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## Better Plants Newsletter - March 2020

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# NEWSLETTI

*March 2020*

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### 2020 Better Plants Calendar

Attached is the 2020 Better Plants calendar, we wanted to send it here if you missed it in an earlier email. We'll also be mailing out physical copies soon. It will help you keep track of industry events, program and application deadlines, and more, with all the key dates this year in one place. We encourage you to print out and share copies with your energy teams.

**One date to pay attention to on the calendar is April 1: please submit your annual data by then if possible.** Collecting data in April gives us time to publicize partners' achievements in the annual progress update.

## 2020 Better Project and Practice Awards Application Period Extended

The application period for 2020 [Better Project and Better Practice awards](#) has been extended to Friday, May 8. These awards honor and highlight partners' innovative energy work:

- **Better Project:** recognizing the work of partners to demonstrate what's possible in individual facilities.
- **Better Practice:** recognizing partner efforts to drive organizational and cultural changes.

Partners can view previous award-winners and access application forms [here](#). Applicants can choose to nominate themselves by filling out a form or they can be nominated by their Technical Account Manager (TAM). Multiple awards will be given out for each category, with winning organizations representing a variety of different partner sizes and sectors, and partners can apply for more than one award. All Project and Practice award applications are due by May 8, 2020.

Winners will be promoted in program materials and given certificates and asked to present at annual events. Through Better Plants, DOE will look to promote all applicants, either on the online Solution Center or through other means.

## Apply for the ITEAM Prize

Energy efficiency-innovators on the factory floor can win **\$5,000** by applying for the Individuals Taking Energy Action in Manufacturing (ITEAM) Prize by May 15. The prize aims to recognize employees at small-, medium-, and large-size U.S. manufacturing facilities who not only recognize the importance of saving energy, but are making it happen, strengthening their company's competitiveness and driving cost savings in the process.

By sharing successful strategies and examples of leadership, manufacturers can drive energy-productivity improvements and accelerate the adoption of energy-efficient technologies. Through this prize competition, DOE is seeking to recognize leaders who are responsible for creative, specific, and innovative projects to drive measurable energy savings in their manufacturing plants.

Learn more by visiting the prize home page [here](#). DOE will select up to 5 winners in each category of small, medium, and large manufacturers, for a total of up to 15 winners. **ITEAM Prize applications are due by May 15, 2020.**



- Better Plants Partners Share Several New Solutions
- First Waste Reduction Pilot-Quarter Posted Online

[VISIT THE BETTER PLANTS WEBSITE](#)

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **April 1:** Send annual data to DOE
- **April 15:** Better Project and Practice Award applications due
- **May 15:** ITEAM Prize applications due

## PARTNERS STEPPING UP

*We're proud of and inspired by partners here in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus; please share your stories with us at [betterplants@ee.doe.gov](mailto:betterplants@ee.doe.gov) so we can promote them and get the word out.*

## L'Oréal Now Producing Hand Sanitizer

L'Oréal, a Better Plants Challenge partner, is now using its manufacturing facilities to produce hand sanitizer, a commodity in short supply amid the global coronavirus crisis. "All of t

hand sanitizers will be delivered, free-of-charge, to hospitals, pharmacies, and homes," the company [pledged](#).

The beauty products company's chairman chief executive officer, Jean-Paul Agon, [stated](#): "In this exceptional crisis situation, our responsibility to contribute in every possible way to the collective effort. Through these gestures, L'Oréal wishes to express its appreciation, support, and solidarity with all those who mobilize with extraordinary courage and abnegation to fight against this pandemic."

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### ***3M, Ford, and General Electric Collaborate to Make Respirators Ventilators***

**3M, Ford, and General Electric** (GE), all Plants Challenge partners, are working together to produce respirators, and potentially other medical equipment and protective gear to address shortages in the fight against the coronavirus.

"Working with 3M and GE, we have empowered our teams of engineers and designers to be scrappy and creative to quickly help scale production of this vital equipment," Ford CEO Jim Hackett said in his company's [announcement](#) of the news.

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### ***3M Working to Boost Mask Production Over the Next Year***

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, **3M** has doubled its annual global output of N95 protective masks to over 1.1 billion and the partner [announced](#) a goal of expanding production an additional 30 percent over the next year.

3M factories in South Dakota and Nebraska now producing 35 million N95 masks a month," *The Washington Post* [observes](#), "percent of which are designated for health workers after a change in law last week eliminated the threat of lawsuits from such sales."

## MEET THE PARTNERS

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### Welcome to New Partners

**Silgan Closures**, **Valmont Industries**, and **Vitro Flat Glass** recently joined the Better Plants program and **Alexandria Renew Enterprises** (from the program) and **McWane, Inc.**, joined the Challenge. These five energy efficiency leaders have set ambitious energy intensity reduction goals for their U.S. industrial operations. Better Plants now counts 234 partners!



### ArcelorMittal Hosts "Power of 1" Energy Innovation Contest to Find Energy Savings



Earlier this year, Better Plants partner **ArcelorMittal** hosted their "Power of 1" energy innovation contest, encouraging employees to propose no- and low-cost ideas to conserve energy at the plant. The company has thrown the event for several years now. The winning ideas from three employee teams this year will save hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual energy costs:

- A plan to automatically control one of two hydraulic pump motors at the No. 1 steel producing caster will turn it off when not needed for the operation;
- Another team at No. 1 steel producing's Ladle Metallurgy Furnace is implementing a new procedure to save compressed air during and between degassing sequences;
- Focusing on natural gas, a team of reliability engineers from the maintenance, engineering and utilities division used a special infrared camera to detect leaks.

Winning employees received an Amazon Echo Dot and WaterHawk smart shower head. Learn more about the event and the winning ideas on ArcelorMittal's website [here](#).

## RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

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### Better Plants Partners Share Several New Solutions

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:

- **Bristol-Myers Squibb** [solution-at-a-glance](#): learn about the partner aligning their waste reduction program with the American Chemistry Society's Principles of Green Chemistry and reduced waste and saved energy;
- **Saint-Gobain Corporation** [implementation model](#): learn how the partner established a "compressed air challenge" to tackle compressed air leakages, resulting in annual company-wide savings of 26 Gigawatt-hours and \$2.5 million in electricity costs (winner of a 2019 Better Practice Award);
- **Schneider Electric** [solution-at-a-glance](#): learn about the partner's EcoStruxure Building Advisor tool, which uses inputs from building management systems and connected devices and applies analytics to make recommendations to technical support staff and management for opportunities in energy, comfort, and maintenance;
- **Xerox Corporation** [showcase project](#): learn how the partner repurposed an unused air handling unit, resulting in 15% energy cost savings for a facility and annual energy cost savings of \$10,000.

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

### First Waste Reduction Pilot-Quarterly Call Posted Online

The recording, transcript, and slides from the Waste Reduction Pilot's first quarterly call with partners have been [posted online](#). The call included presentations from the [Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation](#), a pilot participant, and DOE's [Plastics Innovation Challenge](#) and covered the pilot's waste data reporting form.

Through the pilot, DOE works with a group of partners to collectively set, track, and meet waste reduction goals. Lessons learned will inform how the pilot might be expanded to all Better Buildings and Better Plants partners in the future. If you're interested in auditing the pilot, please contact your TAM.



## SHARE THE BETTER PLANTS NEWSLETTER

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- [2020 Better Plants Calendar.pdf](#)

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