



## Your Source for Monthly Manufacturing News

Questions, comments or feedback? Please don't hesitate to share your thoughts with us by emailing [Info@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Info@NEPIRC.com).

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## Manufacturing News from our Nation, State and Region

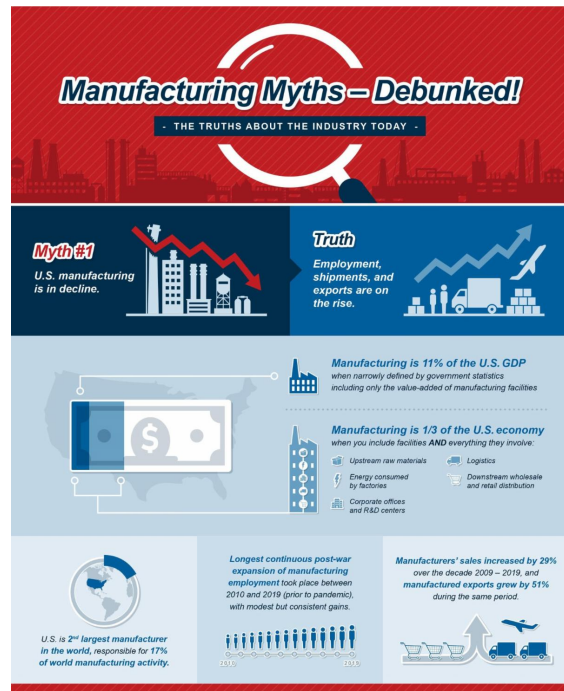
### National News

#### Manufacturing Myths – Debunked!

Myth buster alert! Since most of us enjoy dispelling a good myth or two, check out this [infographic](#) from the [National Institute of Standards and Technology's \(NIST's\) Manufacturing Extension Partnership \(MEP\)](#). Entitled, "Manufacturing Myths – Debunked," it highlights four common myths about the manufacturing industry that are proved false with the help of data and MEP National Network success stories.

Two of the featured myths include automation eliminating jobs, when projections actually show automation will create 133 million new jobs worldwide by 2022; and manufacturing being a poor career choice, when manufacturing is actually an excellent option with workers earning 32% more in benefits per hour than employees in service industries.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this infographic, so you can see which other manufacturing myths are dispelled!



#### Upcoming Virtual Roundtable for Small to Medium-Sized Manufacturers on Advanced Manufacturing

The MEP National Network invites small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) to

attend a special webinar to help shape the future of U.S. advanced manufacturing strategy on Jan. 12, 2022 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. [The National Science and Technology Council](#) (NSTC) Subcommittee on Advanced Manufacturing is in the process of updating the National Strategic Plan for Advanced Manufacturing. The plan will improve government coordination and provide long-term guidance for federal programs and activities in support of U.S. manufacturing competitiveness, including advanced manufacturing research and development over the next five to ten years. The intent of the Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> webinar is to gather public input from SMMs that may be used in developing the National Strategic Plan for Advanced Manufacturing.



If you'd like to attend, please email Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at [Chelsey@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Chelsey@NEPIRC.com), and she will pass along the login information.

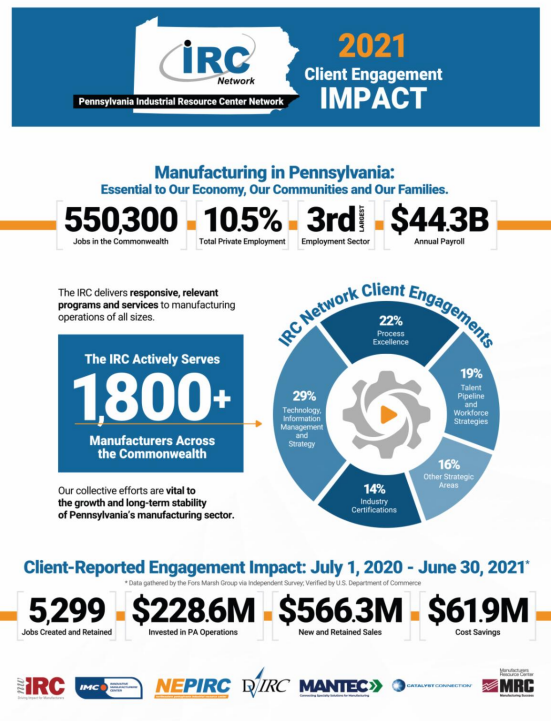
## State Update

### Pennsylvania IRC Network's 2021 Annual Client Impact Report

As many of you know, the statewide IRC Network represents Pennsylvania's flagship program for advancing its manufacturing economy, and NEPIRC is pleased to present the IRC Network's 2021 Annual Client Impact Infographic. This piece highlights the IRCs' proven results within its client companies over the past year.

