

NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

October 2024 | Volume 48

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[Training & Events](#)

[Manufacturing
Jobs Board](#)

[Manufacturing
Ambassador Dream
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National News



Experience Automation in Action Before You Invest

Not sure if automation is right for your business? Demonstrations can help you see solutions, address concerns and make informed decisions before you invest. Wesley Eccles, an Automation Specialist for the New Mexico MEP, explains in this Smart Manufacturing article.

[Read
Article](#)

How Universities Help Manufacturers with Technology Testing, Adoption

Kentucky MEP Executive Director Scott Broughton shares the benefits of partnering

manufacturers with universities, trade schools and other educational institutions. These institutions benefit from access to real-world applications and industry insights while their students are better prepared for the workplace. In return, manufacturers gain access to advanced technologies, potential employees and research to overcome operational challenges.

[Learn More](#)

State News

Shapiro Administration Invests \$400,000 in Program to Train More Skilled Manufacturing Workers in Southeastern Pennsylvania

On October 2, the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Director of Workforce Development Initiatives Gwen Ross announced a new \$400,000 investment by the Shapiro Administration in the [Industrial Maintenance](#) and [Metalwork Training](#) programs at [Bucks County Community College](#) (BCCC) to meet the growing need of the area's advanced manufacturing industry. The [Manufacturing PA Training-to-Career](#) (MTTC) grant will be used to train and provide placement services to 50 BCCC students free of charge, helping them launch and sustain successful manufacturing careers.

[Read Article](#)

Flexopack USA to Build Company's First American Manufacturing Facility in Lebanon County

On October 4, Governor Josh Shapiro announced a significant investment of \$500,000 from the Commonwealth to support [Flexopack USA Inc.](#) in establishing its first American manufacturing facility in Pennsylvania. This project will inject \$33 million into the local economy and create at least 64 new, full-time jobs in Lebanon County. Based in Greece, Flexopack USA will construct a 107,000-square-foot, rail-served facility at 3010 Hanford Drive in North Lebanon Township, the first phase of a three-phase project. This initiative will expand the company's packaging product manufacturing footprint into the United States, including its role as the primary packaging supplier for Pennsylvania-based poultry company Bell & Evans.

[Continue Reading](#)

Regional News

WVIA and DiscoverNEPA Collaborate on Innovative Series Spotlighting Northeastern PA's Manufacturing Industry

[WVIA](#) and [DiscoverNEPA](#) are excited to announce the launch of a captivating new digital-first series, *NEPA @ Work*, sponsored by [Coterra Energy](#). This inspirational series will take viewers on an exclusive behind-the-scenes journey into the heart of global manufacturing in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Each episode will be a celebration of the region's industrial prowess, showcasing the intricate processes, innovative technologies and the dedicated individuals driving success in this vibrant

region.

Companies that will be featured in this series include [Gertrude Hawk Chocolates](#), [Noble Biomaterials](#), [Gentex Corporation](#), [US Hydrations](#), [Yuengling](#) and more.

NEPA @ Work premiered on October 16. The first three episodes include:

- Episode 1 - October 16 - Yuengling
- Episode 2 - October 23 - Gertrude Hawk
- Episode 3 - October 30 - Gentex

Episodes of *NEPA @ Work* will be released digitally first at [WVIA.org](#) and on WVIA's [YouTube](#) channel, and will then be broadcast on WVIA TV in the format of two 30-minute television shows. Digital shorts will be accompanied by insightful blog posts from DiscoverNEPA to provide in-depth interviews with business leaders and additional behind-the-scenes content. *NEPA @ Work* blog posts and content will also be available on DiscoverNEPA's website, [DiscoverNEPA.com](#).

Learn More about NEPA @
Work

PennTAP to Host Two-Part Training Series for Metal Manufacturers and Metal Fabrication Establishments

Did you know that Pennsylvania is home to more than 3,000 metal manufacturing and metal fabrication establishments? Join PennTAP for a two-part training series featuring waste reduction and energy efficiency strategies for the largest manufacturing sector in PA, including real-world examples from [Benton Foundry](#).

Part 1: A webinar on October 29 at 10 a.m. will showcase Benton Foundry's green initiatives, PennTAP services and SEDA-COG resources available to other manufacturers to fund similar improvements.

Part 2: A tour on November 6 at 9:30 a.m. at Benton Foundry to view energy conservation and pollution prevention practices in action.

Those who are interested can register for one or both events.

Learn More & Register

The Latest from NEPIRC



Manufacturing Day Best Practices Summit & Expo 2024— a Rousing Success!

The team at NEPIRC cannot thank our 111 sponsors of this year's Manufacturing Day (MFG DAY) Best Practices Summit & Expo nearly enough for their support! MFG DAY 2024 was a true success in every sense of the word. NEPIRC staff is also so grateful to the banquet and events team at Mohegan Pennsylvania for their incredible assistance in planning and execution, along with all those who took the time out of their day to attend.

Additionally, we are thankful for this year's speakers who were all so well received by our nearly 500 attendees. We would especially like to thank this year's keynote, [Chris Czarnik](#), who blew everyone away, along with Dr. Katie Desiderio and Dr. Michael Frino who gave a stellar presentation entitled, "Becoming a Be Keeper", which was based on their Wall St. Journal bestselling book, ["The BeeKeeper: Pollinating Your Organization for Transformative Growth."](#)

We will be sharing the MFG DAY 2024 photo gallery soon, so if you couldn't attend, you can still see what a great day it was!

