

# Energy-From-Waste Company Uses Astute's Health Check for v9.2 Upgrade to De-Customize and Optimize



“Covanta had an excellent experience working with Astute on our 9.2 Assessment and in the build of our 9.2 Sandbox environment. It’s obvious that Astute has a lot of PeopleSoft experience as they were very organized, thorough, and met all of our expectations.”

— *Benedict Cabrera, Covanta Energy*

## Goals and Objectives

Covanta wanted to upgrade to PeopleSoft 9.2 to drive business process change and optimize on the latest Oracle PeopleSoft platform by assessing its current environment and identifying opportunities for improvement, automation, improved integration and more valuable reporting.

Covanta had a goal to de-customize by 50% while upgrading from v9.1 to v9.2. They requested analysis on their current enhancements and bolt-on modules along with recommendations to maximize the use of out-of-the-box features and functionality to meet their current and future business needs.

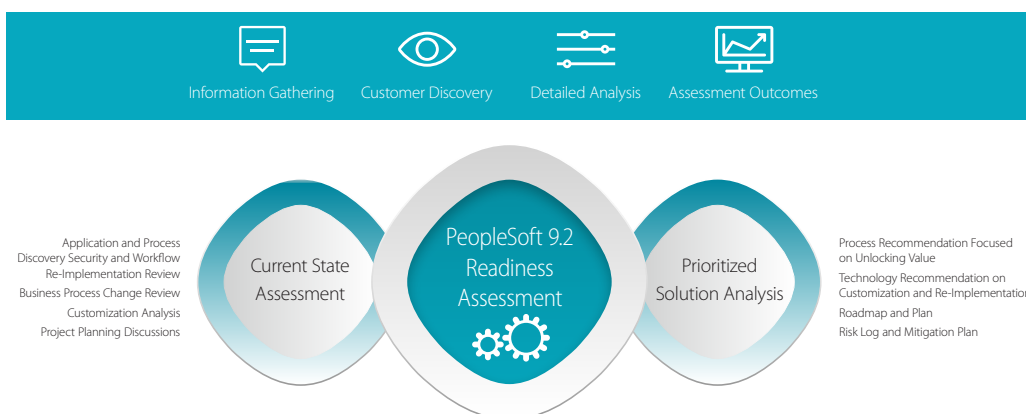
Covanta wanted to implement an organization wide business process change by centralizing Procurement and Payables functions under Corporate HQ to reduce overheads, improve operational efficiency, standardize procurement processes, and to control spending.

Covanta wished to adopt best practices for Record to Report, Procure to Pay, Bill through Collect, Treasury, Asset Management, and Project Costing to eliminate overheads and inefficiencies.

## Astute's Health Check for PeopleSoft 9.2 Upgrade

Astute conducted eighteen targeted onsite workshops with the business users, IT staff, and stakeholders to review, analyze and define business requirements, prioritize and plan for them in the context of a 9.2 upgrade by taking into account other IT and business initiatives.

Astute's assessment approach is summarized below:



---

## Outcomes

Astute produced a detailed Health Check Report which included the following high value deliverables for Covanta:

- Quick Wins in 9.0 — list of short projects that Covanta could implement with minimal overhead to eliminate current pain points and solve business problems without waiting for 9.2 upgrade
- Implementation Roadmap for 12–18 months
- A summary fit-gap analysis report for 9.2 upgrade
- Business needs defined and analyzed in process area and module
- Identified opportunities for improvement in business process, technology, user interface and operational efficiency with the use of OOTB 9.2 features
- Identified project risks and recommended mitigation plans
- Analyzed customizations and recommended de-customization tasks to ease future maintenance
- 9.2 upgrade plan, timeline, costs and resources
- Summary requirement definition for new module implementations

## Customer Benefits

Covanta obtained a detailed project plan and proposal for their upgrade, which included timeline, resource, and cost estimates that they were able to easily plug into their planning and budgeting processes.

Covanta was able to visualize PeopleSoft 9.2 features through the various product demonstrations performed by Astute, increasing awareness of the new capabilities that could be leveraged to improve the current business processes.

Covanta obtained best-practice based recommendations on improving and transforming their PeopleSoft applications and the supported business processes for greater efficiency and productivity.

## About Covanta

Covanta Energy Corporation owns and operates worldwide over forty new generation waste combustion facilities with added benefit of energy recovery, also known as waste-to-energy or energy-from-waste power generation plants. Facilities operated by Covanta produce electricity for approximately one million homes in communities across North America by converting municipal solid waste into renewable energy.

---

## About Astute Business Solutions

Astute is dedicated to providing innovative solutions that address our clients' unique and industry-specific pain points. We specialize in extending the out-of-the-box functionality of enterprise applications using our seamless add-on solutions so our clients can be spared the burden of messy and difficult-

to-maintain customizations. Our unique combination of onsite, offsite and offshore resources enable us to provide the best-in-class service and support to our clients at a significant cost reduction.



4637 Chabot Drive, Suite 220 Pleasanton, CA 94588  
info@beAstute.com | 925.924.1400 | www.beAstute.com