



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.

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Manufacturing News from our Nation, State and Region

National News

ASTM Survey on Manufacturing in a Circular Economy

The world is changing, and manufacturing is changing with it. Manufacturing and its role in creating a more sustainable world is getting considerable global attention. There is not a one-size-fits-all solution to sustainability problems and every organization has to set its own goals.

Standards can relieve the burden on organizations making sustainability goals. In April, ASTM International is hosting a workshop of world experts to create a roadmap for standards to help manufacturers become more sustainable.

You can help ASTM create this roadmap by sharing what you are already doing to be more sustainable by filling out a survey. Your response will help ASTM identify the needs and gaps in the current standards landscape. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete, and you can take it by [CLICKING HERE](#).



ASTM INTERNATIONAL

How to Effectively Attract and Retain Talent Webinar

On April 21st at 2 p.m., the [MEP National Network](#) will host a no-cost webinar in conjunction with [Modern Machine Shop](#) and [Catalyst Connection's](#) (part of PA MEP) Dave Rea and Todd Tommaney. The pair will discuss realistic steps manufacturers can take



MEP
National
Network™

to gain a competitive advantage when it comes to hiring the right people. Attendees will hear market insights to inform their recruitment and retention strategies, and get practical tools that any manufacturing company can put into practice.

In this webinar attendees will learn:

- Why some employees stay while others leave
- What really matters to current staff and potential employees
- What manufacturers can implement today at zero cost to the company
- Which best practices will help the company in the current labor market
- How to consider work-life balance issues that matter most to employees

[CLICK HERE](#) to register!

State Update

PA Business One-Stop Shop Launches Online E-Commerce Directory to Connect PA Small Businesses to PA Consumers

The PA Business One-Stop Shop has launched [CommonGoods](#) – an online e-commerce directory that connects PA small businesses with PA consumers who want to shop local while shopping online.



The directory features retail businesses with storefronts or other operations in PA that also offer online shopping.

There is no cost for small businesses to join CommonGoods, and it's a great way for consumers to tap into the “buy local” movement in PA!

If you're a small business owner who would like to join CommonGoods, please contact Terrell Martin, Director of the PA Business One-Stop Shop, at TerrellMar@pa.gov. [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the newly launched CommonGoods website.

Pennsylvania Manufacturing Advisory Council Seeks Input From Manufacturers

The Pennsylvania Manufacturing Advisory Council was formed last year as a public-private consortium. Its goal is to provide the Commonwealth's legislative leaders and leading gubernatorial candidates with policy, program and legislative priority recommendations that will enhance the competitiveness of Pennsylvania's nearly 15,000 manufacturing firms and their 585,000 employees. The Council has heard from more than 130 PA-based manufacturers through roundtables, town halls and other venues and now wants to hear from other manufacturing leaders through their completion of a [short survey](#).



Manufacturers all across the Commonwealth are being asked to invest eight minutes of their time to take an [online survey](#) that asks their opinions and experience in the areas of workforce, supply chain, technology and the Commonwealth's overall business climate. Please submit responses by April 8.

Regional News

Exeter-Based Manufacturer PowerRail Expands; 35 New Jobs Created

NEPIRC would like to congratulate [PowerRail](#), a manufacturer and distributor of locomotive parts for the rail industry, on the expansion of its existing Luzerne County operation, which will bring 35 new jobs to the County!



The announcement, made recently by Neil Weaver, Acting Secretary of the [Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development](#) (DCED), stated that PowerRail purchased an existing facility at 182 Susquehanna Ave. in Exeter, and is also planning to consolidate certain aspects of its business from other locations. The new facility will house PowerRail's consolidated operations and serve as its headquarters, which are currently located in Duryea.