NEPIRC's Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer Speaks at Safety Day Event

Brian Matyjevich, NEPIRC's Professional Safety Expert & Lean Specialist who also serves as NEPIRC's Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer, was the keynote speaker at InterMetro Industries' Safety Day



event held recently at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Wilkes-Barre. Brian spoke to attendees about how to enforce and implement workplace safety measures to promote an overall healthy and safe culture.

If you'd like Brian to speak about workplace safety at your manufacturing facility, please email Info@NEPIRC.com.

Begin Your Green Manufacturing Journey with NEPIRC

If you own (or know someone who owns) a manufacturing facility in MD, NY, OH, PA or WV, NEPIRC can help you enter into clean energy and green manufacturing sectors!

Learn more and start the process by reaching out to NEPIRC's team of experts. Email Info@NEPIRC.com today.



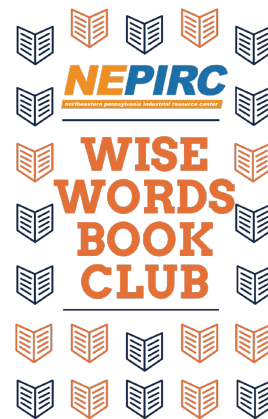
Manufacturer of the Month: Olympia Chimney & Venting

October's Manufacturer of the Month is [Olympia Chimney & Venting](#), a leading manufacturer of chimney venting systems, liners and accessories located in Pittston, PA. Since 1999, Olympia Chimney has been recognized for producing high-quality products with innovative design and engineering.

In 2019, Olympia obtained Copperfield Chimney Supply, quickly becoming a leading national distributor serving contractors and retailers in the hearth and chimney services industry. This gain of Copperfield united two of the most respected names in the chimney and venting sector. Today, Olympia manufactures a wide range of products, including chimney caps, chase covers and universal components, all available through their customizable shop.

Over the years, Olympia has promoted a healthy work environment that supports inclusion and treats all employees with compassion. NEPIRC would like to thank Olympia Chimney for all they have contributed to our community!

If you'd like to be featured as a Manufacturer of the Month, please email Chelsey@NEPIRC.com for more information.



Browse NEPIRC's 2024/2025 Training Catalog

Looking for training opportunities for you or your team? Browse NEPIRC's recently released Training & Events Catalog to find the program(s) you're looking for.

- [CLICK HERE](#) to download NEPIRC's 2024/2025 Training Catalog
- [CLICK HERE](#) to download NEPIRC's 2024/2025 Training Calendar overview.

Questions about a NEPIRC training program? Email Info@NEPIRC.com.

Join NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club

Are you looking to join a professional network that doesn't require too much of your free time? Do you enjoy reading books that help you become a more impactful leader? You need to join NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club!

NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club only meets once month on the fourth Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. via MS Teams to discuss a bestselling professional development book.

The Club will meet next on October 24 to discuss [The Energy Bus](#) by Jon Gordon. Click the button below to learn more about this book and join the Club!

Visit Training & Events
Page

Join the Club!

Upcoming Training Programs

OSHA 10 Training for General Industry, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Monday, October 21, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Wednesday, October 23, 8 a.m. to Noon, NEPIRC Hazleton

Coffee & Coaching Breakfast Meeting: Workplace Safety, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Tuesday, October 29, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at NEPIRC Towanda

OSHA 10 Training for General Industry, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesday, November 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Friday, November 15, 8 a.m. to Noon, NEPIRC Towanda

Six Sigma Yellow Belt, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Tuesday, November 19, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., virtually via MS Teams

Reasonable Suspicion Training, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesday, December 4, 9 to 11 a.m., virtually via MS Teams

Two-Hour Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Thursday, December 5, 9 to 11 a.m., at Timeless Destinations in Wellsboro

Two-Hour Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Tuesday, December 10, 9 to 11 a.m., at NEPIRC Towanda

[Learn More & Register](#)

Companies in Need of Suppliers

NEPIRC is relaying these potential new business opportunities to manufacturers across our region. To learn more, email Randy@NEPIRC.com.

- **Plastic Stretch Wrap** – West Tennessee manufacturer is seeking a domestic supplier of plastic stretch wrap. Roll size is 20" by 5,000' with a material gauge of 80. Buyer would prefer rolls packed to 50 rolls/skid and would need multiple skids throughout the year. There is an immediate need for the first shipment, so manufacturers with a fast response time could really capitalize on this opportunity!
- **Fingerprinting Table** – Small quantity but interesting opportunity for the right small furniture or wood product manufacturer. South Carolina buyer seeking fingerprinting tables made of hand laminated wood – although painted, composite and other material options that are easily cleanable would be considered as well. Current supplier, which is no longer viable, made tables from laminated wood and various fasteners. Photos and specification sheets are available to interested suppliers. General dimensions are a 21.25" x 9.5" table top with 10.25" x 21.25" front and 10.25" x 9.5" sides. Fewer than 10 would be needed in first order, but reorder rate is high on these items over time.
- **Residential & Commercial Appliance Fans** – South Carolina company is seeking to comply with BABA requirements by reshoring a currently-imported line of residential and commercial appliance fans. Order would include the entire unit (not components so that it can be applied to buyer's final product and shipped to customers without further assembly required. Fans should operate at 100-130v and 200-240v, 50Hz-60Hz. Best airflow would 530 CFM. Units are similar in design and functionality to the Model

D3G146-LU19-66 Radial Ventilator made by emb-papst of Germany.



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