



This event was held as the annual joint workshop between BESST & metnet. The event was held at the Telford Campus of the University of Wolverhampton.

Patricia Head (metnet) opened the event and then handed over to Andy Whyle, BESST Chair who then led the event and welcomed the speakers



L-R: Patricia Head (metnet), Sarah Bass (Telford & Wrekin) Peter Braithwaite (SWM), Andy Whyle (BESST), Barry Singh (CO2G), Sunil Vara (Coventry University Enterprises Ltd)

The event began with Chair Andy Whyle giving an overview of the 2013 BESST Annual Review. This covered organisations involved in BESST, Member’s awards, a review of 2013 events and the introduction and rationale of membership fees for 2014. The annual review is now available for download from the website.



Sarah Bass, Strategic Procurement Manager for Telford & Wrekin then gave an entertaining interactive presentation to explain the issues faced in their local supply chain procurement, and the EU rules which have to be considered to maintain legislative compliance. Sarah quizzed the members on how they would make decisions on buying “local”, and then showed if their choice would lead to a trip to your Solicitors!

The second presentation was given by Sunil Vara of Coventry University covering their updated Eco Business offer available for BESST’s SME members. This now offers 6 days consultancy (50% reimbursed) or a £2400 grant for eco investments over £7000. To follow up on this offer you can contact their project team : Telephone: 024 7615 8206 / Website: www.ecobusinesswm.co.uk / Email address info@ecobusinesswm.co.uk





Barry Singh from CO2G then gave BESST members a insight into the Plastics Recycling industry. Members were given an explanation of how plastic is made, common polymer types, demand and how he had applied this to growing his business.

The final presentation was given by Peter Braithwaite, Chair of Sustainability West Midlands (SWM), who talked about his role as Head of Sustainability for the 2012 London Olympics. Peter covered aspects of SWM's strategic role in sustainability and how BESST supports the work they do, and how sustainability aspects were considered and deployed in the construction of the Olympic Park.



All of the presentations delivered at the event can be viewed in the download library

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

Event Top Tips

Plastic Recycling

- Understand the recycling symbols and type of plastic you are segregating
- Clear signage - showing what pictorially is acceptable and what isn't



Sustainable Construction

- Safety & sustainability from the start
- Early engagement with supply chain, Integrate targets into the design brief and teams – set challenging specifications which push your suppliers, they may be initially reluctant but become innovative.
- Holistic approach – consider carbon, water, waste materials, biodiversity and environmental impacts.
- Consider SWMP to monitor and control waste streams and monitor success & savings
- Water reduction – use of rainwater in stored areas used for your processes (i.e. vehicle washing , street cleaning, dust mitigation)
- Utilise waterways to transport waste and materials
- Incorporate biodiversity into the finished design and set BAP management
- Use BREEAM “Excellent” as the standard.
- Audit check the finished site / result - Publicise the achievements (make case study).

Buying local

- Buyers - Get your suppliers to be “tender ready” (inform them of what standards are required)
- Suppliers - Know the legal requirements the your buyers are working to (i.e. EU legislation)
- Consider carbon reduction measures and food miles
- Seek quotes from local contractors - Use local networks to advertise requirements.