

NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

December 2024 | Volume 50

NEPIRC.com

Training & Events

CleanEnergy in
Appalachia
Grant
Opportunity

Manufacturing
Ambassador Dream
Team



From all of us at NEPIRC, we wish you and yours a very happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

National News



Careers in Manufacturing

Exciting. Dynamic. High Paying.



Why Choose Manufacturing?¹

Diverse Opportunities

Choose an area that matches your interests and skills in a wide range of industries.

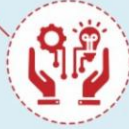


Hands-On Experience and Pride in Creation

Enjoy seeing tangible results and taking products from prototypes to production.

Innovation and Technology

Get to work with cutting edge tools, automated systems, and advanced materials.



Competitive Compensation

Earn competitive salaries and benefit packages. The average compensation in U.S. manufacturing is 6.3% higher than that for total private industry.¹⁶

Job Stability and Career Growth

Progress from entry-level to managerial roles with a clear path for advancement.



Continuous Learning

Evolve and garner knowledge, enabling new career opportunities, as manufacturing changes to incorporate technological advances and reflect consumer preferences.

Top 5 Manufacturing Industries by Employment Growth²

Infographic: Careers in Manufacturing

A new infographic on careers in manufacturing has been released! This infographic highlights why to choose a career in manufacturing, the top five manufacturing industries experiencing employment growth, various careers along with the average pay and more! It can inspire the next generation of workers, motivate mid-career professionals and raise awareness of the many opportunities the manufacturing industry offers.

[View Infographic](#)

From Farm to Future: How Technology Is Heating Up the Food Industry

Matthew Inniger, Program Manager at the Center for Innovative Food Technology (part of Ohio MEP), shared five themes that significantly impact the food industry, including supply chain flexibility, digitization, autonomous systems/automation, increased consumer awareness of food sourcing/sustainability and operational sustainability requirements.

[Read Article](#)

Governor Shapiro Visits Major Hazle Township Development Project to Announce PA Permit Fast Track Program to Speed Up Government — Streamlining Approvals, Fueling Economic Growth and Making Pennsylvania More Competitive

On November 21, Governor Josh Shapiro highlighted Project Hazelnut in Luzerne County as he hosted an event to ceremonially sign Executive Order 2024-04, launching the Pennsylvania (PA) Permit Fast Track Program to streamline the Commonwealth's permitting process for critical economic development and infrastructure projects, boost transparency, cut timelines and ensure government delivers results efficiently.

The Executive Order directs the Office of Transformation & Opportunity (OTO) with leading the PA Permit Fast Track Program (Fast Track) — making OTO responsible for developing, managing and coordinating the program to support complex and impactful projects across government agencies and private partners — in order to get project sponsors answers in a timely manner. The office will also work closely with project sponsors and oversee updates to the Fast Track dashboard, a publicly accessible online tool designed to ensure accountability for both state agencies and project sponsors.

[Learn More](#)

Fayette County Manufacturer Receives \$3M Investment to Create Jobs and Expand Industry

Governor Josh Shapiro recently revealed a \$3 million investment from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to support the growth of Hranec Corp., a homegrown sheet metal manufacturing company based in Fayette County. The initiative is projected to have a significant economic impact, facilitating the construction of a 200,000-square-foot facility, creating 84 full-time jobs and safeguarding 124 existing positions across the state.

[Hranec Corp.](#), founded in 1995, specializes in producing and servicing air handling systems and other sheet metal products. To expand its operations, the company is investing \$15.5 million to build the new facility on a 26-acre site in German Township, directly across from its current location. The project will enhance manufacturing capacity by introducing additional production lines and new product offerings, while upgrades to existing facilities will optimize both manufacturing and warehousing operations.

[Read More](#)

Regional News

Organizations Hope Outreach Puts Students on Right Path

Several area organizations continue highlighting various careers available in Northeast Pennsylvania at schools throughout the region in an effort to keep students close to home and replenish the local workforce.

NEPIRC launched its Dream Team program in 2023 to enlighten high school and college students about job opportunities in the manufacturing field. To date, Dream Team Ambassadors have engaged with more than 16,500 students at more than 50 different schools and colleges.

[Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania](#), which provides career-focused programs to schools in Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montour, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming counties, will also expand its offerings through state funding. A grant from DCED's Manufacturing PA Training-to-Career program will lead to an expansion of several Junior Achievement initiatives including its YES!., Inspire and Company Insight initiatives available to middle and high school students. The funds will also allow the organization to partner with NEPIRC to increase student exposure to manufacturing careers and pair them with regional employers who can teach essential skills for entry-level positions, officials said.

In addition to its Educator in the Workplace program, which connects students with in-demand jobs, the [Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce](#) recently hosted the Wallenpaupack Area High School freshman class at the Scranton Enterprise Center to present information about business, entrepreneurship and workforce development. They also visited the Penn State Scranton, Marywood University, The University of Scranton and Lackawanna College campuses.

