



Business Environmental Support Scheme for Telford

2017 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 2017

Dear BESST Members

I would like to begin by thanking you for your continued support. Our reliance on the membership cannot be understated, and it is your commitment, enthusiasm and passion that gives BESST the outstanding reputation it holds. 2017 has been an incredibly busy year for BESST, both for the Steering Group and our members, as can be seen in this report.



The 2017 events program has been successful as always. My personal favourite was the Wrekin event, which saw members working together on a targeted biodiversity project to support a red listed species, where we have truly made a difference.

As part of my Circular Economy and Industrial Symbiosis work I have had the privilege of presenting BESST's many activities and achievements. Audiences from London, Northern Ireland, Austria and Turkey have seen how BESST members collaborate to develop and deploy sustainability best practice, and the many questions I get on how this has been achieved never ceases to amaze me.

BESST has also been featured in several publications. Aston Business School have published a Teaching Case Study discussing business growth strategy and sustainability featuring our collaborative sharing. University College London returned to visit BESST members again in 2017 to see sustainability best practice in action, and we have been instrumental in supporting University Centre Shrewsbury's *Centre for Research in Environmental Science & Technology*. BESST's model also appeared in the *International Journal of Automation Technology V.11*, where 12 international academic institutes and manufacturing companies submitted peer reviewed papers to encourage collaboration on green and lean production.

Even more relevant is the inclusion of BESST in a report of the *Government Chief Scientific Adviser 2016, From Waste to Resource Productivity, The Government Office for Science, London* published in December 2017. Our model of sustainability will now be seen by policy makers, regulators, local authorities and a wide range of business professionals, researchers and others with an interest in exploiting the potential to increase productivity by moving from *creating waste to valuing resources*. As a result of working with the Chief Scientific Advisor a small group of leading experts, key industry players and innovators were invited to attend a high-level roundtable discussion on how the UK can become a world leader in resource efficiency. I was asked to provide sector intelligence for the Under Secretary of State for the Environment on the *DEFRA 25 Year plan*, and yet again it was business collaboration using BESST's experience that was seen as a way forward.

We have also been improving our own sustainability by maintaining our partnership with Sustainability West Midlands and by forging strategic links with the Meres & Mosses Business Environmental Network (Shropshire) and Business Futures Forum (Hereford). As a result the Marches Business Environmental Networks has been created to strategically oversee the individual networks and formally engage and support the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership.

Finally, I would like to thank the Steering Group and their respective organisations for graciously sharing their time and expertise. In particular Mark Anderson and Sally Pridding, who both stepped down this year after several years of sharing their impressive knowledge with the membership, and Barbara Taylor from Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, who has kindly accepted our offer to represent the Visitor Economy sector.

I look forward to collaborating with you and new members over the year, and wish you the BESST in your endeavours to increase our collective sustainability.

Regards

Andy Whyte, Chair of BESST



Vice-Chair's Reports



Dear BESST Members

Happy New Year and thank you to all the SME members for continuing to support BESST and may I take this opportunity to remind you that BESST is here to support you and it is critical that you participate in setting our agenda for the coming year to enable the Steering Committee to focus on the areas that are the biggest concern for you, don't be shy - email [Jacs](#) today.

One of the highlights of the BESST calendar for me last year was the awards event. Although the event wasn't well attended it offered a great opportunity to recognise the excellent work achieved and congratulate the all too often unsung heroes that work in all of our organisations. I would really love it if we could make it a New Year resolution to celebrate our employees' achievements more.

I expect Brexit and world politics will continue to dominate the headlines this year, and while I recognise the importance, we should not become too distracted and miss the issues that will fly under the radar.

Thankfully Andy and the team are ever watchful and quite often I think it's a credit to them not to shout "I told you so!" at the Politicians they meet.

All the best for the coming year

Mark

Mark Simmons
Salop Holdings

BESST Vice-Chair (joint)



Vice-Chair's Reports



Dear BESST Members

Happy New Year to all of you! Many thanks for the support you have provided to BESST during 2017. Also, many thanks to all steering group members including Jacs, who without her work we would not be able to function as a group. Finally many thanks to Andy, our chair, whose commitment and resources put into the Group are second to none.