PowerRail received a funding proposal from DCED for a \$1.75 million Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) loan and a \$105,000 Pennsylvania First grant. The company has committed to investing at least \$5.4 million into the project, creating 35 new jobs and retaining 76 existing jobs over the next three years. To read the complete article, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Northeastern PA Ranks in the Top 10 Regions in Northeast United States for Economic Development

Earlier this month, [Penn's Northeast](#) announced that for the second year in a row, northeastern Pennsylvania has ranked in the Northeast Metro Areas Top 10 in Economic Development in The Governor's Cup Awards, produced annually by [Site Selection Magazine](#)!

"This is a competitive process that takes place across the country every year," said Penn's Northeast President, John L. Augustine III.

"Our strategic location, reliable utilities and dedicated workforce, coupled with an amazing education network, makes our region stand out amongst many other areas of the country. The results show that northeastern Pennsylvania continues to be a top location in the United States for companies looking to grow their business," added Augustine. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about this achievement for our region!

SITE SELECTION MAGAZINE 2021 GOVERNOR'S CUP

TOP NORTHEAST METRO AREAS

(Any Population Size)

1. NEW YORK--NEWARK--JERSEY CITY
2. BOSTON--CAMBRIDGE--NEWTON
3. PHILADELPHIA--CAMDEN--WILMINGTON
4. PITTSBURGH
5. BUFFALO--CHEEKTOWAGA--NIAGARA FALLS
6. LEHIGH VALLEY
7. BRIDGEPORT--STAMFORD--NORWALK
- 8T. WORCESTER
- 8T. PROVIDENCE--WARWICK
- 10T. POUGHKEEPSIE--NEWBURGH--MIDDLETOWN
- 10T. **SCRANTON--WILKES-BARRE--HAZLETON, PA**

Wyoming County Chamber Partners with Tunkhannock Area High School to Develop and Recruit our Next Generation of Workers

The [Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce](#) is partnering with Tunkhannock Area High School to develop and recruit our next generation of workforce in Wyoming County.



High school juniors and seniors are looking for part-time & full-time summer jobs, and many are graduating in June eager to move to the full-time workforce.

If you would like to employ local, hardworking Wyoming County students, please fill out [this form](#), and the Chamber will put your information together and send to the school for posting on their jobs board.

The Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce Launches Project PIVOT

Project PIVOT is a unique, collaborative program created and launched by [Wilkes-Barre Connect](#) – the entrepreneurial and economic development arm of the [Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce](#) – that aims to provide accelerated workforce training and upskilling opportunities for workers aligning with the historic and seismic industry shifts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Participants of this pilot program will gain free access to 17,000+ online LinkedIn Learning courses until October 2022 as a means of developing themselves professionally and upskilling in the careers and fields of their choice. This program is also designed to work directly with businesses in Luzerne County to provide their employees with the skills they need to grow within their companies. In addition to free LinkedIn Learning access for their staff, businesses who participate in the pilot program with their employees will have the opportunity to work directly with our Project PIVOT team and the team at LinkedIn Learning to develop a specially-tailored pathway that is specific to their company and employee needs. This will help them to take their current workforce to the next level in their skillset, and to address any educational gaps their team may be experiencing. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information about Project PIVOT.

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.

NEPIRC News

Mark Morgis Joins NEPIRC's Growing Team

To better assist manufacturers in capitalizing on growth opportunities, addressing workforce challenges and implementing new technologies, NEPIRC gladly welcomes Mark Morgis to its team of professionals as its Mechanical

Engineer.

Mr. Morgis is a lean manufacturing champion and Six Sigma Black Belt who brings with him over 25 years' experience and an impressive resume, which includes engineering expertise with companies like OSHA, Sealy, Inc., Marathon Boat Group, InterMetro Industries, Wyman-Gordon, RAD Engineered Wood Products, OTEX Specialty Narrow Fabrics and Clarcor Air Filtration Products. Within those companies, Mr. Morgis led plant startups and ongoing operations, drove continuous improvement efforts, and implemented systems, processes, and procedures that increased productivity, efficiency and profitability. Mr. Morgis also has experience in establishing international manufacturing production facilities and has attained several recognition awards in the areas of safety, quality, productivity and efficiency.



Mr. Morgis' educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University.

