New tool helps reduce use of hazardous chemicals

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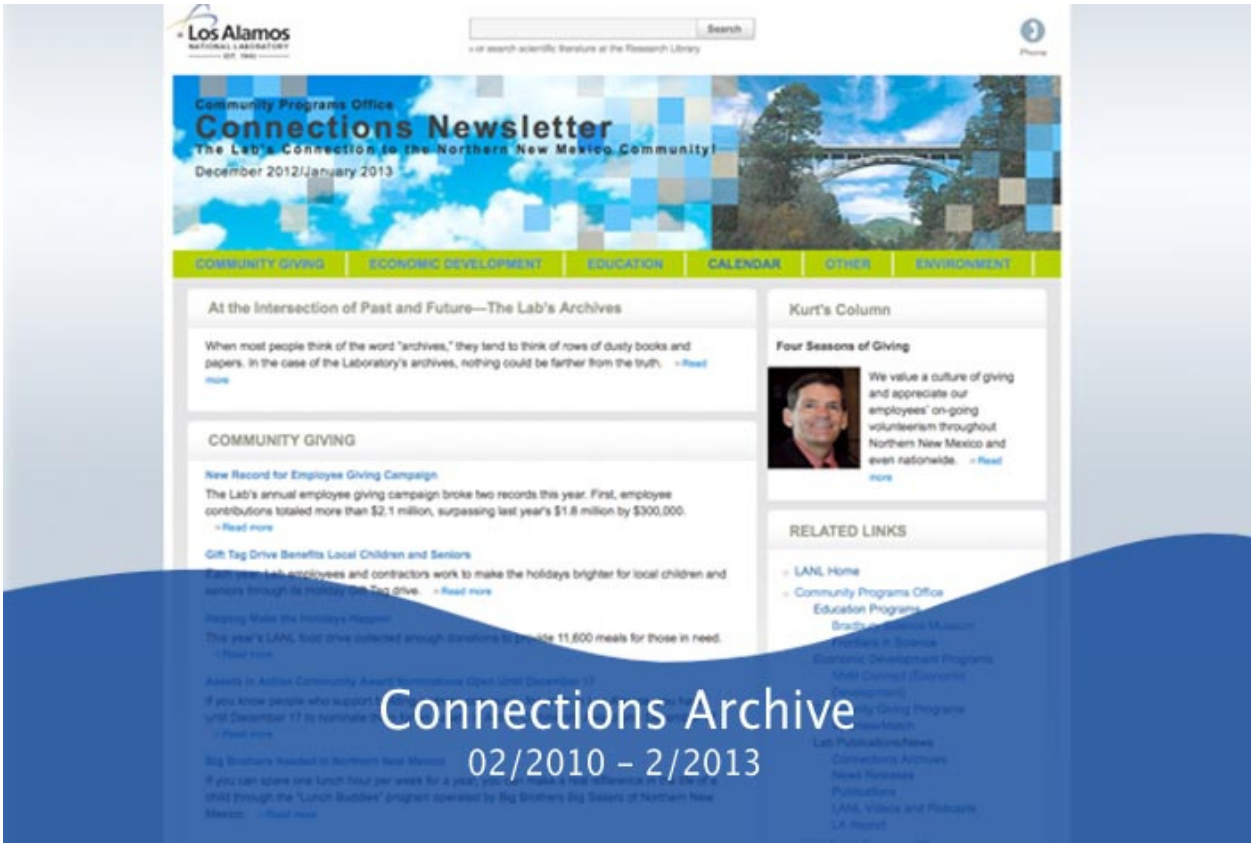

During the course of their scientific work, Lab employees have used a wide variety of chemicals, ranging from acids to etch metals to baby oil (really), to delve into the secrets of the universe. A new tool, the "Green Chemical Alternatives Purchasing Wizard," will begin to help Lab employees choose the most benign substances possible for their work.

Developed for, and accessed through, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the tool allows researchers to input the chemicals or processes they wish to replace and suggests safer, and often less expensive, alternatives.

Of course, some materials have such unique properties that they cannot be substituted in some applications, but this tool will help them explore alternatives where feasible.