Remember that BESST mission is “Enhancing the environmental performance of local businesses, boosting efficiency and reducing the global impact”. So, in that sense YOU are the main reason for our environmental network and we want to add value to your business.

We welcome your input on environmental topics that affect your business and the priorities which BESST should focus on.

The latest news in China banning the import of plastic waste will definitely have a significant impact on UK businesses in 2018 and beyond. The shift from the “recycling” mind set to circular economy, considering the waste hierarchy and prioritising “avoid” and “re-use” above all, will take some time. However, there is no other way to ensure we move forward to a more sustainable society.

I am looking forward to all the challenges that 2018 might bring.

Best wishes

Manel

Manel Roura
Lyreco UK Ltd.

BESST Vice-Chair (joint)



BESST Steering Group

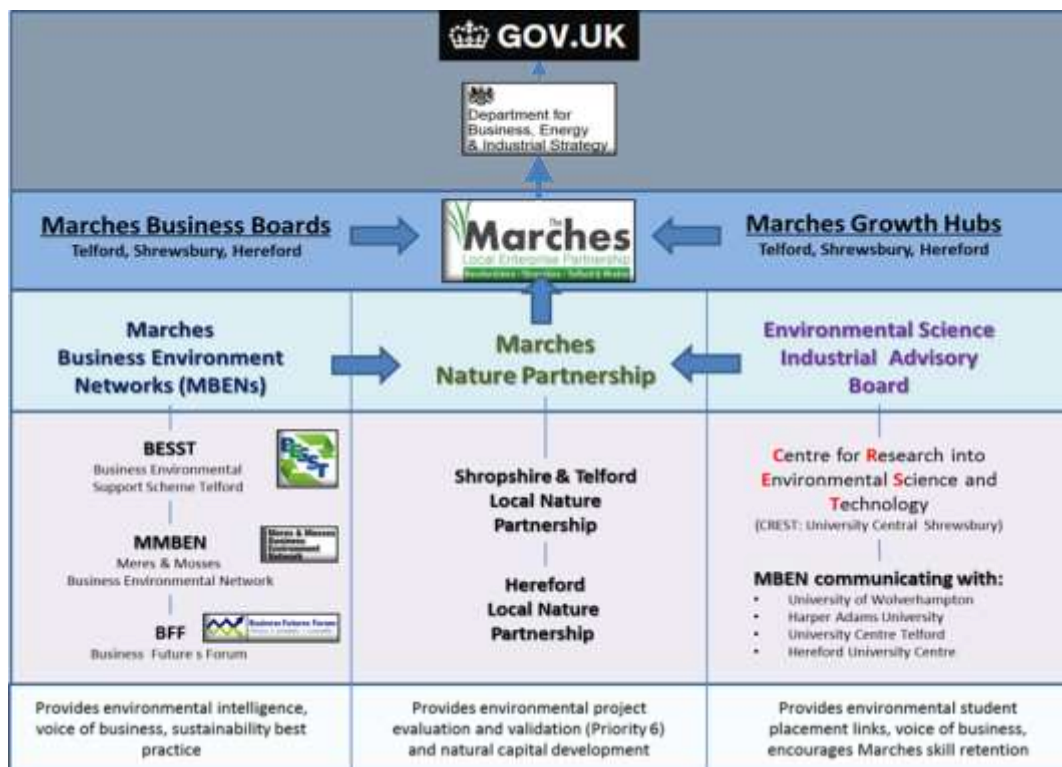
Meeting every 6-8 weeks, BESST has 12 Steering Group Representatives, each with their own area of expertise, who work hard to ensure that BESST delivers a strong service for its members.

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>)	Simmonsins	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





The Marches Business Environment Networks

In 2017 the Chairs of each of the three Business Environment Networks from across the Marches region (*Business Futures Forum -BFF, the Meres & Mosses Business Environment Network – MMBEN, and the Business Environmental Support Scheme for Telford - BESST*) collaborated to increase their strategic development and sustainability. As a result, the ‘**Marches Business Environment Networks**’ Steering Group (MBENs) was created.

This partnership was part of a wider development, forming links with the *Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, Marches Nature Partnership, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and University Centre Shrewsbury*. This enabled direct input into the Marches LEP to provide sector intelligence, guidance on appropriate funding, growth and productivity, and also environmental skills and retention.

