



April 2025 | Volume 54

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National News



How Manufacturers Can Build a Sustainable, Local Workforce Pipeline

By investing in a sustainable local talent pipeline, manufacturers improve their ability to cultivate a workforce that meets their current needs and drives future innovation. This proactive approach involves more than just recruitment; it's about fostering a long-term relationship with your community and nurturing talent from middle school into employment. Roy VanGemert Jr. of the New Hampshire MEP writes in Quality Digest that engaging with students and community members cultivates a workforce that meets current needs and drives innovation.

[Read Article](#)

What Small and Medium-Sized Manufacturers Need to Know About Implementing CMMC

Perhaps you have recently received a communication from a customer regarding compliance with the new Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) model, or maybe you have noticed a contract or supplier survey that included language asking about Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) controls or whether you have

Certified Third-Party Assessor Organization certification. The new CMMC framework was released in October, and many manufacturers are not sure what it means for them. MEP National Network expert Margo Barr-Kosier of IMEC explains what manufacturers should know about CMMC implementation in this IndustryWeek article.

[Read More](#)

State News

Mitsubishi Electric Expands Energy Manufacturing in PA

Mitsubishi Electric Power Products Inc. (MEPPI) has begun construction on an \$86 million manufacturing facility in New Galilee, Pennsylvania, in a step that will further strengthen the Pittsburgh region's position as a national leader in energy manufacturing and infrastructure innovation. The project is expected to create hundreds of jobs while supporting the retention of more than 800 existing positions across MEPPI's operations. The Mitsubishi Electric project adds to a series of recent energy-related investments across the Pittsburgh metro area, underscoring the region's strategic role in the national energy transition.

Manufacturers in northeastern, northern or north central, PA, can take advantage of NEPIRC's Energy & Manufacturing grant program that helps provide energy assistance. [Click here](#) or email Info@NEPIRC.com to learn more.

[Continue Reading](#)

Pennsylvania Now Home to Italian Pasta Maker Il Pastaio's First U.S. Manufacturing Facility, Creating Jobs and Economic Opportunity in Union County

Pennsylvania won a multi-state competition for new business from Italian pasta manufacturer [Il Pastaio](#) to support the company's first pasta manufacturing facility in North America. This project will inject more than \$12.5 million into the local economy and create at least 74 new, full-time jobs in Union County. Based in Italy, Il Pastaio will construct a 71,300-square-foot facility at the Great Stream Commons business park in Gregg Township (near State College). This investment will expand the company's gnocchi manufacturing capabilities and growing presence in the United States.

[Read More](#)

Regional News

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

Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) has once again been recognized as one of the Top 10 Regions for Economic Development in the U.S.! For the fifth consecutive year, NEPA has ranked among the best in Site Selection Magazine's Governor's Cup Awards, securing spots in:

- Top Metro by Projects in the USA
- Top Metro Per Capita by Projects in the USA
- Top Metro by Projects in the Northeast USA

This achievement underscores the region's strategic location, skilled workforce and strong business climate, making it a prime destination for investment and growth.

[Learn More](#)

Workforce Groups Collaborate to Improve Area's Economic Outlook

From introducing students and educators to business leaders, to providing firms with funding to grow and excel, to highlighting job opportunities, several local organizations work together to improve the job picture in our region.

[Continue Reading](#)

Upcoming Partner Events

Scranton Area Community Foundation Offering Virtual Sessions for NEPA Thrives Workforce Barriers Summit Series



Originally scheduled as in-person events, the NEPA Thrives Workforce Barriers Summit has transitioned to an interactive virtual series format via Zoom, ensuring accessibility while maintaining the same valuable content. Hosted by the [Scranton Area Community Foundation](#) through its NEPA Thrives initiative, the Summit series will bring together employers, human resources professionals, executives and managers to tackle workforce recruitment and retention challenges across northeastern Pennsylvania.

This virtual series will include expert-led discussions and solution-driven collaborations, leading up to an in-person wrap-up collaborative on May 1. Click below to learn more and view the one-hour sessions offered this month.

Questions? Contact Koren Clark, Community Impact Manager, at koren@safdn.org.

