



Press Release

Date: 5th February 2008

Employability Matters! - Inspiring Graduates in Leicester.

Working in partnership with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), StudentForce for Sustainability held a professional development half day in Leicester, on the 12th December 2007. Aimed at young professionals and graduates beginning a career in the environmental sector, this unique event included speakers from the IEMA, a recent graduate working on an Environmental Management System (EMS) and workshops designed to aid employability and development.

Lee Greenhill, Marketing Coordinator for the IEMA, gave a brief [talk](#) on the professional body and the benefits of becoming a member at all levels. David Rafferty, a project worker placed with Solway Foods Ltd, discussed the practicalities of effectively implementing and maintaining an Environmental Management System within a large multinational business. The presentation covered best practice on how to deliver environmental awareness training to colleagues and conducting

environmental audits, also how skills and experiences developed at an academic level, can be applied in a high profile and challenging role.

The grand finale gave graduates an opportunity to attend personal development workshops, looking at topics such as effective job hunting and interview skills; a make or break procedure. The Studentforce team coordinate over 80 graduate placements a year, the team has over 11 years experience recruiting and supporting graduates making them more employable, so what better way could we help graduates than passing on our words of wisdom?

Boosting graduate development and learning to further enhance employability is a key priority for StudentForce and a commitment we are continually striving to build upon. With this in mind we believe that it is imperative to monitor the successes of our events and whether they truly are beneficial to our audiences. We did this by providing the attendees with evaluation forms and in return we received some fantastic feedback. 90% of the graduates rated the event at 5/5 with the remaining 10% rating the event at no lower than 4/5. All the presentations and workshops received greater than 90% positive feedback and so I think we can fairly say that the event was a success and that is crucial that we repeat it again in the near future. For more information on the work that StudentForce does and any upcoming events that we shall be attending please visit our website at www.studentforce.org.uk.

For more details about this event and the work of StudentForce please contact **Gemma K Astin, Marketing Coordinator for StudentForce for Sustainability** Tel: 01572 723 419 Email: gemmaastin@studentforce.org.uk

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Notes to Editor

1. **StudentForce for Sustainability** is the only charity in Europe that solely focuses on young people working and learning to boost their employability, as well as the sustainability of communities and employers. As an organisation we recognise sustainable development as an important aspect of any professional practice. Sustainable development touches all aspects of society and offers many exciting career opportunities. StudentForce believes that graduates have the potential, enthusiasm, knowledge and transferable skills to drive forward many sustainable development projects. Our work with employers across a wide range of sectors looks to provide graduates with a real opportunity to get the first step up the sustainability ladder; from environmental education and waste management to community development and economic regeneration.
2. **The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)** is a not-for-profit membership organisation established to promote best practice standards in environmental management, auditing and assessment. The Institute offers ongoing support to environmental professionals and aims to promote sustainability through improved environmental practice and performance.

For further information please contact:

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