



Riverwind Foundation

BEST Program Summary

Introduction

The Business Emerald Sustainability Tier (BEST) Program was created to provide an opportunity and platform for those Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Business Leaders that want to elevate their sustainability practices to higher levels of environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic vitality. The standards in the BEST program are comparable to the world's most rigorous and comprehensive environmental, community, and economic sustainability criteria.

The BEST Process

Interested businesses and organizations apply to participate in the BEST Program through taking the **BEST survey** with the assistance of a Riverwind Foundation BEST team member. The results of the survey are evaluated by Riverwind Foundation program management and reviewed with the applicant to determine what sustainability improvement actions are necessary to further meet the BEST standard and agree upon the commitment necessary to complete the program. Upon acceptance into the Program, participants will receive up to 10 hours of assistance from a Riverwind Foundation BEST team member. This support includes:

- Guidance for meeting the BEST standard
- Preparation for the certification assessment process
- Access to the BEST Library including best practices, case studies, and local resources.

Businesses ready for certification will be assessed through a desk top documentation review and an on-site visit.

BEST Program participants are given 6 months to complete the program and may apply for a one-time, one-month extension. Standard milestones participants must accomplish within six-month schedule include but are not limited to:

- Establishment of their sustainability policies, strategies and goals, actions and performance measures in a sustainability management plan or other formal documentation
- Baseline and tracking of resource use such as energy, fuel/vehicle miles traveled, waste, and water
- Staff sustainability training
- Retaking the BEST survey to confirm readiness to begin the BEST Certification Assessment process
- Uploading of documentation in Google Docs, including the BEST Certification Assessment spreadsheet

BEST Program Schedule

Specific dates for the following schedule will be identified during the Kick Off meeting (see Stage 2). New BEST Program participant cohorts will start twice annually: April or October.

	Month(s)
Stage 1: Apply for BEST Program - Complete initial BEST survey & review results with RWF Consultant - Complete BEST Program administrative tasks/forms and pay fee	April or October
Stage 2: Identify & Implement Improvement Actions - Hold kick off meeting with Consultant to develop a plan and identify available resources for implementing improvement actions including a sustainability management plan - Follow up meetings to review progress of improvement actions and readiness to proceed to Stage 3, BEST Certification	May – September or November - March
Stage 3: BEST Certification - Prepare for BEST Certification assessment, including uploading evidence of compliance documentation to Google Docs and completion of BEST Certification Assessment spreadsheet - Conduct of table top documentation review and onsite visit	October or April

If the program is not completed within the 6 + 1 month timeframe, a new program fee will be paid if the participant decides to continue in the program

BEST Certification Benefits

Upon successful completion of the assessment, businesses will be BEST Certified. These leaders will receive recognition and promotional benefits from the Riverwind Foundation and its partners. These benefits include but are not limited to:

- √ Featured article in Green Matters in Jackson Hole
- √ Press Releases to local media and list serves
- √ Recognition in the Jackson Hole News & Guide, Buckrail, and other local media
- √ Recognition at the Sustainability Series (tentative due to pandemic)
- √ Recognition at Eco Fair (tentative due to pandemic)
- √ Listing in the upcoming Explorer Magazine and/or Chamber web site

- √ Logo and listing on on www.sustainabledestination.org
- √ BEST Logo for use on your own web site and social media
- √ BEST sticker for your place of business
- √ Framed BEST Certificate

BEST Program Registration Cost & Annual Renewal

The initial registration fee to participate in the BEST Program is as follows:

- \$400 for businesses that have less than 50 FTE employees
- \$600 for 50 – 100 FTEs
- \$800 for greater than 100 FTEs

Registration also includes signing a participation agreement and information form.

Participants that achieve BEST Certification have an annual renewal fee of \$150 on the anniversary of their certification and meet with the Riverwind Foundation to conduct an annual review and update of the status of their sustainability activities. The annual review typically lasts 60-90 minutes and consists of discussing changes and improvements in the participant's sustainability plans and activities, interests and challenges that the participant needs help with, and updates to the BEST Program and its resources.

The Riverwind Foundation Team:

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For More Information and Inquiries:

Contact Tim O'Donoghue at riverwind@wyoming.com or +1 (307) 690-3316. To see which businesses and organizations have achieved BEST Certification, please visit <http://sustainabledestination.org/best-certification/>