[CLICK HERE](#) to review the infographic in its entirety; the numbers are sure to impress!

Should you have any questions regarding the data, please email [Info@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Info@NEPIRC.com) with "IRC Network 2021 Infographic Question" as the subject line.



## Regional News

### Re-Match Turf Recycling Selects Luzerne County as the Location for its First North American Facility

Earlier this month, Governor Tom Wolf announced that [Re-Match Turf](#)

[Recycling](#), an international recycler of artificial turf fields, has chosen Luzerne County as the location of its first North American recycling facility, investing nearly \$12.2 million in the project and creating approximately 40 new, full-time jobs. Re-Match will lease an existing 53,040-square-foot office building in Hanover Township.



As part of its renovation plans, the company will add 67,400-square-feet to the long-dormant building and convert it to a state-of-the-art recycling facility. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the complete article.

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## Global Manufacturer of Building Materials Chooses Pittston, PA as the Location of its New Luxury Vinyl Tile Manufacturing Facility

Just last week, Governor Tom Wolf made yet another announcement that ushers in good news for northeastern Pennsylvania's economic development initiatives.

[HMTX Industries](#), a global manufacturer of building materials, has chosen Pennsylvania as the location of its new luxury vinyl tile manufacturing facility, creating 115 good-paying jobs over the next three years.



HMTX is leasing an existing 313,000-square-foot facility at 160-180 Independence Drive in Pittston. The company will make leasehold improvements, upgrade electrical and parking capacity, purchase equipment and train its new employees.

HMTX Industries is an \$800 million, fourth-generation, family-owned business. The global manufacturer of building materials serves a diverse cross-section of the construction marketplace. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the complete article.

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*If your company has great news you'd like us to share with our manufacturing community, please contact Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at [Chelsey@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Chelsey@NEPIRC.com).*

## NEPIRC News

### Regional Manufacturers Report Significant Results from NEPIRC Engagements in 2021

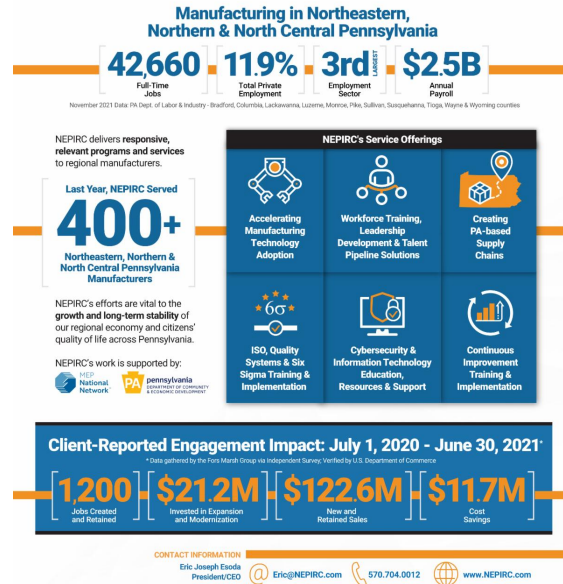
Throughout 2021, regional manufacturing firms attributed over \$120 million in revenue impact, \$11.7 million in cost savings, and \$21.2 million in expansion, modernization and workforce training to their successful engagements with NEPIRC. Those financial impacts allowed the firms to create and retain 1,200 full-time manufacturing jobs – bringing our region's industrial employment to nearly 44,000. NEPIRC clients reported those impacts during surveys administered by the [Fors Marsh](#)

Group under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards & Technology.



As a result of the dynamic results reported by NEPIRC clients during 2021, the organization maintained its placement among the top performers in the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Network. NEPIRC also received a Sliver Award for Excellence in Economic Development from the [International Economic Development Council](#) during the year.

In addition to capturing client financial and employment impacts, the Fors Marsh survey process assessed NEPIRC client overall satisfaction levels and their reasons for choosing the organization for their consultative service needs. Most clients partnered with NEPIRC due to their staff expertise, reputation for results, exclusive focus on the manufacturing sector or practical cost of services. [CLICK HERE](#) to review NEPIRC's complete Annual Impact Report.



## NEPIRC Partners with Lackawanna College and PA DCED to Educate Students About Careers in Manufacturing

Recently, NEPIRC's President & CEO, Eric Joseph Esoda, spoke to the students who are currently enrolled in [Lackawanna College's](#) Advanced Manufacturing Certificate Program.

Eric's speaking engagement was a result of NEPIRC's partnership with the College's Office of Continuing Education and the [Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development](#) (PA DCED) to help students understand the many employment opportunities available within our local manufacturing sector.



Once graduated from the program, the students will be certified and ready for their career in manufacturing!

