



Business Environmental Support Scheme for Telford

2018 Annual Review Document



“To enhance the environmental performance of local businesses, in turn, boosting efficiency and reducing their impact on the global environment”

www.telfordbesst.co.uk

Chair's Report 2018

Dear BESST Members

Thank you for your continued support, passion and innovation. It is a privilege to represent our network and your achievements, and I promote both at any opportunity I can in the hope that others follow your 'BESST' practice.



In my experience, now is the greatest opportunity I've seen to embed the environmental changes we all know are needed. Never before has the environment and sustainability been raised to such a high profile in both the public and private sectors. Climate change, post 'Brexit' environment, biodiversity loss, 'single-use' plastics and marine pollution are all becoming part of everyday language.

After many years of raising awareness of these issues to their business colleagues, BESST members could easily make the mistake of saying "I told you so". However, now that more and more of these people now see the world as we do, I would urge that we take this opportunity to encourage them to join us on our path to sustainability.

Employee engagement has been a 'call to action' for many BESST members this year, and through the events and workshops we've seen how this has been answered. This review gives an indication on how successful that has been, but there is so much more value to members' organisations that can be recorded here. That is why networking at our events is so important, and the sharing of our issues, experience and solutions has been successful in developing so much BESST practice.

Behind the scenes, BESST has continued strategically develop through working with the Telford Business Board, Marches Business Environment Networks, Marches Nature Partnership and the Marches LEP. We are also continuing to support universities to understand business issues, working in partnership to develop more robust solutions to improve productivity and environmental performance.

Ultimately this improves the resources available to our members, and provides much needed sector intelligence to develop appropriate government strategy. BESST has become synonymous with these aspects, demonstrating that environmental impact reduction and business benefits are fundamentals of business continuity.

The Steering Group has continued to develop and share their much respected knowledge, without which BESST would not exist. Their commitment and experience is unparalleled, and provide a resource that other business networks aspire to. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank them for their support.

My 'ask' to BESST members going forward is to share your business 'pain' with us. We have become a voice that so many listen to, and your valuable information provides sector intelligence to target the issues we face. Please (openly or confidentially) share this with us so that we can develop activities to support you. We want to add value to our program, so that you can transfer this value to your business, and together we will improve our sustainability.

Regards

Andy

Andy Whyle, Chair of BESST



Vice-Chair's Reports



Dear BESST Members

Thank you to all the SME members for continuing to support BESST.

Over the next 12 months we would like to see the membership grow, so if you know of any neighbouring businesses, businesses in your supply chain, or customers that would benefit from membership please pass their details on to [Jacs](#) and we'll happily make contact.

During the last 12 months BESST has continued to provide an unprecedented level of support, if you've benefited this year could you please provide a case study (assistance will be given) or failing that, a few kind words that you wouldn't mind being quoted, this helps us keep the message fresh.

Please give consideration to how BESST adds value to your business and also areas we could be of more help, for example business skills training, audit advice, or how to write the perfect presentation, BESST members are an extremely talented bunch and I'm sure we can find you support in most aspects of your business life. BESST is here to support you and it is critical that you participate in setting our agenda for the coming year and enable the Steering Committee to focus on the areas that are the biggest concern for you.

As expected Brexit and world politics dominated the headlines this year, and have contributed to a feeling of instability and uncertainty, but the principals of BESST remain the same – keep your businesses on the right side of the law, have as little negative impact on the environment as possible and share good ideas with as many people as you can.

All the best for the coming year

Mark

Mark Simmons
Salop Holdings

BESST Vice-Chair (joint)



Vice-Chair's Reports



Dear BESST Members,

Many thanks for the continuous support you provide to BESST.

As a steering group member, I am pleased to have seen another year of full activity in our environmental network with excellent events. At Lyreco, we were very proud to have been given the opportunity for a second year to host a visit of MSc students from the University College London, which is becoming a regular feature in the calendar. It is not by chance that a university in London chose Telford for their annual best practice visits, but due to how much BESST environmental network companies can offer.

In my last year's review, I mentioned the impact that China banning the import of plastics for recycling had on UK businesses. In 2018, recycling plastic in the UK has become more difficult with good segregation and quality of material being the only solution that will lead to recycling instead of incineration or landfill. However, due to a wide campaign with positive response from the media, public and politicians, marine plastic pollution has taken centre stage.

