Ecomagination Treasure Hunt FAQs

What is an Eco Treasure Hunt?

An Eco Treasure Hunt is a discovery process that utilizes cross-functional teams composed of site employees and external experts to investigate a facility's energy use and natural resource consumption from sleep mode to shut-down mode and that identifies, quantifies, and recommends projects ("kaizens") to minimize waste.

What is a kaizen?

The term *kaizen* refers to the Japanese idea of incremental, continuous improvement towards the elimination of waste and is used in the Treasure Hunt process to refer to specific actions that may enable a facility to reduce its costs and/or natural resource consumption. A kaizen is related to the Toyota concept of lean manufacturing, which seeks to eliminate expenditures on anything other than the creation of value for the end customer.

What is the purpose of an Eco Treasure Hunt?

The objective of an Eco Treasure Hunt is to engage employees in an exciting site-wide effort to identify opportunities to reduce waste at their facility, thereby saving money, minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, and conserving natural resources.

Do Eco Treasure Hunts only address energy?

Although past Eco Treasure Hunts have focused on energy use, including electricity, natural gas, chilled water, compressed air, steam and heat, Eco Treasure Hunts are capable of addressing all types of environmental impacts, including water consumption and waste generation.

How is an Eco Treasure Hunt different than an ESCO energy audit?

Eco Treasure Hunts are unique in that they encourage a site's employees to utilize their own knowledge, draw from past experience, and work together in teams with external experts to reduce the environmental footprint of their facility. Fundamentally, an Eco Treasure Hunt is a bottom-up process—rather than prescribing traditional energy solutions, the event will provide employees with the tools they need to discover savings opportunities at their site.

What will I get out of an Eco Treasure Hunt?

At the end of an Eco Treasure Hunt, a site manager will have a comprehensive list of project ideas (i.e. kaizens) detailing ways that his/her facility can reduce its costs and/or energy consumption. The kaizens will be prioritized according to the site's chosen parameters, including projected capital costs, returns on investment, and payback schedules. In order to accurately quantify these kaizen characteristics, the site's Treasure Hunt team will receive training from GE experts and access to GE's free *Eco Prospector* software tool during the

Ecomagination Treasure Hunt FAQs

Treasure Hunt process. The site manager will continue to have access to GE's experts and the *Eco Prospector* tool for a period of time after the Treasure Hunt event in order to begin implementing and monitoring the kaizens.

What do I need to provide?

The designated Treasure Hunt site will need to provide the GE facilitator(s) with detailed utility cost information so that the kaizen calculators may be completed as accurately as possible. Other resources such as site drawings, riser diagrams, and equipment specifications will also be required. Logistical resources will need to be secured for the event, including conference rooms, meals, and IT resources. Permission will need to be obtained for all staff intending to devote 2.5 workdays to the event. Finally, site management should develop a long-term plan for kaizen implementation so as to optimize the opportunities identified in the Treasure hunt.

How does an Eco Treasure Hunt work?

During an Eco Treasure Hunt, individual teams tour the designated facility in sleep mode, shut down mode, start up mode, and full operations mode to identify and document potential areas of energy waste. Each team investigates kaizens that have the potential to reduce or resolve the identified waste and quantifies all kaizens in *Eco Prospector*. At the end of the event, each team presents its list of kaizens to the group and together the participants prioritize all kaizens according to capital investment costs, returns on investment, and payback schedules. Final kaizen recommendations are provided to site management during a report-out on the last day of the Treasure Hunt event.

What happens after a Treasure Hunt?

An Eco Treasure Hunt will identify, quantify, and recommend kaizens, but it will not guarantee the completion of any of the recommended projects. Securing funding and providing logistical support for kaizen implementation, tracking, and evaluation is up to each site. Site management will have continued access to GE's experts and the *Eco Prospector* software tool to provide support during the follow-up process.

What is Eco Prospector?

Eco Prospector is a software tool developed by Gensuite in coordination with GE which allows Treasure Hunt participants to record a site's existing energy usage, quantify kaizens (including capital investment costs, return on investment, and payback schedules), and prioritize the resulting list of kaizens according to these parameters. Site management will receive access to *Eco Prospector* before and during the event and for a period of time afterwards.

Ecomagination Treasure Hunt FAQs

How long does an Eco Treasure Hunt last?

Eco Treasure Hunts last 2.5 days, generally beginning midday on a Sunday and ending Tuesday afternoon, in order to allow participants to view the site's processes and equipment during all stages of equipment readiness: non-productive time, start up, productive time, and breaks

How many teams should be in my Eco Treasure Hunt?

There is no limit to the number of teams that can participate in an Eco Treasure Hunt, but in order to optimize group dynamics, each team should have no more than 4-6 members.

How do I select the team focus areas?

Selecting the appropriate team focus areas is one of the most important parts in implementing a successful Treasure Hunt. Teams may focus on individual geographic areas within the site (i.e. Building A, Building B), unique operational processes (i.e. cutting, washing), different energy sources (i.e. electricity, steam, natural gas), or certain types of equipment (i.e. motors, HVAC, lighting). GE's facilitator(s) will assist site management in the team selection process.

What if I don't know much about energy efficiency?

Because Treasure Hunts are based on the idea of challenging normal or accepted conditions, an open and inquisitive mind is just as valuable to an Eco Treasure Hunt as technical expertise or experience with energy efficiency programs.

What impact have Treasure Hunts had at GE?

GE has conducted more than 300 Treasure Hunts at its facilities and identified over 650,000 million tons of carbon dioxide reduction opportunities and $150 million in energy savings. For more information about Eco Treasure Hunt success within GE's operations, visit www.ge.com/citizenship/performance_areas/environment_health_safety_hunt or search YouTube for "GE Treasure Hunts."

Is my company ready for an Eco Treasure Hunt?

Eco Treasure Hunts are more effective when implemented by companies with a strong environmental mandate. Treasure Hunts are therefore recommended for facilities with clear business-wide environmental objectives.

I want to bring a Treasure Hunt to my facility – what now?

Contact Amar Arekapudi (*amar.arekapudi@ge.com*) for more information about working with GE's experts to bring a Treasure Hunt to your facility.