Thorburn Prize for Best Dissertation on MSc Sustainability & Environmental Studies

Gwenn Greenwood
UK

Title of dissertation: “Determining the economic case for two approaches to multifunctional green space maintenance in Glasgow”

After working for ten years within the oil and gas sector as a hydrographic surveyor, I decided that I wanted a change in career and wished to focus on the challenging field of environmental management. I enrolled in the Masters in Sustainability and Environmental Studies here at the University of Strathclyde, where I felt that the wide range of courses on offer coupled with strong industry and business links would enable me to pursue this new career path. I very much enjoyed all of the subjects I studied which, although individually quite different, provided me with a comprehensive understanding of current environmental issues and the theoretical and practical methods used to investigate, monitor and control them.

My dissertation sought to identify the economic case for two different approaches to green space maintenance by assigning monetary values to the costs and benefits associated with each. In producing an evaluation framework, it became clear just how numerous and varied the impacts to society were and although a complex task, how important their determination and measurement is in order to aid decision making.