Strategically, we now provide a channel for local and government policy makers to hear the environmental risks, barriers to growth and (importantly) the business opportunities we have across the Marches. Our sector intelligence has already featured in Parliamentary publications:

Report of the Government Chief Scientific Adviser 2016, ‘From Waste to Resource Productivity’, The Government Office for Science, London’ ([Go Science report](#))

DEFRA’s 25 Year Environment Plan ([25-year-environment-plan](#))

With this strategically aligned sustainable framework now established, MBEN will continue to develop, providing aligned network approaches, increasing sustainability and generating an even greater representative voice for our network members



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.

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.

Potential new members can now apply for membership through the website www.telfordbesst.co.uk/

BESST Annual Awards

November 2017 saw the 3rd Annual BESST Sustainable 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 to the following:



Carbon & Energy Management Award This was given in recognition of the company's considerable on-going commitment to energy reduction throughout their state of the art Telford extrusion plant where all main profile systems are produced and Epwin have invested heavily in new extrusion lines, new tooling , water cooling process improvement & LED lighting.



Unsung Sustainability Heroes Award Ricoh Eco-Ninja's work on a wide range of biodiversity projects has lead to the formation of groups such as TWWIG (Telford West Wildlife Group) and Friends of Dothill Local Nature Reserve which are led by Ricoh employees Carl Griffin (TWWIG) & Stuart Mapp (Dothill). Tom Firmstone of Ricoh began making bird boxes to install onsite and is now involved in many projects including the Shelter Wildlife Together project.



Natural Capital Enhancement Julie Burroughs (Friends of Apley Woods) takes waste from BESST members and upcycles this into biodiversity habitats such as hedgehog tunnels and houses, insect hotels and bird boxes. Julie also worked with residents at Severn Hospice to decorate bird boxes made by Tom Firmstone of Ricoh which were then sold at the Hospice Open Garden day in 2017 to raise funds. Julie is a recipient of a Pride of Shropshire Award for her work.



November 2017—BESST Awards

Our 3rd annual awards was held at the Park House Hotel in Shifnal, and saw awards given out for Carbon and Energy Management (Epwin Group (Telford) Unsung Sustainability Heroes (Ricoh Eco Ninja's) & Natural Capital Enhancement (Julie Burroughs / Shelter Wildlife Together) ([event overview](#))



September 2017—Legislation Event, Valley Hotel

Focusing on business issues, this event saw the Environment Agency hold a short workshop on business issue scenarios with delegates problem solving and giving feedback at the meeting. On behalf of Telford Business Board, Andy Whyte hosted a round table discussion with guests about issues they may face. This information will be fed back to the Marches LEP for their consideration with their Strategic Economic Priorities. ([event overview](#))



July 2017—3R's Workshop, Greenwood Centre

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Called the 3R's, these all help to cut down on the waste we throw away and can contribute to conservation of natural resources, reduction of landfill space and energy. ([event overview](#))



June 2017—Biodiversity, The Wrekin

BESST joined with Glen Bishton and Shropshire Wildlife Trust in the Wrekin Forest to install more nest-boxes specifically targeted for the endangered Pied Flycatcher species. ([event overview](#))



April 2017—Back 2 Basics, Ricoh

Our annual Back to Basics event was hosted by Ricoh Products UK Ltd. Mark Simmons Vice-Chair of BESST, introduced the presenters from 2016 BESST Award Winners Lyreco & Emerald Trading and Worcestershire Council presented on their funded Business Energy Efficiency Programme. Andy Whyte also updated delegates on the Right Waste, Right Place campaign of which BESST are ambassadors ([event overview](#))



March 2017—Duty of Care Workshop, Greenwood Centre

The law requires anyone dealing with waste to keep it safe, make sure it's dealt with responsibly and only given to businesses authorised to take it. During the BESST workshop we heard from the Environment Agency about what Duty of Care applies to & who it does and doesn't apply, how long your Duty of Care lasts and how to prevent an environmental breach or breach of a permit condition. Denso also shared how they work with their onsite waste solution providers ([event overview](#))



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



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or

visit www.telfordbesst.co.uk