Widespread activity in cleaning rivers, beaches and investing in technology to remove plastic pollution from oceans has taken place in 2018. Regulations are already in place (microbeads) or being lined up for the near future: the banning of straws, plastic cutlery and single use plastic cups.

Steering all businesses to embrace circular economy principles is the way forward, not just to cut marine plastic pollution but also to minimize packaging, cut waste, keep products circulating for longer and optimize resources. As a company, we have already come under a lot of pressure from customers to cut single use plastic in our products and packaging and this will be a main focus of our sustainability activity in 2018.

Remember that at BESST we want to add value to your business. We welcome your input on environmental topics that affect your business and the priorities that BESST should focus on.

I am looking forward to all the challenges that 2019 might bring.

Manel Roura
Lyreco UK Ltd.
BESST Vice-Chair (joint)

Manel

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BESST Vice-Chair (joint)



BESST Steering Group

Meeting every 6-8 weeks, BESST has 12 Steering Group Representatives, each with their own area of expertise, who work hard to ensure that BESST delivers a strong service for its members.

We are always keen to expand the range of skills and representation of the Board and would welcome enquiries from any member who would like to consider applying to join the Steering Group

BESST Steering Group Members

Name	Organisation	Specialist Area
Andy Whyte <i>(Chair)</i>	Ricoh Products UK Ltd	Zero Waste / Biodiversity / Networking
Manel Roura <i>(Vice Chair)</i>	Lyreco	Zero Waste / Logistics / Biodiversity
Mark Simmons <i>(Vice Chair / Treasurer)</i>	Simmonsigs	SME Representation and Development
Paul Nelms	Epwin Group	Zero Waste / EMS
Paul Hayward	Environment Agency	Legislative Compliance Support
Martin Booth	Denso	Environment & H&S Officer
Barbara Taylor	Ironbridge Gorge Museums	Visitor Economy
Mark Thompson	AceOn Group	Low Carbon & Renewables
Jaclyn Kitson	JK Consultancy	BESST Coordinator
Felicity Wingrove	Zen Communications	PR Support



BESST Membership Support

BESST members can receive support on several levels.

Each BESST Member will be offered the opportunity to receive a 1-2-1 visit to help us understand their issues and address these either through this route or share issues and resolutions at future events with other network members to enhance the best practice offer.

BESST also offer the free use of Energy Monitoring Equipment which is available for any member of BESST to use to. Booking request forms to loan this equipment can be downloaded from the BESST website or by emailing us at Telford-besst@outlook.com

Existing members can raise issues either confidentially through the BESST Network Coordinator, openly through the BESST LinkedIn Group or shared with the BESST network via direct mail from the Coordinator.

The results are the development of environmental best practice and local case studies which can be shared amongst members to collectively reduce environmental impacts.

BESST Annual Awards

November 2018 will see our 4th Annual BESST Business Awards being handed out. The quality of entries for these awards continues to be high, and the steering group unanimously agreed to give awards in 4 categories



Winning categories :

Circular Economy Innovation	Suez Recycling
Natural Capital Enhancement	Craemer UK
Water Quality	Environment Agency

There will also be an additional award given this year for Strategy Development which was awarded to Robert Saunders of Green ShropshirExchange for his tireless lobbying for EV development in Shropshire



Pics L-R: Carla Brian & Jennifer Taylor—Suez Recycling & Recovery,
Amber Poppitt—Craemer UK, Robert Saunders—Green ShropshirExchange



Events 2018

Management Workshop – March 2018

Our first workshop of 2018 was about dealing with Issues and Crisis Communications and also considering ‘What your business will look like in 2043?’ [Event overview – 8 March 2018](#)



Annual Back to Basics Event – 18 April 2018

2017 BESST award winners presented their journey of achievements to BESST members. [Event overview – 18 April 2018](#)

Corporate Biodiversity – 5 June 2018

BESST’s annual biodiversity event was held on World Environment Day at Ironbridge Gorge Museum. Nest boxes, bat boxes and goosander habitat were installed on site. [Event overview – 5 June 2018](#)



Let’s Talk Rubbish’ – 19 September 2018

Hosted at Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, our annual legislation event was given a focus on dealing with the issues of waste plastic and potential solutions to some of these problems. [Event overview – 19 Sept 2018](#)



Other previous BESST events are available on the Past Events field on the website <http://www.telfordbesst.co.uk/interactive/pastevents>



Testimonials

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT) is committed to making the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site one of the most sustainable green tourism World Heritage Sites in the world. This commitment is made against the historic backdrop of the Ironbridge Gorge as the Birthplace of Industry and, therefore arguably, the origin of climate change. We believe this is a uniquely powerful asset in delivering the public message of sustainable living.

