



Welcome to the BESST bi-monthly Newsletter, which will contain details on forthcoming events and current funding opportunities.

We will welcome any feedback, and if you have any articles for inclusion please forward them to us at telford-besst@outlook.com

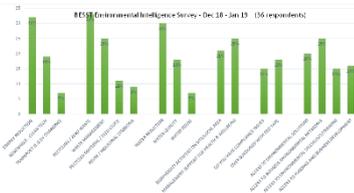
BESST Events -2019 – Save The Dates !

Wednesday 10 April	Back 2 Basics Breakfast Event
Wednesday 5 June	World Environment Day (activity to be confirmed)
Wednesday 3 July	Circular Economy Breakfast Event
Wednesday 11 September	Legislation Breakfast Event, <i>Ricoh Products UK Ltd, Priorslee</i>
Wednesday 13 November	Annual BESST Awards / Speaker: William Morris, CEO of Café Nero



We are planning to hold several workshops throughout the year and will keep you updated. If you have any ideas/suggestions for a workshop, please get in touch with us by [emailing us](#)

Business Environmental Intelligence Survey



Thank you to all who have participated in our survey so far to help us understand which environmental issues are affecting your businesses. This survey remains open and we encourage those of you who have not yet completed this to do so. Your contact details will not be shared with anyone and results from the survey for January 2019 can be found [here](#)

BESST Steering Group Member Comment - *Andy Whyte, Chair*

At BESST we work to develop practices that will drive sustainable growth and productivity. In 2019, our members' commitment to a long-term approach is more important than ever.

We all get asked to complete many surveys, however, Sector intelligence from BESST members has contributed to the UK's *Resources and Waste Strategy*, and data from the latest surveys is being used for DEFRA and Marches LEP consultations.

Our wider collaboration with the Marches and West Midlands networks will help shape appropriate business strategy, regulation, and identify the infrastructure required to drive sustainable business across our region.

BESST's events and workshops are designed to help members' face today's environmental challenges and we encourage you to let us know what events, workshops and themes would be useful to your business. I remain optimistic about the prospects for BESST members and look forward to working with you to identify your 'business pain'.

If you have any confidential environmental issues that you need to discuss then [get in touch](#) - help us to help you!





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[AceOn Group](#)



BESST Members AceOn Group have secured a grant from Marches Building Investment Grant (MBIG) to expand their premises and increase production capacity. This followed a [Telford Business Board](#) meeting at which MBIG presented opportunities around this grant and Mark Thompson (AceOn Group MD) contacted them to discuss if this funding could support them with their expansion plans. As a result, AceOn have recruited 3 new staff and anticipate engaging more in the coming months. [Read more](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Business Energy Efficiency Programme](#)

The Business Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP) is available throughout Herefordshire and Telford & Wrekin offering FREE energy assessments and grants to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Assessments are for SMEs who wish to use their energy more efficiently, reducing costs and improving environmental credentials. [Read more](#)

[UK Circular Plastics](#)

WRAP, in conjunction with UK Research and Innovation have announced [£1.6m in funding](#) to be made available to help the UK achieve zero avoidable plastic waste by 2042. The grant funds are for innovative ideas to overcome the current barriers to reducing plastic waste and ensure future developments reduce the issues of plastic disposal.

[Manufacturing Growth Programme](#)

If you are an SME Manufacturer based in Shropshire, you could be eligible for an enhanced offer of a 50% grant to fund a business improvement project. You will gain access to industry specialists and the opportunity to apply for an average improvement grant from £1000. There is less than 6 months of the Manufacturing Growth Programme grant funding available. [Learn more.](#)



[Coming Soon....](#)

[BESST Sustainable Business Awards](#)

2019 will be our 5th year of the BESST member awards and we will be sharing the launch of these awards with you very soon