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Better Plants Newsletter - December 2019

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NEWSLETTI

December 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

- Save the Date for the 2020 Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit
- Fall 2019 In-Plant Training Awards
- Don't Miss the Best of the Betters Webinar
- Welcome to New Program Partners
- TE Connectivity's Treasure Hunts-Practices Profiled by *IndustryWeek*

Save the Date for the 2020 Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit

The next [Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit](#) will be June 8-10, 2020, in **Arlington, Virginia** (just outside Washington, D.C.)! In addition to engaging and interactive sessions, attendees can look forward to the return of Ask-an-Expert, facility tours, and myriad opportunities to network with peers. You can [book your accommodations](#) now; registration will open on January 21, 2020.

Once again, there will be a dedicated industrial track and we'll be bringing back popular formats from this year, such as round-robin discussions of energy efficiency issues and a "Challenge the Champions" session (with a possible twist) allowing audience members to troubleshoot their toughest obstacles with experienced energy managers. But we'll also be trying a couple new offerings: a "Choose Your Own Solution" scenario run-through and a PechaKucha (storytelling based solely on images) session on employee engagement. Be on the lookout for additional details!



- Better Plants Partners Share Several New Solutions
- Conduct Your Own Energy Treasure Hunts!
- Learn About the Laboratory Benchmarking Tool

[VISIT THE BETTER PLANTS WEBSITE](#)

Fall 2019 In-Plant Training Awards

Congratulations again to the fall 2019 [In-Plant Training](#) (INPLTs) awardees. Five of six of these awards mark the very first INPLTs for partners! This was the last fall round but if you are interested in hosting an INPLT in the future, the next application periods will open in January 2020 and July 2020, respectively.

Most of the below trainings will be open to outside participation from other Better Plants partners and prospects. **If you are interested in attending an INPLT, please contact your Technical Account Manager.** We appreciate everyone for applying and encourage partners to continue to look for more ways to save energy.

Please click [here](#) for a full calendar of upcoming INPLTs, including previously awarded trainings.

Host Plant Name	City, State	Date	Open to Outsiders?	Energy System Type (for INPLT at host plant)
AmcOR Rigid Packaging	Bellevue, OH	January 21-23, 2020	Yes	Treasure Hunt Exchange
Autoliv	Ogden, UT	TBD	Yes	Compressed Air
Occidental Chemical Corporation	Ingleside/Gregory, TX	TBD	Yes	Steam
PepsiCo (Frito-Lay)	Lynchburg, VA	TBD	No	Steam
Tyson Foods	Rogers, AR	February 2-4, 2020 (Plant 1; internal exchange)	Yes	Treasure Hunt Exchange
Whirlpool Corporation	Clyde, OH	March 23-27, 2020	Yes	Compressed Air

Don't Miss the Best of the Betters Webinar

The [Better Practice and Better Project Awards](#) were created to recognize outstanding accomplishments in industrial energy efficiency at both the organizational and facility level. Award recipients range from diverse manufacturing sectors to water and wastewater utilities.

Better Plants is hosting a webinar on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, from 3:00-4:00 pm EST to hear from some of our exceptional 2019 awardees about their innovative, industry-leading energy management work.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 7: [Best of the Betters Webinar](#)
- February 25: [Better Benchmarking for Lab Buildings Webinar](#)
- June 8-10: [Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit](#) (Arlington, VA)

LEGRAND'S ENERGY MARATHON NETS SAVINGS, INSTILLS LONG-TERM BEST PRACTICES

This fall, Better Plants Challenge partner **Legrand** kicked off its Energy Marathon 3 company-wide initiative to reduce energy use and increase efficiency. Keeping to the 26 mile marathon theme, the event spanned 26 days – October 3-29, 2019. Participating Legrand sites were challenged with finding innovative and creative solutions to save energy and demonstrate the impact of employee

Presenters:

- Bruce Bartel, **NEW Water** (they won an award for their Resource Recovery and Electrical Energy solids recovery facility project that produces its own electricity on-site, reducing annual energy costs by an estimated 50%, or \$2 million)
- Mark Minter, **Agropur** (they won an award for upgrading two plate and frame water/ammonia heat exchangers and saving more than \$157,000 in annual energy costs)
- Blair Sturm, **Saint-Gobain** (they won an award for launching "Compress It," a voluntary competition between facilities to identify and repair compressed air leaks that led to \$2.5 million in annual energy savings)

[Register](#) for the webinar today!

engagement. Read more about the success event on the [Beat Blog](#).

