

When is an Easter egg hunt not really an Easter egg hunt?

Teams from across Alliant Energy found ways to improve sustainability practices

Key takeaways

- The 2019 Alliant Energy sustainability Easter egg hunt project was a Sustainability Squad initiative.
- Good sustainability practices aren't a special project; they're how we do business.
- "It was incredibly gratifying to see so much participation in this year's event," said **Patrick O'Connor**, Lead Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. "Going forward, sustainability will be an important element of how we work every day."



Act for tomorrow

We use resources wisely, care for the environment and continuously improve ourselves and our company

In this Easter egg hunt, 11 teams from across Alliant Energy combed through their work environments looking for sustainability "Easter eggs." But they weren't looking for chocolate bunnies or malted milk balls. They were seeking good sustainability practices and opportunities for improvement.

The teams walked through their facilities three times. They inspected the area once during normal working hours, once after normal working hours and once on a weekend.

After the hunts, the teams pooled their observations. The objective was to deliver noticeable improvements to advance the company's overall sustainability practices.

What's coming next?

The participation this year was gratifying because so many people took part. We'll shoot for even broader participation next year. But until then, why not hunt for these opportunities all year round? We can implement good sustainability practices anytime because they benefit everyone. Let's make them a regular part of how we do business every day.

Opportunities clustered across three areas:

- **Electric items left on when not in use:** These included computers, monitors, TVs, power strips, lights and appliances.
- **Use fewer disposables:** Teams reported sites still using plastic and Styrofoam disposables. The solution here favors washable dishes, glasses and utensils.
- **General environmental improvements:** One suggestion was to take advantage of natural light. Another team found unoccupied work areas still being heated, in one case with the thermostat set to 80 degrees!