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Receive Updates



Waste Reduction Pilot: January 2020

DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy sent this bulletin at 01/29/2020 01:17 PM EST



Waste Reduction Pilot: January 2020

Dear Partners,

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 and we'll do our best to feature it.

1. Welcome to New Pilot Partners

Welcome to [New Bedford Housing Authority](#) and [Steelcase, Inc.](#), bringing the total number of partners in the Waste Reduction Pilot to 32. You can see the full list of partners, [here](#).



2. Save the Date for the Quarterly Call: Wednesday, February 12



Save the date for our first quarterly call: **Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 1:30-2:30 pm Eastern**. On the call, we'll:

- Discuss the waste data reporting form, which is being finalized now;
- Hear from a partner, [Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation](#);
- Learn about the [Plastics Innovation Challenge](#), a comprehensive DOE program to accelerate innovations in energy-efficient plastics recycling technologies.

Be on the lookout for a separate email calendar invite with additional details.

Join Us at the Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit

The [Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit](#) is on June 8-10th, 2020, in Arlington, VA. Participants can look forward to three days of engaging, interactive sessions across six tracks with fellow industry stakeholders and experts, as well as special events, local facility tours, workshops, and peer networking opportunities.

It will include a session on early best practices gleaned from the Waste Reduction Pilot. [Register](#) for the Summit today; the first 100 registrants will get a discounted rate.

Industrial Waste Reduction Slides Posted Online

Three pilot partners, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Flowers Foods, and Volvo Group North America, presented on their waste reduction efforts at the AEE World conference late last year. Their slides have been posted under the "Additional

3. Tip of the Month: Addressing Swarf Contaminants

Swarf is a term that refers to metal scrap – small chips, shavings or dust – that result from industrial cutting, grinding or milling operations and is commonly generated by manufacturers of fabricated metal parts and components such as bearings and crankshafts. Swarf is common in the automotive sector, as metal engine parts have to be machined to precise measurements and tolerances.



Information" section on the pilot [home page](#) and contain helpful insights into their unique approaches; take a look!

The recycling of swarf can be complicated because swarf can be contaminated with cutting fluids (water, oils, coolants) that are needed to extend machine tool life, protect product, provide lubrication, or enhance surface finish. These fluids are applied to the product during the various grinding and milling processes that are used to make or finish the metal parts. Swarf can also be contaminated with heavy metals that can be toxic.

During the pilot kickoff call, **Mark Pannell of Volvo Trucks shared some tips for treating contaminated swarf:**

- He noted that they have used a centrifuge to spin out the coolant and turn the swarf into metal briquettes using a press.
- Another way to reduce swarf contaminants is to use grinding wheels that do not give off aluminum oxide, which contaminates the swarf.

We are grateful for your support and participation in this pilot!

Sincerely,

The Better Buildings/Plants Team

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