You can also view Legrand's Solution-at-a Glance and download their Energy Marathon Toolkit [here](#); it provides a step-by-step process to help others interested in developing, organizing, and communicating their own Energy Marathons.

LINEAGE LOGISTICS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROJECT HIGHLIGHTED BY GREENBIZ

A Lineage Logistics artificial intelligence software project that identifies periods where energy consumption can be reduced by pre-cooling was the subject of a recent [GreenBiz article](#). The "application was piloted in Miraflores Loma, California, where the company was able to achieve a normalized cost of 38 percent for refrigeration costs per pallet," the article noted. "Now, it's being rolled out to about a half-dozen other facilities." The partner's efforts also won a [2019 Better Practice Award](#).



MEET THE PARTNERS

Welcome to New Program Partners

Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department, ND Paper Inc., Occidental Chemical Corporation, Sears Manufacturing Company, Silgan Containers, and Silgan Plastic Food Containers recently joined the Better Plants program. These six energy efficiency leaders have set ambitious energy intensity reduction goals for their U.S. industrial operations. Better Plants now counts 229 partners!



TE Connectivity's Treasure Hunts-Practices Profiled by *IndustryWeek*

A December [IndustryWeek article](#) on corporate sustainability practices highlights Better Plants Challenge partner **TE Connectivity's** treasure hunts-practices. "The Department of Energy brought us the 'treasure hunt' concept," Carl Schultz, senior director for the company's global EHS program, is quoted as saying in the article.

After hosting a Better Plants In-Plant Training focused on energy treasure hunts, the company was inspired to replicate the practice in facilities across their organization. Since October 2016, TE Connectivity has conducted 114 treasure hunts, to great effect. "It gets people engaged," Schultz continues in the article. "Whether it's in the treasure hunts, the competition, it helps to build that culture of: 'We're doing something that's good for the company, and it's good for the planet. I can feel good about that, as an employee.'"

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Better Plants Partners Share Several New Solutions

Several Better Plants partners have published case studies on the online Solution Center since the last newsletter, walking through innovative capital projects and organizational changes that improved energy efficiency:

- **Agropur** [showcase project](#) (refrigeration upgrades)
- **Des Moines Water Works** [implementation model](#) (coupling real-time energy data use with enhanced staff training)
- **Eastman Chemical** [showcase project](#) (improved control of process water systems)
- **Saint-Gobain Corporation** [solution-at-a-glance](#) (gypsum board dryer-fan speed reduction)
- **Saint-Gobain Corporation** [showcase project](#) (advanced energy monitoring)

Click on the above links to learn more and apply their best practices!

Conduct Your Own Energy Treasure Hunts!

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR program is in the middle of a treasure hunt campaign. Track your progress and [submit a summary of your findings](#) by January 15, 2020. (Note that to be eligible for recognition, the treasure hunt must take place in 2019.) Then, earn recognition for your participation. View the [campaign webpage](#) for additional details.



You can also take advantage of Better Plants' [Energy Treasure Hunt Exchange Toolkit](#) and [MEASUR](#) software. The toolkit provides treasure hunt facilitators with the tool needed to effectively plan for the event, successfully run it, and track the results, while MEASUR encompasses a suite of energy assessment tools that can be put to good use during actual treasure hunts.

Learn About the Laboratory Benchmarking Tool

DOE's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) is hosting a webinar that should be of interest to partners with laboratories and research facilities. During this webinar, panelists will give a demonstration of the [Laboratory Benchmarking Tool](#), focusing on the new features and how best to use them to further your sustainability goals. The tool provides expanded access to the historical Labs21 dataset via a completely revamped user interface, along with many new and reconfigured data fields designed to meet the needs of today's lab community. It has a peer-comparison dataset of more than 750 laboratory buildings—the largest publicly available dataset of laboratory energy use. Use it to benchmark your lab's energy use today!

When: Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm EST

Speakers: Alison Farmer, kW Engineering; Paul Mathew, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab; Deidre Carter Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

Learn more and register [here!](#)

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