



An increasing number of organisations are looking to adopt the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), including several BESST members. The SDG’s are 17 goals which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

To meet this demand BESST held an SDG workshop at the Greenwood Centre in Ironbridge. The workshop began with 3 members of Ricoh explaining their organisation’s approach. In June 2019 Ricoh held an SDG activity month, with awareness presentations given as part of a tour of the workplace for employees. These presentations were shared as part of the workshop, showing how Ricoh employee’s were directly contributing towards the goals.

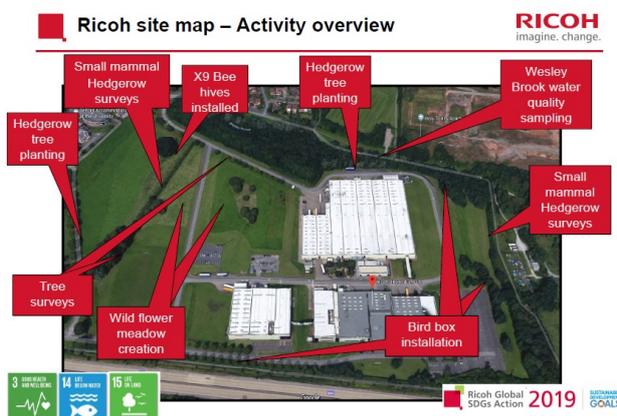
SDG Awareness

Andy Whyte explained sustainability and the SDG’s, showing how the global corporation had committed to the goals through a dedication by their CEO (Yoshinori Yamashita) who has said “Companies in the future will be evaluated not just by their financial performance, but also their contribution to addressing these social challenges.”. Andy explained that all employees are working towards SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production.



Conservation

Carl Griffin presented the conservation and natural capital activities carried out over the last 10 years. The activities covered Ricoh’s onsite development and community engagement. Carl explained how these activities contribute to SDG’s :-



- 3: Good Health & Wellbeing,
- 14: Life below water
- 15: Life on land
- 17: Partnership for the goals



Circular Economy

Rav Kumar gave a presentation on Ricoh's zero waste and circular economy activities from the last 20 years, explaining waste stream solutions and recycling contractor engagement, the importance of effective segregation ('waste-2-product') by employees, and the hidden value of waste. He showed how this contributes to SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production.

The workshop then opened out into a general question and answer session addressing the issues and opportunities the other delegates had experienced.

Zero Waste (KPI#4 Be environmentally responsible)

- **Zero Waste** to Landfill (2001)
- **Recycling & Reuse** segregation systems
- **Waste as a resource** (Quality Control)
- **Waste mapping** (waste-2-product)
- **Increasing material value** (cost down & revenue)

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Chair Andy Whyte said 'This was an incredibly engaging workshop, discussing the SDG's and then everyone sharing their experiences. This important framework can be used by BESST members to shape and focus their sustainability activities, and there was an incredible amount of enthusiasm in the room to do just that!'

Some of the top 2020 environmental priorities for BESST members in attendance:

- Improve equality for all & help people at all levels
- Achieve Zero Waste
- Work with businesses on environmental education programmes
- Rainwater harvesting
- Water filtration & recycling
- Solar Panels
- Plastic Recycling solutions
- Lower incineration rates
- Identify how to get rubber recycled
- Zero plastic cups used on site
- Improve Employee Engagement
- Recycling of PPE
- Waste Miles / Reduce Transport
- Education of Life on Land

BESST will now look at developing it's future events programme to encompass some of the above targets