

What is the Waste Reduction Network?

Manufacturers, companies, schools, and governments across the country are looking to strengthen their competitiveness and sustainability by setting and realizing ambitious waste reduction goals. By reducing waste, these organizations also save energy. More efficient use of materials and higher recycling reduces the amount of energy needed to transport and treat waste as well as indirect GHG emissions.

To facilitate waste reduction the Department of Energy's (DOE) Better Buildings, Better Plants Waste Reduction Network brings industry-leading organizations together to demonstrate successful approaches to waste management.

This network adds to the progress already made by Better Buildings and Better Plants partners that have set waste reduction goals and diverted 82% (in 2019) and 76% (in 2020) of their waste from landfills.

Why Join?

In addition to improving their sustainability profile, organizations that reduce waste can save on operating costs associated with waste disposal, energy use, and raw material purchases. The Better Buildings, Better Plants Waste Reduction Network gives partners the opportunity to:

- ▶ Formalize their commitment to waste reduction by setting a public goal with support from DOE.
- ▶ Network with peers to share waste reduction solutions through webinars, conferences, etc.
- ▶ Receive technical assistance from DOE on issues such as data tracking and waste reduction best practices.
- ▶ Earn recognition for the progress made in reducing waste and associated energy use.

Topics of interest for partners may include:

- ▶ Data availability, accuracy, and analytics
- ▶ Outreach and engagement
- ▶ Emerging technology
- ▶ Circular economy
- ▶ Embodied energy/energy recovery
- ▶ Sectoral waste streams and solutions to reuse/recycle/remanufacture

What Do Organizations Commit to?

Organizations with a portfolio of buildings/plants they own or manage can join by committing to a waste goal and/or at least one activity annually set in coordination with DOE, listed below:

- ▶ **Recommended:** Track and report waste reduction progress for all or a portion of their U.S. building portfolio. Metrics may be expressed in terms of:

Diversion	Absolute	Zero waste
Intensity	Waste-to-energy	Circularity

- ▶ Publish a waste reduction case study on the Better Buildings Solution Center.
- ▶ Share best practices and lessons learned in a webinar or another peer exchange format.
- ▶ Document the ways waste reduction impacts other priority areas such as energy reduction, resilience, productivity, equity, and workforce development.

DOE will recognize partner goal achievement, successes, and innovative approaches on the Better Buildings Solution Center, in the annual Better Buildings Progress Report, and during the annual Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit.

How Will Waste Reduction Be Tracked?

DOE will work with participating partners to establish appropriate metrics to track progress towards their goal. Metrics can vary by organization or even for different facility types within an organization.

Partners may utilize different means of tracking progress on waste metrics, including ENERGY STAR[®] Portfolio Manager, invoice accounting systems, waste audit reports and tracking spreadsheets, 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 which activity(-ies) they are interested in pursuing. Other organizations can reach out to learn how to partner with DOE in order to participate in the Waste Reduction Network (betterbuildings@ee.doe.gov).