Dale Parmenteri, NEPIRC's Vice President of Consulting Operations, Set to Retire March 30th after 8.5 Years of Service

After 8.5 successful and rewarding years at NEPIRC, Dale Parmenteri, Vice President of Consulting Operations, will retire from the organization at the end of this month to pursue volunteer activities and other interests. Throughout his tenure at NEPIRC, Dale made significant contributions to the organization's advancement, modernization, adoption of new technologies, launch of new services and, ultimately, pursuit and attainment of its critical objectives. The NEPIRC team will miss his unique skill set, attitude, passion for manufacturing and belief in the value of NEPIRC's mission and all that it stands for across our 11 counties and the Commonwealth.



While NEPIRC is losing a valued member of the team, it is gladdening to know that Dale has reached a place at which he and his family can spend more time together, enjoy traveling, pursue other purposeful hobbies and volunteer activities and contribute to the furtherance of our region in different ways.

NEPIRC Welcomes 10 New Board Members to its Board of Directors

On Friday, March 11th, NEPIRC hosted a breakfast networking mixer for its staff and Board of Directors to warmly welcome 10 new members to its board.

The incoming cohort of board members consists of executives

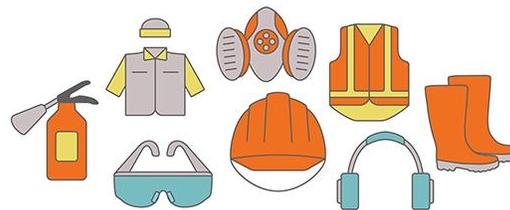
from across NEPIRC's 11-county region devoted to the organization's mission of serving small to mid-sized manufacturers to ensure the growth and success of the manufacturing industry. The incoming group includes: Glenn Poirier, VP of Operations, [Metalkraft Industries](#); Mark Morrison, VP, Global Operations, [Weiler Abrasives Group](#); Neal Nicastro, Plant Manager, [Amcor](#); Jared McTague, President, [Futuristic Innovative Graphics \(FIG\)](#); T.J. Eltringham, COO, [Lackawanna College](#); Zach Aciukewicz, MFG Director – U.S. Operations, [Bridon-Bekaert The Ropes Group](#); Frank Joanlanne, President & CEO, [Borton-Lawson](#); Bruce Daniels, CFO, [Medico Industries](#); Dustin Levy, Vice President, Industrial, [Gentex Corp.](#); and Anna Rinaldi, Human Resources Manager, [SIMONA AMERICA Industries](#).



NEPIRC looks forward to the leadership and valuable input of its incoming board members and is confident that its regional manufacturers will benefit from the representation of these individuals, along with NEPIRC's current board members.

Ensure the Health and Safety of Your Workforce with the Help of NEPIRC

Now that we've turned our clocks ahead and spring has sprung, it's the perfect time to help your employees refocus on their health and safety in the workplace – and NEPIRC can help! If you're interested in receiving a safety inspection of your production floor or an ergonomic assessment of your computer workstations, cubicles or offices, contact Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at Chelsey@NEPIRC.com to learn more!



WORKPLACE SAFETY

Become NEPIRC's Next Business Development Advisor

Are you seeking an exciting career opportunity that puts your sales, inventory and operations, experience to work toward a great purpose? Are you inspired to deliver great work, and achieve measurable results for small and mid-sized manufacturers across northeastern and northern Pennsylvania?



Are you looking for the best job you've ever had, in an organization with an amazing culture and that rewards success? Then, join Pennsylvania's most elite team of manufacturing experts, in a role that will help advance thousands of local businesses! [CLICK HERE](#) to apply today to become NEPIRC's next Business Development Advisor.

Get Your Very Own NEPIRC Wise Words Book Club Bookmark

If you're a manufacturer looking for a great professional development opportunity that fits in seamlessly with your schedule, then you should consider joining NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club!

NEPIRC's Book Club meets monthly on the last Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. via MS Teams. The atmosphere is relaxed, and the only thing you need to do is come prepared to discuss a bestselling professional or leadership development book.