Continue
Reading

Lineage Celebrates Grand Opening of Automated Warehouse in Hazleton

[Lineage, Inc.](#), the world's largest global temperature-controlled warehouse REIT, celebrated the grand opening of its new, fully automated cold storage warehouse in Hazle Township, PA. on October 29. The next-generation cold storage facility features advanced technology and a strategic location to help deliver added value for Lineage's customers and a stronger supply chain for consumers.

Lineage's Hazleton facility spans approximately 386,000 square feet and includes approximately 85,000 pallet positions for handling and storing temperature-controlled food products. The building is equipped with cutting-edge technology and automation, including cranes and rail-guided vehicles that are used to store, move and retrieve products within the warehouse.

Hazleton is the newest addition to Lineage's automated facility portfolio of more than 80 fully- and semi-automated buildings backed by proprietary software and in-house automation teams.

Read More

The Latest from NEPIRC



NEPIRC Staff Members Attend Tour of Benton Foundry; See Manufacturer's Energy Conversation Measures First-Hand

NEPIRC team members recently attended a plant tour of [Benton Foundry](#), located in Benton, PA. Coordinated by the [Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program \(PennTAP\)](#) to help metal manufacturers gain more insight into waste reduction and energy efficiency strategies, attendees were able to see Benton Foundry's energy conservation and pollution prevention practices first-hand.

NEPIRC team members pictured above from left to right include Drew Mackie, EVP & COO; Courtney Deignan, Business Advisor for Columbia and Luzerne counties; Mark Morgis, Continuous Improvement Specialist; and Ray Kryeski, Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering Specialist.

Two NEPIRC Team Members Celebrate Milestone Work Anniversaries

October and November marked very monumental work anniversaries for two of the longest tenured NEPIRC employees!

On October 10, Jayne Evans, Accounting & Office Manager, celebrated 30 years at NEPIRC, and Leo Gilroy, Director of Leadership and Organizational Development, celebrated 20 years on November 15.

Jayne and Leo have contributed so much to NEPIRC and have served too many clients to count throughout their time here, and our team is so grateful for each of them!

Jayne and Leo were honored at a staff luncheon and will be further recognized later this month.

Please join us in congratulating Jayne and Leo!





Begin or Expand Your Clean Energy Journey with NEPIRC

If you own or manage a manufacturing facility and wish to improve energy efficiency, reduce the plant's carbon footprint or shift or expand your clean energy product lines, NEPIRC can help!

Thanks to funding provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission ARISE grant program, NEPIRC can assist manufacturers with achieving these goals.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and start the process. You can also email Info@NEPIRC.com.

Webinar: How to Become a Change Agent Within Your Organization to Drive Sustainability Initiatives

[Catalyst Connection](#), NEPIRC's Pittsburgh-based sister Center, is hosting a monthly Sustainability Change Champion Webinar Series kicking off on Friday, December 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The first of these four webinars will focus on how to become a change agent within an organization to drive sustainability initiatives. It will help prepare emerging leaders to manage strategic change both within their organizations and in response to disruptions. Participants will engage in a simulated scenario, taking on roles such as CEO or Director of Product Innovation to navigate challenges related to both internal and external change. The exercise emphasizes diagnosing challenges, planning adaptive actions and leading successful change efforts that align with evolving sustainability goals.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and register!



Manufacturer of the Month

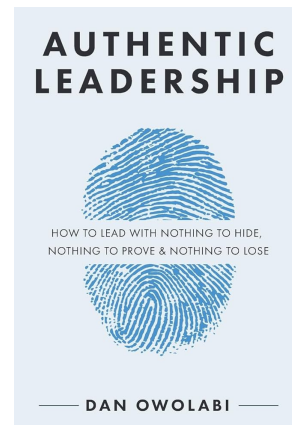
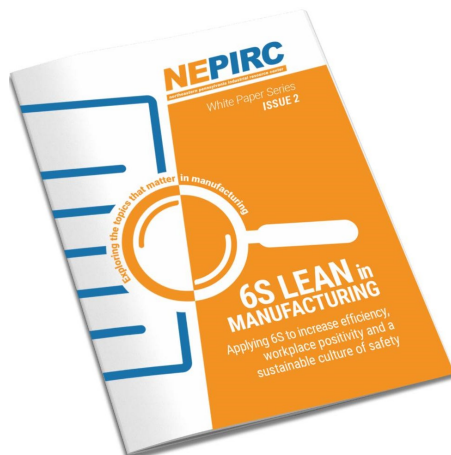


Manufacturer of the Month: Milazzo Industries

UH-OH! Better get the QIK JOE! [Milazzo Industries](http://MilazzoIndustries.com) is Manufacturer of the Month!

