
Best Waste Elimination Project - Application

Submission deadline: October 25, 2026 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time

Eligible performance period: January 1-July 31, 2026. All fields are required. If a requested item is not applicable, enter N/A.

FACILITY LOCATION REQUIREMENT

The participating facility must be physically located in Nevada, Arizona, or Utah.
Facilities located in any other state are not eligible for the 2026 awards.

SECTION 1 - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name

Job Title

Company / Organization

Direct Email Address

Direct Phone Number

OpsVectra may use this contact information to request clarification, additional information, or verification regarding the application.

Best Waste Elimination Project - Application

SECTION 2 - FACILITY & PROJECT INFORMATION

Company Name

Facility Street Address

City

State

ZIP Code

Approximate Number of Regular Employees at This Facility

Is the facility part of a larger parent company or corporate organization? (Yes / No)

Parent Company / Organization Name (enter N/A if not applicable)

Project / Improvement Name

Project Start Date

Project Completion Date

Best Waste Elimination Project - Application

SECTION 3 - WASTE IDENTIFICATION

Which type of waste was this project primarily designed to eliminate or reduce? Select one primary waste using the DOWNTIME framework.

☐ D - Defects

☐ O - Overproduction

☐ W - Waiting

☐ N - Non-Utilized Talent

☐ T - Transportation

☐ I - Inventory

☐ M - Motion

☐ E - Extra Processing

Did the project significantly reduce any additional forms of waste?

☐ No

☐ Yes

If Yes, identify the additional waste(s) reduced (enter N/A if none)

CATEGORY FOCUS

This award recognizes a defined improvement targeting a specific operational problem or source of waste and demonstrating a measurable before-and-after result. A single project may reduce multiple forms of waste when they are part of the same underlying problem or improvement.

Best Waste Elimination Project - Application

SECTION 4 - ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

To submit this application, the participating facility and project must meet all applicable eligibility requirements below.

- ☐ I confirm that this facility has 100 or fewer regular employees.
- ☐ I confirm that this facility does not operate under a formal Continuous Improvement, Lean, Operational Excellence, or equivalent improvement program.
- ☐ If this facility is part of a larger organization, I confirm that it does not receive structured Continuous Improvement, Lean, or Operational Excellence direction, personnel, resources, or program support from its parent company.
- ☐ I confirm that the project being submitted was completed during January 1-July 31, 2026.

WHAT COUNTS AS A FORMAL CI PROGRAM?

A formal program generally includes established improvement infrastructure such as dedicated Continuous Improvement/Operational Excellence personnel, a formally deployed Lean or CI operating system, or structured CI direction, resources, or support provided by a corporate parent. Individual employee certifications or independent use of tools such as 5S, Kaizen, standard work, visual management, or problem-solving methods do not by themselves constitute a formal CI program.

If you cannot confirm the applicable eligibility statements above, the facility is not eligible for this award.

Best Waste Elimination Project - Application

SECTION 5 - PROJECT STATEMENT

In no more than 500 words, describe the operational problem or source of waste, the improvement that was implemented, and the results achieved.

Waste Reduction: Identify the primary waste selected above, describe the condition that existed before the project, and explain the measurable reduction achieved. If the project reduced additional forms of waste, explain those results as well.

Effectiveness of the Solution: What caused or contributed to the problem, what solution was implemented, and how did it address the problem?

Simplicity & Resourcefulness: How did the team use available resources effectively and avoid unnecessary complexity?

Employee Involvement: How were frontline employees involved in identifying the problem, developing the solution, testing changes, or implementing the improvement?

Sustainability: What has been established to prevent the waste or problem from returning?

Learning Value: What was learned through the project that could potentially help solve similar problems elsewhere?

Focus on specific actions and measurable before-and-after results. Dollar savings are not required. Project size, spending, formal Lean terminology, sophisticated documentation, and writing quality are not factors in determining award excellence.

Maximum: 500 words

Best Waste Elimination Project - Application

SECTION 6 - REQUIRED SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Photographs and measurable supporting evidence are required for this category.

When submitting your completed application by email, include:

1. A minimum of 1 photograph showing the improvement, affected process, or resulting condition. Before-and-after photographs are strongly encouraged where available.
2. At least one supporting evidence item demonstrating measurable before-and-after improvement.

Examples may include production data, scrap or rework results, downtime, cycle time, changeover time, travel or motion reduction, inventory, lead time, defects, floor space, throughput, cost, or other relevant measures.

EMAIL ATTACHMENTS

Do not insert supporting evidence into this application. Attach all photographs and supporting documents as separate files to the same email used to submit this completed application.

SECTION 7 - CERTIFICATION & PERMISSIONS

- ☐ I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- ☐ I understand that OpsVectra Partners may contact me or the company to request clarification, additional information, or verification related to this application.
- ☐ I understand that submitting an application does not guarantee an award or recognition and that OpsVectra Partners may withhold recognition when submissions do not meet the standards established for the award.

If selected for recognition, may OpsVectra Partners publicly identify the company and approved project information in connection with the OpsVectra Manufacturing Excellence Awards?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No - Please contact me regarding publicity permissions.

Applicant Full Name

Date

Typing your name above constitutes acknowledgment of the certifications and permissions selected.

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Email the completed form and all required supporting evidence to: awards@opsvectrapartners.com

Email Subject: Best Waste Elimination Project - [Company Name] - [Project Name]

Submission Deadline: October 25, 2026 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time

Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.