[Learn More](#)

Seminar: Export Controls Under the ITAR & EAR

Our friends at NEPA Alliance are offering an in-



person seminar entitled, "Export Controls Under the ITAR & EAR," on Thursday, April 24. The event will take place at NEPA Alliance's office, 1151 Oak St, Pittston, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is \$50 per person and covers course materials, lunch and refreshments. Click below to register!

Register
Now

Available Real Estate for Manufacturers

Check out this month's real estate listings from [Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services!](#) Click on the link next to each photo for more information, including photos, specs and drawings. [Click here](#) to email Jim Cummings, VP of Marketing for Mericle, should you wish to connect about one of the featured properties.



63 Green Mountain Road,
Humboldt Industrial Park,
East Union Township - 293,493 SF

[Click here](#) to learn more about this property.



535-555 Research Drive,
CenterPoint East,
Pittston Township - 170,000 SF

[Click here](#) to learn more about this property.



144-154 Commonwealth Drive,
CenterPoint South,
Jenkins Township - 136,500 SF

[Click here](#) to learn more about this property.

The Latest from NEPIRC



NEPIRC Business Advisor Moderates Panel at Johnson College Hazleton's Girls On Fire Event

Courtney Deignan, NEPIRC Business Advisor for Columbia and Luzerne counties, was the moderator for the morning panel discussion at Johnson College's recent Girls on Fire event at its new Hazleton campus. The panel featured women from various STEM careers who shared their career journeys with students.

Girls on Fire brought together more than 60 girls from the Hazleton Area School District to learn about career opportunities in STEM. The students also participated in hands-on activities and toured the campus to explore the different programs available at Johnson College.

NEPIRC thanks Johnson College for asking us to be part of this great event.

Manufacturing Day 2025 Sponsorships Available; Don't Delay!

54 companies have already made the decision to sponsor NEPIRC's annual Manufacturing Day (MFG DAY) Best Practices Summit & Expo on Friday, October 3, at the Mohegan Pennsylvania Casino & Convention Center in Wilkes-Barre!

If your company has not yet made the decision to sponsor, what are you waiting for? Sponsorship packages are available to meet all price points, and each package includes a 10x10 exhibitor space, along with much more.

Exhibitor space included with sponsorship will sell out, so don't wait if you're interested!

[Click here](#) for more information and to view sponsorship packages.

New to Manufacturing Day? Check out some common FAQs:



Why attend MFG DAY? Attendees connect with hundreds of manufacturers and industry professionals for a day of learning, collaboration and celebration. NEPIRC's annual MFG DAY Best Practices Summit & Expo aims to empower manufacturers, change public perception about the industry, highlight its economic impact and introduce more people to the advanced technology being used throughout the sector.



Who Should Attend MFG DAY? Manufacturing executives and decision makers; non-manufacturers who provide a service or product that benefits the manufacturing industry; economic development organizations; high school and college students; colleges/universities; manufacturing advocates and enthusiasts; government officials; technology, robotics and AI companies; champions of Northeastern Pennsylvania; and anyone who would like to learn more about the manufacturing industry or is considering a manufacturing career.



What Does MFG DAY Entail? MFG DAY offers attendees the opportunity to participate in educational breakout sessions; hear from nationally acclaimed speakers; meet and network with manufacturing and non-manufacturing decision makers, buyers and business owners; interact with PA-made products; see the great technological advancements in the industry; celebrate the many achievements of our manufacturing sector; and more.



Questions? Email Chelsey@NEPIRC.com.



NEPIRC Team Members Meet with Congressman Bresnahan's Office

Brian Langan, District Director for Congressman Rob Bresnahan, recently met with NEPIRC team members, Chelsey Coslett-Traver, Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement; Marla Hager, Director of Client Development; and Drew Mackie, EVP & CFO, to discuss the valuable services NEPIRC provides to support small and medium-sized manufacturers throughout northeastern PA.

We appreciate Mr. Langan's time and Congressman Bresnahan's commitment to

Webinar: Best Practices for Managing Tariff Changes

Import tariffs are evolving, impacting costs and supply chains. To stay competitive, businesses must adopt proactive strategies to control costs and ensure supply continuity.



On April 22 from 1 to 2 p.m., join this webinar to hear from Rosemary Coates, Executive Director of The Reshoring Institute, as she discusses best practices and strategies in a variety of industries like high-tech, semiconductors, medical devices, printing, consumer products and more on how they are navigating these challenges.