Located in Pittston, PA, Milazzo Industries has been a leading force since 1929, starting with Carmen Milazzo who traveled the streets in Pittston selling fruits and vegetables. The family adapted over time, with Joe Milazzo, son of Carmen, later hauling bagged coal. Soon after that, Joe opened a successful coal bagging plant. After Joe's death in 1968, Sam Milazzo, the current President, expanded the business by introducing Instant Light Charcoal and QIK JOE™ ice melt. Today, the company offers a wide range of products, including ice melts, barbequing products, dust control solutions and anthracite coal. Milazzo Industries continually strives for remarkable quality, integrity, and service as its primary focus and foundation. NEPIRC extends its gratitude to Milazzo Industries for their significant contributions to our community.

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



6S Lean In Manufacturing White Paper: Another Great Resource for Manufacturers

Don't forget, NEPIRC has several published resources for manufacturers, like its 6S Lean in Manufacturing white paper, available on our website [here](#).

This publication simplifies the Continuous Improvement concept of 6S, outlines how to successfully launch a 6S effort and provides regional manufacturer 6S success stories. Be sure to give it a read!

Download White
Paper

Authentic Leadership by Dan Owolabi — December's Wise Words Book Club Read

Imagine a world where you wake up, ready to lead with genuine confidence. You rarely feel insecure. You never pretend, perform or act like you have it all together. You are simply secure in who you are and strong enough to influence others. This isn't crazy. This is [Authentic Leadership](#), and you can learn more about what this means by reading this month's Book Club selection.

NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will meet on Thursday, December 19 from noon to 1 p.m. via MS Teams. Click the button below to learn more about this book and join the Club!

Join the Club!

Upcoming Training Programs

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

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

Effectively Using the Power of AI in Manufacturing Webinar, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Thursday, December 12, 10 to 10:45 a.m., via MS Teams

OSHA 30 Training for General Industry, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Tuesdays, January 7 to January 28, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Lean vs. Six Sigma Webinar, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Tuesday, January 14, 10 to 11 a.m., via MS Teams

Lean Specialist Certificate, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Mondays, January 27 to February 24, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

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

- Wednesday, January 29, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., The TekRidge Center, Jessup

8-Week Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Thursdays, January 30 to March 20, 8:30 to 12:30 p.m., NEPIRC Towanda

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

- Tuesday, February 4, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., The Stourbridge Project, Honesdale

Coffee & Coaching Breakfast Meeting: High-Impact Leadership, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Tuesday, February 4, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., The TekRidge Center, Jessup

Applied Project Management, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26 & March 12, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Six Sigma Green Belt Training, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Thursdays, February 6 to March 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., via MS Teams

Intro to AS9100:2016, taught by Ray Kryeski:

- Thursday, February 6, 8 to 11 a.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Reasonable Suspicion Training for Night Shift Employees, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Thursday, February 6, 9 to 11:30 p.m., virtually via MS Teams

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

- Tuesday, February 11, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., BHG Business Campus, East Stroudsburg

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

- Monday, February 17, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at NEPIRC Towanda

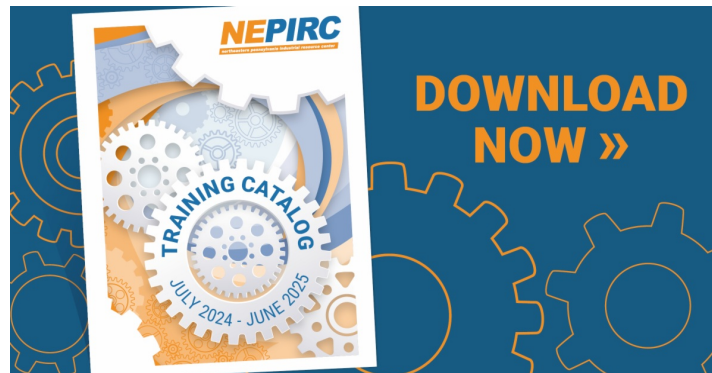
[Learn More & Register](#)

Browse NEPIRC's 2024/2025 Training Catalog

Don't see a training program that interests you in the above list? Browse NEPIRC's 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.



[Browse Training Catalog](#)

Companies in Need of Suppliers

NEPIRC is relaying these potential new business opportunities to manufacturers across our region. To learn more, email Randall Yash, Director of Technology, at Randy@NEPIRC.com.

- **Wooden Barbed Dowel** – Washington state manufacturer is seeking a domestic supplier of wooden barbed dowels. These dowels must be 1” long with a 7/16” ED and 1/8” ID. Supplier is looking for an initial supply of 20,000 per month with a potential increase to 240,000 per month.
- **Cast Iron Lid and Rim** – North Carolina manufacturer is seeking a domestic supplier of Cast Iron Lids and Rims. The required specifications are Ductile iron 12” OD lid and a ribbed structure (rim) to meet H20 load rating. The intended application of this product is a covering for groundwater containment. Supplier is looking for 5,675 units of each part annually. Totaling 11,150 combined units annually.



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