If you'd like to learn more or sign up for our March 31st meeting, please [CLICK HERE](#). And, if you join, you'll receive a really cool NEPIRC Wise Words Book Club bookmark!



MFG DAY News



Panelists Named to MFG DAY Workforce Panel

Last month, we announced that NEPIRC added a workforce panel to its MFG DAY agenda, which will be hosted by [Skills in Scranton](#), the workforce arm of the [Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce](#), and this month, we are proud to announce the HR experts who will serve as panelists: Julian Beck, [NEPA SHRM](#); Brooke Lipperini, [CANPACK](#); Jose de los Rios, [Procter & Gamble](#); and Denise Truesdale, [Pride Mobility Products Corporation](#).



The panel, which is entitled, "Best Practices in Manufacturing Workforce Attraction & Retention," will be moderated by [Amy Luyster](#), Vice President of the Greater Scranton Chamber.

PSA Robotics Owner to Moderate Automation Integration Panel

[Mike McHale](#), owner of [PSA Robotics](#) and MFG DAY Gold Sponsor, will moderate the "Automation Integration: Three Company

Journeys, Lessons Learned & Outcomes" panel. Panelists include the following automation and robotics experts: Garry Hartman, [Cheetah Chassis](#); Peter Rafalko, [J&J Snack Foods](#); and Mike Menta, [Dorman Products](#).



Thank You to Our Newest Sponsors!

NEPIRC would like to thank those companies who have recently become sponsors for MFG DAY. We are grateful for their support!

- [J.M.R. Industrial](#)
- [Edwards Business Systems](#)
- [Effecty](#)
- [Amcor](#)
- [Borton-Lawson](#)
- [NovaCare Rehabilitation](#)

We would especially like to thank [NEPA Alliance PTAC](#) for being the event sponsor and [NEPA Alliance](#) for sponsoring the luncheon!

Purchase Your MFG DAY Tickets Today

With MFG DAY being only six weeks away, now is the time to purchase your tickets before it's too late! We hope you'll join NEPIRC and our 65+ sponsors and vendors at the Mohegan Sun Pocono Convention Center on Friday, May 6th for what is gearing up to be the largest regional gathering of manufacturing, community and economic development leaders. [CLICK HERE](#) for

more information and to purchase tickets. Questions? Please email Chelsey Coslett at Chelsey@NEPIRC.com.

Purchase
Tickets

New Business Opportunities: Companies Looking for Suppliers

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

- **Attention Machine Shops!** – Pennsylvania-based manufacturer of truck wash systems, pressurized water and air systems, dust collection/vacuum systems, and other hand and industrial tools seeking to create a localized supply chain for the machining, cutting and assembly of a variety of metal and plastic parts. These parts have been completely designed, with accompanying drawings, and are ready to be run. Products are made of steel, stainless steel, aluminum and plastic – but the company also needs flexible tubing, wire harnesses, cables and chains. Suppliers need to have a quality system in place, but do NOT need to be ISO certified. The company is located in Chambersburg, PA and is eager to work with Pennsylvania supplies over the long term. This is a great opportunity for manufacturers across a wide range of NAICS codes! Interested suppliers should send an email of inquiry to Dale@NEPIRC.com.

- **Aluminum Tubing** – Manufacture of pneumatic air guns seeking a domestic supplier of aluminum tubing for extensions. The extruded and anodized tube should be 0.75" OD with 0.083" wall thickness (approx.) and cut to various lengths. Minimum acceptable ID is 0.56". Company currently purchasing 500,000 linear feet/year in orders of 100,000 each and paying \$2-\$3 per linear foot. Shipping to Chicopee included in price.

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

NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board



Land Your Next Employee with NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board!

If your company is currently hiring, and you're not already utilizing NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board, then what are you waiting for? Email Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at Chelsey@NEPIRC.com for more information. [CLICK HERE](#) to view NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board.

Use these quick links to learn more about NEPIRC:

[Upcoming training programs & events](#)

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[E-mail us](#)

