

Better Buildings Alliance Plug and Process Loads Technology Research Team

May 2021

Team Updates

- Kim Trenbath presented at the 2021 California Plug Load Research Center Earth Day Workshop.
- We hosted a PPL TRT webinar on March 17 titled [Beyond Energy Efficiency: How Your Device Usage Patterns Affect Energy Consumption](#). In this webinar, Dr. Joy Pixley (California Plug Load Research Center) presented on how people use plug load devices can strongly affect their energy consumption. Webinar attendees learned what factors are most important for certain types of devices, and how to reduce inefficiencies. Access the recorded webinar [here](#).

Resource Spotlight

- In March, the PPL Team published a new resource, [Smart Outlets: Wireless Meter and Control Systems for Plug and Process Loads](#). Smart outlets control the flow of power to devices plugged into them and measure their energy use. Use this short fact sheet to learn more about what smart outlets are and how to use them, how to procure smart outlets, and how to maintain a smart outlet system for optimal savings.

Upcoming Webinars and Events

- We will be hosting a webinar on May 25 at 11:00am MT/1:00pm ET titled [Getting to Net Zero Energy Through Strategic Building Operations and Plug Load Management](#). Properly managing plug loads were a key reason the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) was able to transition its headquarters from a LEED Platinum office building first occupied in 2017 to become the first Net Zero Energy certified office building in Texas in early 2020. In this webinar, Dr. Mustapha Beydoun, Dr. Gavin Dillingham, and Dr. Carlos Gamarra will discuss the technologies used, the different stages of plug load consumption, and the strategies adopted to manage and reduce plug loads and overall building energy consumption. Register [here](#) for the webinar.
- PPL TRT webinars will now include the option for participants to **share PPL updates** with other webinar attendees. Please email PPL@nrel.gov if you would like to share an update of your organization's PPL activities on our next webinar (initiatives, best practices, challenges, etc.).

Research Spotlight

- Researchers at NREL have developed a plug load management (PLM) system with automatic and dynamic load detection (ADLD) for improved plug load management. The system takes advantage of intelligent, Internet of Things (IoT) connected devices and can automatically identify and locate devices as they are plugged in via wall outlets into a building's electrical network. This [Automatic Load Type and Identification for Plug Load Management Systems technology](#) is on the U.S. Department of Energy's Lab Partnering Service. To learn how to partner with NREL on this technology, please contact Erin Beaumont at erin.beaumont@nrel.gov.

Contact Us

- Are you working on any plug and process load research or have data to share? Would you like to be more involved with the Plug and Process Loads Technology Research Team? If so, we would like to hear from you! Contact us at PPL@nrel.gov.