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Subject: P2 News

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P2 News

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- [Treasure Hunts - The What, Why, and How](#)
- [Upcoming events](#)

Treasure Hunts - The What, Why, and How

Do you know what a treasure hunt is in an industry setting? Has your facility ever done a treasure hunt?

During a treasure hunt, team(s) of employees walk around the facility looking for opportunities to improve energy conservation, water reduction or reuse, and waste management. If you have a green team that already addresses ways to improve sustainability, this would be a great opportunity for them to get involved in other areas of the facility and address lower hanging fruit opportunities. If you don't have a green team, gathering a multidisciplinary team to participate in a walkthrough of the facility gives a variety of perspectives. Doing treasure hunts allows plant personnel to be invested in the process and have ownership over the ideas generated. A successful treasure hunt has three phases, according to the Department of Energy:



1. **Planning** - about 4-6 weeks out from the treasure hunt, gather upper-management to gain support for the treasure hunt and start promoting it around the facility. Also gather any data needed for the walkthrough such as billing information, equipment specifications, and current operating conditions.
2. **Treasure hunt** - do the treasure hunt. This could be a one-day or multi-day event depending on how large your area is to cover. If you are going to cover the entire facility, plan on a 3-day event so the teams have ample time to collect information and make observations in all areas. If you are going to focus on one or two departments, a one-day event might be better suited to your needs.
3. **Post treasure hunt** - create a plan to follow-up on the opportunities found during the treasure hunt. Assign tasks to help with accountability and to celebrate accomplishments. Start thinking about when you want to do your next treasure hunt!

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Treasure hunts allow people unfamiliar with the operations to observe and notice things with a fresh perspective that are inefficient and have opportunity for improvement. You can also invite Pollution Prevention Services along for another perspective and a third