Attendees will learn how companies are managing tariff changes, discover strategies for cost control and supply chain resilience and gain insights from cross-industry research.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register!



Curious Energy Audits? Sign up for These Two Webinars

[Catalyst Connection](#), NEPIRC's Pittsburgh-based sister Center, will offer two Sustainability Change Champion webinars this month, which will focus on energy audits:

- Energy Audit - What's an Energy Audit and What's the Business Case for One? - April 11, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. [Learn more and register.](#)
- Energy Audit - How Easy is it to do One, and is Now the Right time for Your Organization? - April 25, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. [Learn more and register.](#)

BRIDON · BEKAERT

THE ROPES GROUP



Manufacturer of the Month: Bridon-Bekaert - The Ropes Group

Bridon-Bekaert - The Ropes Group, a global manufacturer located in Hanover Township, is NEPIRC's April Manufacturer of the Month. Bridon offers a variety of wire roping like steel, hybrid, and synthetic and supports industries in onshore and offshore oil & gas, underground and surface mining, cranes and industrial, structures, fishing and marine, cableways and forestry. The manufacturer is known for its commitment to innovation, investing in advanced technologies to improve product quality and efficiency.

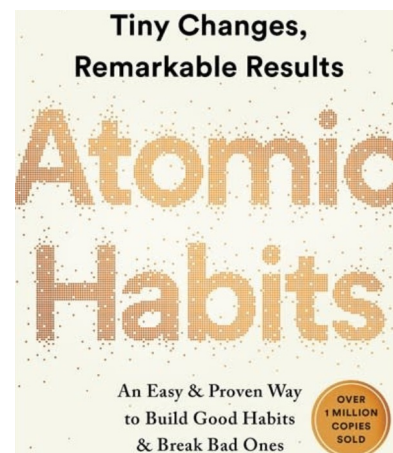
Even though Bridon is a global manufacturer, the company remains focused on community engagement and has made significant contributions to northeastern PA's manufacturing industry as a result. To learn more about Bridon-Bekaert - The Ropes Group, [click here!](#)

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



Don't Forget: If You Need a Domestic Supplier, NEPIRC Can Help

NEPIRC is here to help manufacturers source domestic suppliers. If you're a manufacturer facing high demand and need a second supplier or are



Learn How Tiny Changes Can Create Remarkable Results

experiencing cost or shipping issues, then taking advantage of NEPIRC's supplier scouting assistance is a good place to begin.

To initiate the process, click the button below and complete NEPIRC's supplier scouting form. Once submitted, a NEPIRC representative will be in touch.

Questions? Email Randy Yash, NEPIRC's Director of IT, at Randy@NEPIRC.com.

Complete Form

This month, NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club is reading the #1 New York Times Bestseller, [*Atomic Habits*](#) by James Clear.

No matter your goals, *Atomic Habits* offers a proven framework for improving every day. James Clear, one of the world's leading experts on habit formation, reveals practical strategies that will teach you exactly how to form good habits, break bad ones and master the tiny behaviors that lead to remarkable results.

Join us if you'd like to learn the secret to changing your habits once and for all! NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will meet on Thursday, May 1 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; Register Today

Lean Tool Training: 6S System, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Friday, April 11, 8 a.m. to noon, at NEPIRC Effort

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

- Tuesdays, April 29 to May 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp. and virtually via MS Teams

ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditor Training, taught by Ray Kryeski:

- Wednesday, May 14 and Thursday, May 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., virtually via MS Teams

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 Randall Yash, Director of Technology, at Randy@NEPIRC.com.

- **Polyurethane Injection Resin** - New Mexico manufacturer is seeking polyurethane injection resin that will be used to inject into cracks of concrete water holding structures to prevent leakage. The resin must meet the following specifications: minimum 350 percent elongation and minimum 150 pounds per square inch tensile strength measured in accordance with ASTM D3574 or ASTM D638. Less than 2 percent shrinkage.
- **Food Grade Product Packaging** - Manufacturer in Louisiana is seeking a

secondary supplier of 5" x 8" heat sealed top and bottom vinyl packaging. Supplier will need to fill and seal pouches, place them in 5-gallon buckets with cover, stack pallets with 36 buckets each for shipping. Estimated volume of 60,000 bags per year.



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