



## BESST Chairs' report 2019



Welcome to new and potential members, and to our existing members, thank you for your commitment to being BESST!

In the incredible *Climate Crisis* atmosphere of 2019, BESST and our sector intelligence has made an amazing contribution to sustainability on both a regional and national scale. It has been my privilege to represent BESST in a variety of forums this year, ensuring the issues you have told us about are reflected in local and national strategy

Since the last review I was invited to contribute to the Government policy advisory report – [From Waste to Resource Productivity](#) Business Chapter. This explained the benefits of collaboration, sharing environmental best practice to increase business performance, with BESST being the exemplar model for this.

This influential report was then used in the Government [Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England](#) stating that it '*explores how we can treat waste as a valuable resource and this Strategy takes forward a number of its recommendations*'

Using these strategic links and the sector intelligence ('business pain') provided by BESST and the wider Marches Business Environment Networks members (thanks to all those who contributed to the surveys!) we have shared your information with [Telford Business Board](#), [Marches LEP consultations](#), [Sustainability West Midlands](#), [WRAP-Resource Efficiency Clusters](#) report, [IEMA strategy consultations](#) and the [UK Resources Council](#) (specially formed to create a ground-breaking sector deal to improve the UK's circular economy infrastructure). This has helped highlight the issues and opportunities we face as businesses and will help shape our future needs to work toward the Government's strategic targets and (importantly) our own sustainability.

Strategy is one thing, but (as regularly I point out to the strategic partners we engage with) the critical aspect of achieving strategic targets is the practitioners who deliver the innovation and the results – and that is **YOU!** This has been seen through the events we've held and in peer to peer recognition through our environmental awards. Our *Back-2-Basics*, *Business Biodiversity*, *Circular Economy workshop* and *Environment Agency Legislation Review* events all provided practical examples for our members to consider in their own organisations.



And now in 2019, to encourage others to join us on the path to sustainability, the Awards have now been expanded to include non-members to share our best practice with the wider business community and extol the benefits of being BESST.

With our voice represented at the strategic level, we now need to focus on engaging more organisations to join us, and so our 'ask' for 2020 is for BESST members to engage their sector partners and supply chains (i.e. suppliers, energy providers, recycling contractors) and bring them to BESST events to join with us. Like minded stakeholders can achieve more by working in partnership to increase business efficiency, increase profitability, improve business robustness and resilience whilst reducing our environmental impacts (sustainability). BESST provides the forum to achieve this.

Finally, I would like to thank the BESST Steering Group and all of our members, who continue to innovate and deliver sustainable best practice in business, and the evidence we've seen this year clearly shows that we are BESST!

Thank you all for your support during 2019 and we look forward to working with you in 2020!

Best wishes

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