

‘Get on your bikes’ - Green winner Connie tells Holyrood

History and Politics student Connie Bennett told the Scottish Government to get on their bikes - and won a place in the final of a national environmental competition.

The 20 year old from Falkirk, who is studying History and Politics at Edinburgh University, qualified for the Scottish final of the Environmental Placement Programme 2009 (EPP), organised by the Business Environment Partnership (BEP), after finishing top of the Central Belt heat.

Connie received a cheque for £100 and goes on to compete in the Scottish National Final, in which prizes will be presented by First Minister Alex Salmond at Edinburgh Zoo on 10 September. She will be joined by six students from other Scottish regional heats, each competing for the £500 first prize.

During an eight week summer placement, Connie was responsible for helping the Scottish Government achieve Cycle Friendly Employer status for each of its main buildings. Through research and surveys, Connie was able to make recommendations on how facilities could be improved to encourage Government staff to cycle. She also managed to carry out awareness-raising activities to further encourage car-bound commuters to ditch their cars and choose the healthier, greener way of getting to work.

“It was good to see such a high standard from all of the projects,” she commented. “I’m pleased to have won and hope everybody got as much as I did out of their placements.”

Joe Hind of Waste Aware Business, one of the judges on the day, added: “All of the students worked very hard and had great projects so it was difficult to choose a winner. It was great to see young people getting involved in an initiative like this”.

The EPP is sponsored by Shell U.K. Limited, the Scottish Government and SEPA.

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