

Through the Better Plants program, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) works with industrial partners to achieve voluntary energy performance improvement goals. DOE offers a broad range of no-cost tools and resources to help partners overcome barriers and identify opportunities to save energy and improve competitiveness:

Dedicated Technical Account Managers

Technical Account Managers (TAMs) are partners' liaisons to the program. They provide free technical support in identifying energy productivity opportunities, help establish energy baselines, promote energy management best practices, help partners use software tools, and connect partners to additional resources.



In-Plant Trainings

In-Plant Trainings (INPLTs) are two to four-day events led by subject-matter experts that are focused on system optimization or energy management. Partners host INPLTs on-site at one of their facilities and plant staff and other invited guests are trained on how to identify, implement, and replicate energy-saving projects. INPLTs are available on ten different topics, including pumping, steam, 50001 Ready, and Energy Treasure Hunt Exchanges.

Diagnostic Equipment Program

A selection of diagnostic instruments is available free of charge to partners to improve their energy data analysis and validation. By borrowing this equipment, partners can also test individual instruments before committing to purchase their own.

Online Learning Series

The Better Plants program has expanded its online resources to include an Online Learning Series, so that partners may further their understanding of energy management best practices and identify critical energy and cost savings improvements in their facilities. Webinars cover a range of topics, including optimizing energy management systems, accessing federal resources, and learning from firsthand experiences of Better Plants partners.

Software Tools

A portfolio of system-level software platforms are available within the MEASUR tools suite to enable manufacturers to assess their industrial systems and manage plant-energy use. This platform includes software tools on compressed air, steam and pumping systems among others, along with dozens of smaller, targeted calculators. Better Plants TAMs also offer assistance with other tools such as the Energy Performance Indicator Tool (EnPI), which is a regression-based calculator for modeling energy performance.

Energy Treasure Hunts

Better Plants provides guidance and resources to help partners carry out energy treasure hunts, which are onsite, multi-day events that engage teams of employees in the process of identifying operational and energy efficiency improvements. This process empowers plant personnel to discover energy-saving opportunities while simultaneously building a culture of continuous improvement.

Industrial Technology Validation

To help industrial companies overcome the challenge of new technology adoption, the Better Plants program has teamed up with Lawrence Berkeley National Lab to launch a new Industrial Technology Validation Pilot to reduce the risks of testing and validating innovative technologies in a live manufacturing environment.

Cybersecurity

Better Plants Cybersecurity resources help plant operations staff develop a better understanding of cybersecurity risks, and help them coordinate risk management activities within their organization. By addressing risk areas, partners can better protect their businesses from damage to information or systems, intellectual property theft, regulatory fines, decreased productivity, or a loss of trust with customers.

Supply Chain Initiative

Partners looking to extend their energy efficiency efforts beyond their own operations and into their supply chains can sponsor a cohort of their suppliers to participate in Better Plants. In addition to setting energy saving goals and developing energy management plans, suppliers receive customized technical support from their sponsor-partner's TAM.

Water Savings Initiative

Better Plants partners are able to receive engineering support and recognition for setting water savings goals. Participants share water management solutions and receive water data tracking-assistance through special resources like the Plant Water Profiler tool.

Waste Reduction Pilot

The Better Plants program launched a Waste Reduction Pilot to help partners reduce waste and improve energy performance. Through this pilot, DOE works with interested partners to collectively set, track, and meet waste reduction goals.

Better Plants facilitates many events throughout the year with unique opportunities for workforce development, networking, and even collaborative R&D partnerships with DOE National Labs:

Conferences

Better Plants organizes and sponsors a variety of industrial-focused conferences throughout the year, giving partners the chance to gather and share best practices, learn about the latest developments in energy efficiency, and recognize each other's accomplishments.

Technology Days

Better Plants facilitates visits to national laboratories to expose partners to new technologies and materials that can help industry boost productivity. The events highlight Lab facilities and technology presentations that can help partners determine how to leverage emerging technologies. Participants also network and learn from Lab experts and other partners.

In addition to Better Plants, partners can access other valuable, complementary DOE programs that can expand and enhance their energy efficiency efforts:

50001 Ready

The 50001 Ready program recognizes facilities and organizations that establish ISO 50001-based energy management systems. The program offers a self-paced, no-cost way for organizations to build a culture of structured energy improvement that leads to deeper and sustained savings.

Combined Heat and Power Technical Support

Combined heat and power (CHP) is an efficient approach to generating on-site electric power and useful thermal energy from a single fuel source. DOE's CHP Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAPs) are available to help identify CHP market opportunities through vendor, fuel, and technology-neutral assessments of CHP viability.

Industrial Assessment Centers

Better Plants partners have facilitated access from their TAMs to no-cost energy assessments from DOE's Industrial Assessment Centers. Teams at 28 universities around the country conduct the energy audits to identify opportunities to improve productivity, reduce waste, and save energy.

Superior Energy Performance

A growing number of Better Plants partners are participating in DOE's Superior Energy Performance[®] (SEP[™]) program to certify conformance with ISO 50001 and verify their energy savings. SEP[™] provides guidance, tools, and protocols to drive sustained savings.

Better Plants partners interested in any of the tools and resources described above should reach out to their Technical Account Manager for more information.