) Group in a unanimous decision by the judging panel.

The IEMA Graduate Award has been designed to reward outstanding achievement by a graduate for improving or significantly influencing improvements to environmental performance and/or practices for either their own or a clients' organisation.

Donna, an MSc Environmental Sciences graduate from the University of Strathclyde, won £2000, one year's free IEMA membership and a trophy for her achievements since joining RBS in March 2007. So far in her career at RBS, Donna has successfully managed the ISO 14001 accreditation of the 80 acre Gogarburn headquarters and two RBS document Services sites. Donna's effort in supplier advancement and rigorous internal auditing has culminated in the achievement of an improved standard of EMS on site.

Donna's entry to the awards was accompanied by seven testimonials and recommendations from a wide range of business groups within RBS including Mortgages, Cash Logistics and Supplier Management, Landscaping and Environmental Data Management, all of which provided substantial evidence and details of the activities that Donna had carried out and conducted.

The two runners-up for the IEMA Graduate Award 2008 were Glyn Mutton, a graduate from Keele University who works for Skanska, and Doug Eltham of Torbay Council who is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. Both runners up received a £1000 prize and one year's free IEMA membership.

Donna, Glyn and Doug received their awards from Dave Farebrother, Director of Environment at Land Securities Group Plc who kindly sponsored the awards.

The evening also hosted the IEMA Student Essay awards, with two separate awards for Undergraduate and Postgraduate entries. Richard Bourne from the University of Bath won the Undergraduate award with his essay 'Poetry's role in rekindling our connection with nature' and Lisa Russell, also from the University of Bath was awarded the Postgraduate prize for her essay 'Why our meat and two veg diet is not sustainable'. Professor Barry Crittenden of the University of Bath presented Richard and Lisa with their cash prizes of £600 and £800 respectively, trophies and offer of a free module from the Environmental Management course at the University of Bath, who sponsored the awards.

For further information on the IEMA Graduate Award and IEMA Student Essay Award, see Issue 60 of 'the environmentalist' magazine, published on 16th June 2008, or visit www.iema.net for details on the IEMA, its membership, services, publications and projects.

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