



**Emerald Trading**  
Waste Solutions limited

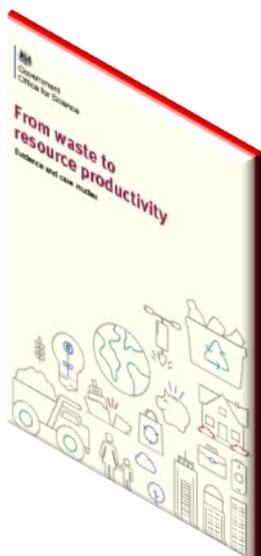
The focus at our now annual legislation event was on plastics and how to deal with waste streams. This event took place at Ironbridge Gorge Museum, was chaired by Paul Nelms, Epwin Group & BESST Steering Group member (Legislation) who expertly engaged the delegates.



This event was kindly sponsored by Mark Gilbert of [Emerald Trading](#), Wem.

### Steve Cawthorne – Environment Agency: Waste Management Team

Steve explained the problems and issues for producers and the regulator, and covered the impacts created by the Asian markets (China revised quality standards) and the effects on the Packaging Recovery Notes (PRN's). Lack of a 'market' for recycled material that doesn't meet new quality criteria can lead to stockpiling, and that increases the risk of fires. Steve also explained the plastic reduction activities they are carrying out within the Agency.



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#### Mark Gilbert, Emerald Trading

Mark gave an expert insight into the recycling markets, covering current issues. He shared his global experience of dealing in recycled materials and the increased inspection criteria these now faced. Mark predicted that waste management costs are expected to increase drastically in the coming years unless the recycling capacity issues in the UK are addressed. This issue was included in the Government policy advisory report "From waste to resource productivity" ([www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-waste-to-resource-productivity](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-waste-to-resource-productivity)) which included sector intelligence from BESST, and is being used to formulate the forthcoming Resources & Waste Strategy expected later this year.



#### Andy Whyte – Chair of BESST & Sustainability Specialist Ricoh UK Products Ltd

Andy sought to answer the questions many practitioners now faced from their employees and directors on the plastic issues that had now become prominent due to raised public awareness.

He talked about the evolution of waste and landfill, why all plastic isn't recyclable, marine pollution and the innovation that is being created to work on this. He and the steering group members then explained the activities they were introducing to increase recycling, reuse and removal of single use plastics in their organisations

