

Environmental Placement Programme

Companies and public sector organisations throughout Scotland are being urged to harness student power to cut their fuel and water bills.

The Business Environment Partnership (BEP) is offering to match university students with companies keen to improve their environmental practices. The students carry out projects over eight weeks in the Summer to help businesses achieve cost savings associated with improved environmental management.

Projects in the Environmental Placement Programme (EPP) can include waste minimisation, energy efficiency, water and effluent management, and new product development. Students are allocated expert advisors as mentors.

“The Programme brings a wide range of benefits such as reducing energy, materials, and water and waste costs,” said Barbara Schweitzer-Thompson of the BEP (www.thebep.org.uk). “It also promotes improved compliance with regulations and strengthens links between businesses and universities.”

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

Last year 58 students earmarked savings of over £820,000, some 2,500 tonnes of CO2 emissions and nearly 2,000 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill.

The student judged to have completed the most innovative project will receive a £500 prize.

BEP Executive Director Gregor Murray added: “With energy costs becoming an ever bigger burden, businesses in the private and public sectors have a great deal to gain from taking part in this programme at very reasonable cost. They can reap big rewards by taking advantage of students’ innovative thinking, energy and enthusiasm.”

For more information on the Environmental Placement Programme call Barbara Schweitzer-Thompson on 0131-561 6262 or email Barbara@thebep.org.uk.

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