

Sustainable Spirits Summary – 6th Annual Summit for Distilleries and Breweries

The Brown-Forman Corporation hosted the sixth annual Sustainable Spirits Summit at its headquarters in Louisville, on Sept. 20, 2016. Twenty-one representatives from the Division of Compliance Assistance, Kentucky Distillers' Association and distillers from the Commonwealth gathered for the event.

The half-day summit began with a brief history of the Sustainable Spirits initiative by John Eisiminger, KY EXCEL coordinator, and "[The Past, Present and Future of Sustainable Spirits](#)." All attendees were encouraged to become involved in KY EXCEL and the future direction of sharing sustainable practices occurring at distilleries and breweries. The impressive results of the KY EXCEL members' efforts since the program began in 2006 demonstrated the benefits of similar initiatives and the partnerships among members of KY EXCEL

"[Air Quality, Air Emissions and Whiskey Fungus](#)," by Derek Bozzell, an environmental scientist from DCA, provided information about air emissions associated with the industry's processes and some common air permitting issues facing distillers and brewers. Information was given about how air pollution affects the health of humans, why air permits are needed and how to apply for one.

Pollinators are vital to many areas of our lives, and "[Pollinators and Your Product](#)," by Joe Heron of Copper and Kings, demonstrated how pollinators impact distillers' product. Photos of the Copper and Kings property indicated where wildflowers were planted to attract pollinators.

The last presentation, by Andy Battjes, Director of Environmental, Health and Safety at Brown-Forman, covered "[The True Cost of Water Spreadsheet](#)," created by BIER. The Beverage Industry Environmental Roundtable (BIER), is a technical coalition of leading global beverage companies working together to advance environmental sustainability. The True Cost of Water Toolkit helps facilities determine the actual water cost and not just the cost at the tap.

After lunch, which was graciously provided by Brown-Forman, participants were taken on a tour of the building's renovated offices with their energy-efficient lighting, large windows to allow natural light into the open-concept offices and motion sensors to be sure lights are turned off in vacant rooms. Outside the building, pervious pavement was installed in select areas of the parking lot, and a rain garden was created on the property.

The Sustainable Spirits Summit is a yearly event that brings leaders from distilleries, breweries, state government agencies and trade associations together to discuss mutual industry concerns and suggestions. If you are part of the distilling and brewing

industry and would like to be a part of these summits, please contact us at 502-564-0323.

For more information about KY EXCEL, Kentucky's voluntary environmental leadership program, call us at 502-564-0323 or visit <http://dca.ky.gov/kyexcel/Pages/default.aspx>.