



Many corporate organisations are beginning to appreciate the business values of engaging with biodiversity. Social responsibility, employee engagement, community involvement, and adding value to business sites are all contributors to business excellence, whilst also supporting brand awareness and sales.

BESST members networking together have also highlighted the link between site biodiversity assets and the future legislative challenges of reducing diffuse pollution of surface waters.



As a result BESST has instigated an annual event on biodiversity, which more corporate members are now becoming increasingly involved in. The keynote speakers at this event were Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT), Environment Agency, and were followed by BESST member's case studies. Guests were then given a tour of Ricoh's site to view their continued Biodiversity work on site.

Steering group member Mark Anderson (Ricoh) chaired the event and welcomed the speakers.

**Speakers** L-R: Paul Hayward (Environment Agency), Andy Whyte, BESST Chair (Ricoh), Colin Preston (Shropshire Wildlife Trust), Pete Lambert (Shropshire Wildlife Trust), Mark Anderson (Ricoh), Carl Griffin and Stuart Mapp (Ricoh), Martin Booth –(DENSO (not pictured))



Andy Whyte (SWT Trustee) and Colin Preston (MD of SWT) presented Corporate Biodiversity strategy. They explained how their partnership had led to the development of the *Hierarchy of Corporate Biodiversity* to create an overarching framework for business biodiversity strategy. This has resulted in expanding Ricoh's stakeholder engagement and has developed the business facing aspects of SWT's corporate membership package.



Pete Lambert (SWT) and Paul Hayward (EA) posed the question “Where did the water go”, explaining how Telford's water catchments have changed over 250 years of industrial activity, how several of these are classed as failing under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment criteria, and how DEFRA funding has come down through the EA to SWT to carryout the Telford Urban Catchment Restoration Fund project.

**Advantages of SUDS**

- Help clean up local watercourses
- You know what's coming off your site
- Storage for spillages on site
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Amenity area for staff & customers
- Reduce flood risk
- Legal compliance