In collaboration with BESST and its members the Trust will continue to engage in and exchange environmental best practice to benefit as many people as possible, promote sustainability, and preserve the Ironbridge Gorge for generations to come. **Barbara Taylor, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust**

Telford Business Board are proud to work in partnership with a range of organisations for the overall benefit to our local economy, and BESST is no exception. From manufacturing and engineering, to design, leisure and tourism, our work with BESST not only enables us to encourage the businesses and sectors we represent to adopt positive environmental cultures, but in actively providing a wide range of support, tools and practical guidance to help them reduce their own carbon footprints, make financial savings, and contribute to regional economic growth' **Paul Hinkins, Chair of Telford Business Board**

Stadco have been members of BESST group for the last 5 years. The networking and support is valuable especially the how the issues faced in the local community can be resolved and improved using best practices. The topics in BESST events covered provides essential learning and sharing which is a key to enable overall environmental performance from our region. In 2016, Stadco were awarded the "Sustainable business award" which we are very proud of—and great support from the team at BESST too! **Simon Randall, EHS Director Cosma, Stadco**

The Shropshire Wildlife Trust continues to be impressed by the Companies within BESST who strive to deliver high quality environmental objectives within a successful and sustainable business. In particular the annual Blue Business Award, which seeks to give recognition to businesses for implementing best practice across an array of water issues, exemplifies the environmental achievements possible. **Colin Preston, CEO of Shropshire Wildlife Trust**

BESST have been a vital partner in the multi award winning, Love Your River Telford project, an urban catchment management model created in Telford that is now being replicated across the country and beyond. Their close links with a large number of businesses located in the town opened up that sector to the project from day 1 resulting in many more benefits being realised than would have been possible. In particular their help in developing the Blue Business Award which recognises exemplar approaches in both pollution prevention management and water efficiency has been crucial. The awards would not have been such a success without BESST's guidance. **Guy Pluckwell, Environment Agency**

"The Marches LEP aims to create the conditions for economic growth. This can only happen by working closely with businesses, hearing about the challenges they face and environmental performance can be one of those challenges. That's why it's so vital that networks like BESST exist, working to boost competitiveness by assisting businesses to reduce their impact on the environment." **Gill Hamer, Director, Marches Local Enterprise Partnership**

"Becoming a BESST member has helped Craemer to understand and develop it's environmental management system, giving us the opportunity to identify and engage with interested parties, as identified by the 14001 standard. This also allows us to compare how other companies overcome their environmental challenges. We have found the workshops engaging as well as informative, plus inspirations talks have provided plenty of great ideas to take away" **Phil Evans & Amber Poppitt, Craemer UK Ltd**

At the Epwin Group we highly value our long standing association with BESST. The knowledge available within BESST is immense and to freely have access to this resource is very reassuring. The events and workshops are pitched such that they address the matters that count, are engaging, informative and well worth the time invested in attending. Also the opportunities afforded to our company for networking with likeminded businesses cannot be underemphasized, certainly in this day and age when environmental challenges are constantly evolving. Great team, keep up the good work.

Paul Nelms, Group Environmental Manager, Epwin Group Plc.



“Sustainability in business is not a competitive issue. Sharing and adopting sustainability best practice improves business performance. This increases business resilience and continuity, which stabilises and improves productivity.

BESST provides a forum that accesses sustainability intelligence across a range of sectors.

This identifies opportunities to collaborate through shared learning not normally available when working in isolation, and this stakeholder engagement approach results in robust and integrated solutions.”

Andy Whyte

Chair of BESST

Sustainability West Midlands Green Leader (private sector) 2017

To find out more about BESST please call us on 07758 603064



telford-besst@outlook.com

or

visit www.telfordbesst.co.uk

