

### What is the Waste Reduction Network?

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Better Buildings & Better Plants Initiative Waste Reduction Network helps organizations across the U.S. economy reduce waste and achieve cost savings. The Waste Reduction Network is a voluntary program for partners in the Better Buildings & Better Plants Initiative that provides technical assistance, learning opportunities, national recognition, and access to information on innovative technologies and methodologies for accelerating waste reduction. Network participants establish optional waste reduction goals and continuously build upon their progress.

### Why Join?

The Waste Reduction Network is available to all partners that seek technical assistance and proven pathways to achieve their waste reduction goals. Better use of materials, increased reuse, and recycling can reduce the energy required to transport and treat waste, leading to savings in operating costs and energy.

The Waste Reduction Network gives partners the opportunity to:

- ▶ Receive technical assistance from DOE to measure, track, and improve waste reduction best practices. [Learn more.](#)
- ▶ Access to peer-to-peer learning opportunities as well as innovative technologies and methodologies from DOE National Laboratories and partners for reducing waste streams.
- ▶ Receive national recognition for progress in reducing waste and associated energy.

Topics of interest for partners may include:

- ▶ Data availability, accuracy, and analytics
- ▶ Outreach and engagement
- ▶ Emerging technologies
- ▶ Closed-loop design
- ▶ Embodied energy/energy recovery
- ▶ Sector-specific waste streams and solutions to reduce waste

### What Do Organizations Commit to?

Existing partners commit to:

- ▶ Pursue self-selected targets and report waste reduction progress annually across their U.S. portfolios. Metrics may be expressed in terms of:



- ▶ Publish at least one waste reduction solution on the Better Buildings & Better Plants Solution Center showcasing a successful waste reduction project.
- ▶ Participate in at least one webinar, presentation, peer exchange, or group discussion and share best practices.

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### How Will Progress Be Tracked?

DOE will work with participating partners that set an optional goal to establish appropriate metrics on their waste streams to track progress towards their goals. Organizations may set their own internal goals using metrics for success which can vary for different facility types within an organization.

Partners may utilize different means of tracking progress on their waste reduction efforts, including ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager, the Waste Reduction Network's data collection template, invoice accounting systems, waste audit reports and tracking spreadsheets, and/or detailed mass or material balance assessments for manufacturing facilities.

### How Can My Organization Join?

To join, existing Better Buildings & Better Plants partners can email their program contact(s) indicating their intention to participate in the Waste Reduction Network. Other organizations can email [betterbuildings@doe.gov](mailto:betterbuildings@doe.gov) or [betterplants@doe.gov](mailto:betterplants@doe.gov) to learn about the Better Buildings & Better Plants Initiative and the Waste Reduction Network.