## Congratulations to NEPIRC's Recent Leadership Development Graduates!

Earlier this month, NEPIRC celebrated the completion of our fall 2021 8-Week Leadership Development Essentials (LDE) program with our graduates. Individuals from companies like [InterMetro Industries](#), [EAM-Mosca Corporation](#), [Sordoni Construction Services, Inc.](#), [USM Aerostructures](#),

[Bridon-Bekaert The Ropes Group](#) and [Forbo Flooring Systems](#) worked hard over the past eight weeks to enhance their leadership skills by taking part in several team building exercises, along with completing assignments and assessments that helped them discover their respective leadership styles. Congratulations again to this group on their achievement!



NEPIRC's next 8-Week LDE program will begin on Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and will then be held weekly until March 23<sup>rd</sup>. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information or to register.

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## Support Local Manufacturers This Holiday!

Looking for a unique stocking stuffer idea this holiday? Then, consider filling your loved ones' stockings with made in PA items! The products pictured in the NEPIRC boxes to the right offer a small sampling of what you might include, such as hot sauce from [Peggy's Marinade of Scranton](#), candy from [Hershey's](#), [Middleswarth Potato Chips](#), [Listerine Mouthwash](#), [Ice Breakers Gum and Mints](#), a bottle of [Susquehanna Brewing Co.](#) beer and [Core Hydration Water](#).



There are so many made in PA items from which to choose and are the perfect stocking size! If you'd like a longer listing of products for consideration, email [Info@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Info@NEPIRC.com) with "Made in PA Holiday" as the subject line or [CLICK HERE](#) to watch this short video. Make this holiday one in which you support your local manufacturers!

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## Limited Sponsorships Still Available for NEPIRC's MFG DAY

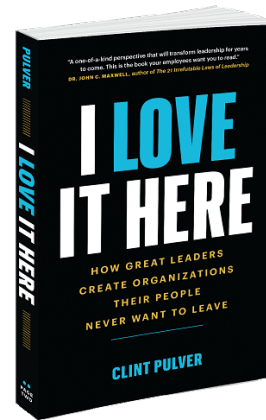
NEPIRC is grateful to the 60+ original MFG DAY sponsors and exhibitors that continue to support NEPIRC's May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 event. However, there are still a limited number of sponsorships available for new companies that want to be part of the region's largest gathering of manufacturing leaders, decision-makers and innovators. Those new sponsors will capitalize on an expanded event agenda, which now includes a highly interactive and informative workforce attraction and retention component – sure to attract even more attendees. Organizations interested in becoming a sponsor should contact Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at [Chelsey@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Chelsey@NEPIRC.com). You can also [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.



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## NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club to Announce First Meeting Next Month

We're excited to report that NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will announce its first virtual meeting in the January issue of *NEPIRC NEWS* and on NEPIRC's social media platforms! The first book the group will discuss is *I Love It Here* by Clint Pulver. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the book and to purchase it so that you can get a kick start on your reading.



## New Business Opportunities: Companies Looking for Suppliers

NEPIRC is relaying these potential new business opportunities to manufacturers across our region:

- **PET Plastic Sheets** – Manufacturer seeking to purchase rolls of PET plastic sheets to be used in the construction of septic drainage and treatment systems. Company is looking for 21 mil and 24 mil thickness and is currently receiving rolls that are 61.5" wide, 22" diameter with 4" center core. Must be PET. Seeking price of \$0.75 – \$1.00 per pound not inclusive of shipment to Connecticut.
- **PVC Resin** – Plastic extruder seeking 2,000 LB boxes of rigid and semi-rigid PVC that meets ASTM F963, ASTM D2240, D792 and D412 standards. Throughout 2022, company anticipates ordering between 130,000 – 225,000 pounds of semi-rigid PVC resin and approximately 30,000 pounds of rigid PVC resin. Company currently paying \$1.42 per pound. Need is immediate. Company located in Iowa.
- **Electrospun Protein Sheets** – Medical device manufacturer seeking provider of specialty product – 8" X 8", 4" X 4" and 2" X 2" sheets made of soy protein isolate, polyethylene oxide (PEO) and water. To be used in medical grade wound coverings. Can be provided in packaged sheets for subsequent cutting/processing to size. Buyer will work with potential provider to develop final product format (sheets, rolls, etc.). Buyer is located in western PA and seeking final product costs of approximately \$0.20 per 4" X 4" panel.

Companies interested in these supplier opportunities are encouraged to contact Dale Parmenteri, NEPIRC's Vice President of Consulting Operations, at [Dale@NEPIRC.com](mailto:Dale@NEPIRC.com). Please use "Supplier Opportunity" as the subject line for an immediate response!

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[Upcoming training programs & events](#)

[Visit us on the web](#)

[E-mail us](#)

