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## Waste Reduction Pilot: June 2020

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### 1. "Early Best Practices from the Waste Reduction Pilot" Session Recording and Slides Now Online



Thanks to all of you who joined our "Early Best Practices from the Waste Reduction Pilot" session at the Virtual Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit on June 11. Please take a

### Save the Date for the Waste Pilot's Third Quarterly Call: August 12, 2020

Save the date for the waste pilot's third quarterly call: Wednesday, August 12, from 1:00-2:00 pm ET. We'll share agenda details soon. If you missed the first two quarterly calls, you can find recordings, slides, and transcripts on pilot home page on the Solution Center [here](#).

moment to let us know about your experience using this [feedback form](#).

Around 200 people gathered to hear early pilot findings and discuss resources and next steps. Waste pilot partners [Volvo Group North America](#) presented on its efforts to self-certify facilities as "Landfill Free" and [Shorenstein Properties](#) shared details on its sustainability and waste reduction efforts.

If you missed it, or want to learn more, **you can find the session recording, presentation slides, and transcript on the Solution Center [here](#).**

## 2. Waste Findings from the Virtual Summit

During the "Early Best Practices from the Waste Reduction Pilot" session at the Virtual Summit, we took the opportunity to poll the audience on a variety of waste-related questions. The findings were interesting and very informative and should prove useful as we continue with the pilot and seek ways to help partners meet their waste reduction goals.

As displayed in the word cloud at right, respondents pointed to 1) measurement; 2) contamination; and 3) lack of recycling outlets and markets to sell to as the primary challenge they're facing in their waste management programs.



Respondents reported common themes related to challenges in setting waste goals:

- Lack of data or data accuracy (59% pointed to this as a challenge)
- Lack of local diversion facilities (42%)
- Cost (31%)

And the resources that respondents asked for include:

## Organizations are Welcome to Audit the Pilot

Registration for the Waste Reduction Pilot closed in January 2020 but companies and organizations are still welcome to audit it and take advantages of resources and networking opportunities!

Please feel free to tell your friends and industry colleagues. Email [hannah.debelius@ee.doe.gov](mailto:hannah.debelius@ee.doe.gov) or [robert.lung@ee.doe.gov](mailto:robert.lung@ee.doe.gov) for more information.

## Circularity 20 on August 25-27

*GreenBiz* is hosting a waste conference, *Circularity 20*, with program tracks including "Food & Water Systems," "Logistics & Infrastructure," and "Next-Gen Packaging" and "informative plenaries, breakouts, tutorials, tours, networking opportunities and a solutions-oriented showcase."

It is online and free. Explore the conference agenda and register [here](#).

Regional checklists and guidelines  
Training materials, education, and action plan templates  
Benchmarking and measurement tools  
Grants, funding, savings calculators; making the business case  
Hard-to-recycle (HTR) collection outlets, information, and connections to others with HTRs

Please see attached for the full findings.

### **3. Tip of the Month: Dealing with the Impact of Covid-19 on Waste Streams**

A frequent question at our Virtual Summit session was how Covid-19 has impacted waste streams. One of our presenters had an insightful answer about an unexpected silver lining:

"The question that arises is okay, so with a lot of our reusable containers that we have, where do we get to the point to who was the last person who touched this? What do we do?"

The good part of that is it falls into our thinking about where did this part come from? Where did this piece come from? Where did this box come from? Why do I have a box? What happens to this box now? So inadvertently a lot of people on the manufacturing floor...it allows these folks to be able to question and see and realize, "Wow, I never really paid attention to how many bags this part came in. How many parts are in this box, why do we have bags, why do we have all this, and what am I going to do with this and who touched it?"

**So it lends itself to being able to expand that knowledge of "This is why we try to get rid of all the materials that are here."** And does challenge some things also to sit there and say, "Okay, is there a better way to do this because of the Covid? What can we do to reduce these touches, reduce these potentials for having areas of contamination?"

So I think it's actually been a beneficial thing that – to be able to address some of these issues and kind of bring them up to

the forefront and maybe some people can now kick out some ideas of how they would solve these solutions."

*-Mark Pannell, Volvo Group North America*

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As a partner in the [Waste Reduction Pilot](#), we are sharing updates, tips, and new resources with you at the end of every month. We welcome your thoughts and feedback. If you come across something you'd like to share with the pilot cohort, please let us know via [BetterBuildings@EE.Doe.Gov](mailto:BetterBuildings@EE.Doe.Gov) and we'll do our best to feature it.

We are grateful for your support and participation in this pilot. We hope this email finds you healthy and staying safe!

Sincerely,

*The Better Buildings/Plants Team*

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