



Held at Best Western Valley Hotel, Ironbridge, our final 2015 event saw the launch of the Local Nature Partnership Prospectus, heard from the Environment Agency on Love Your Rivers (Telford) and saw the inaugural Blue Business Award & BESST Most Sustainable Business Awards being presented.

Pic: L-R

Andy Whyle (Ricoh/BESST Chair), Pete Lambert (Shropshire Wildlife Trust) Colin Preston (Shropshire Wildlife Trust), Steve Howson (Arriva), Neil Birt (Bridgnorth Aluminium) Guy Pluckwell (Love Your Rivers Telford), Paul Hayward (Environment Agency)

The Blue Business Awards have been coordinated as part of Shropshire Wildlife Trust's wider Love Your River project, run in partnership with the Environment Agency. BESST has been chosen as the Pilot to launch this award for the EA with a view to it going national. The project aims to increase awareness of water pollution at community and industrial scale and has already worked with a number of companies including Ricoh in Telford to reduce diffuse pollution at their sites

Two Blue Business Award winners were announced at the event. Bridgnorth Aluminium was awarded in recognition of their commitment over 3 years to improve drainage and pollutant capture at their huge site in Bridgnorth. In addition, the company has worked with students from University of Wolverhampton to create a wild flower meadow on a disused section of their property.

A second award went to Arriva for their efforts to reduce the amount of water they use to wash public transport at their depot in Harlescott by harvesting rainwater. This has reduced the depot's water costs greatly and perfectly demonstrates that a sustainable business is often has lower running costs.

Speakers at this event were;

Andy Whyle - Event host & BESST Award

Pete Lambert – Blue Business Award

Colin Preston – National Capital Prospectus Launch

Adrian Platt – Befesa, Aluminium Recycling

Mark Anderson – Ricoh, SUDS

Dr Kevin Lewis – Public Health for Shropshire, Help to Change

Guy Pluckwell/Paul Hayward - Environment Agency, Love Your Rivers (Telford)

Presentations are available for BESST members to access through the Download Library



Below are Top Tips from this event:

- 1) Look at ways to avoid sedentary behaviour (stand up desks in the workplace)
- 2) Understand the benefits; increased productivity , reduced absenteeism,
- 3) Understand the benefits of natural capital in your organisation (link to doc)
- 4) Pollution risk; know where your surface waters go to – communicate the risks to your organisation; join Love Your Rivers (Telford) !
- 5) Submit your entries for the next BESST & Blue Business Awards !

For further information on any of the environmental topics discussed please contact the BESST Coordinator Jaclyn Kitson on 01952 567578 or email jaclyn.kitson@telford.gov.uk