CAMBRIDGE, MA – The Harvard Environmental Economics Program, a University-wide initiative that seeks to develop innovative answers to today’s complex environmental challenges, has awarded four prizes to Harvard University students for the best research papers addressing a topic in environmental, energy, or resource economics -- one prize each for an undergraduate paper, a senior thesis, master’s student paper, and doctoral student paper. Each prize was accompanied by a monetary award.

The prizes were judged by a committee of four Faculty Fellows of the Harvard Environmental Economics Program: Professor James Hammitt, Harvard School of Public Health; Professor Rema Hanna, Harvard Kennedy School; Professor Richard Hornbeck, Department of Economics; and Professor Michael Toffel, Harvard Business School. The prizes were supported by the Enel Endowment for Environmental Economics at Harvard and the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation.

The Winners are:

The James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Prize for the Best Undergraduate Paper ($1,000)
Karen Ding, “Cash for Clunkers: A Benefit-Cost Analysis.” Written for Economics 970, Sophomore Tutorial, Dr. Jeffrey Miron, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Dr. Jonathan Borck, Teaching Fellow.

Karen will be a junior at Harvard College beginning in September 2010, concentrating in economics, minoring in sociology, and holding a language citation in French. She is from Davis, California and was an Executive Writer Intern in the Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in the summer of 2009. At Harvard, Karen is active in the Leadership Institute at Harvard College and the Harvard Crimson.

The James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Prize for the Best Senior Thesis ($1,500)
Patrick Behrer, “Building in the Mountains: A hedonic analysis of the value of degraded mountain views using GIS modeling.” Advisor: Professor Guido Imbens, Department of Economics.

Patrick is receiving his A.B. in Economics from Harvard this month, with a secondary concentration in government. He is Co-Founder and Director of Harvard EnviroEd, which engages students in seven middle schools in Boston. He has written environmental education curricula used in schools in five states. Patrick has been Carbon Markets Advisor to the Chilean firm Patagonia Sur LLC since June 2009. He played lacrosse at Harvard and has been active in a number of student organizations.
The Enel Endowment Prize for the Best Paper by a Masters Student ($2,000)

Andrew Philip Matheny, “Reducing the impact of price shocks in energy-intensive economies.”
Second-Year Policy Analysis for the Master in Public Administration/International Development;
Advisor: Professor Filipe Campante, Harvard Kennedy School.

Andrew is receiving a Master in Public Administration/International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School this month. He received a B.A. in mathematics and Slavic studies—and a masters in Slavic Studies—from Brown University. He has worked in the National Bank of Serbia, the Petroleum Finance Company (Paris), and the International Energy Agency. Andrew has served as a teaching fellow for the Harvard Department of Economics during the last academic year.

The Enel Endowment Prize for the Best Paper by a Doctoral Student ($2,500)

Kelsey Jack, “Allocation in environmental markets: A field experiment with tree planting contracts.” Ph.D. Committee Chair: Professor Christopher Avery, Harvard Kennedy School.

Kelsey is receiving her Ph.D. in Public Policy this month. She received her A.B. in Public and International Affairs, with a concentration in economics, magna cum laude, from Princeton University. Kelsey has published a number of papers in peer-reviewed journals on the economics of natural resource markets in developing countries. She has accepted a post doctoral position, for academic year 2010-11, at the Poverty Action Lab at MIT under its Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative. She will also be a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Sustainability Science Program at the Harvard Kennedy School and a Visiting Scholar at Tufts University. In the fall of 2011, she will join the Economics Department at Tufts University as an Assistant Professor.

The inaugural Prize competition attracted many excellent submissions. According to Robert N. Stavins, Albert Pratt Professor of Business and Government and Harvard Environmental Economics Program Director, “The submissions for this year’s suite of four prizes demonstrated great creativity, excellent research skills, and impressive writing. I’m pleased to say that this made it difficult for the judges to select the winners.”

James M. Stone is chair of the Plymouth Rock Companies. He holds BA, MA, and PhD degrees from Harvard University, where he also taught the economics of securities markets. Cathleen Douglas Stone is has been Special Assistant for Environment to the Mayor of the City of Boston since 1997.

The Enel Endowment for Environmental Economics, at Harvard University, provides major support for the Harvard Environmental Economics Program. The endowment was established in February 2007 through a generous capital gift of $5 million from Enel, SpA, a progressive Italian corporation involved in energy production worldwide. Read about the gift in the Harvard Gazette.

The Harvard Environmental Economics Program is based in the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at the Harvard Kennedy School. For more information, see: www.hks.harvard.edu/m-rcbg/heep.