

NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

February 2025 | Volume 52

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National News



Rethink Your Supply Chain Strategy for Better Outcomes

Imagine transforming your supply chain into a dynamic network where collaboration, continuous improvement and shared innovation unlock new value for your business. This shift will lead to more resilient, cost-effective and agile operations. Supplier relationship management (SRM) is the key to achieving this transformation. The MEP's latest supply chain white paper, *Rethink Your Supply Chain Strategy for Better Outcomes*, outlines an approach to implementing SRM, offering practical insights and strategies for manufacturers.

[Read White
Paper](#)

Time To Think Big To Close America's Small Business Productivity Gap

Establishing a training ecosystem, such as the MEP program, can help micro, small and medium-sized enterprises access technical and strategic expertise. The MEP National Network has interacted with over 36,000 small manufacturers, creating or

retaining more than 100,000 jobs and generating significant economic returns.

[Learn More](#)

State News

What Business Owners, Elected Officials and Economic Development Leaders Are Saying About Governor Shapiro's Investments to Create Jobs and Drive Economic Growth

At the end of January, Governor Shapiro and his Administration announced several economic development projects in Pennsylvania – securing millions of dollars in private sector investments that will create hundreds of good-paying jobs in communities all across the Commonwealth. Since taking office, the Governor has prioritized making Pennsylvania more economically competitive, attracting over \$3 billion in private sector investments and creating more economic opportunity for Pennsylvanians. From creating Pennsylvania's first Economic Development Strategy in nearly two decades – focused on key sectors like agriculture, energy, life sciences, manufacturing and technology – to supporting local and global companies who want to grow in the Commonwealth, Governor Shapiro and his Administration continue to prove that Pennsylvania is open for business.

[Read More](#)

Federal Government Invests \$139M in Pennsylvania Semiconductor Manufacturing

Two manufacturers in the Lehigh Valley are receiving a massive investment from the federal government to produce semiconductors. Coherent Corporation is receiving \$79 million to expand its facility in Palmer Township, Senator John Fetterman said in a press release. Infinera Corporation is also receiving \$53 million to support the construction of a new facility in the Bethlehem area. This funding comes from the CHIPS and Science Act.

"The CHIPS Act continues to deliver for our workers and our economy. This funding will help create more good-paying jobs, strengthen our supply chains and reinforce Pennsylvania's position as a hub for innovation and opportunity. Investing in American industry is betting on America's future and I'm all in," said Fetterman. The Lehigh Valley was once a technological epicenter, where transistors were first mass-produced in the United States.

[Read Article](#)

Regional News

PA Invests More Than \$1.5M to Help Beverage Packaging Company REV Copack Expand

On January 22, Gov. Josh Shapiro announced a \$1.5 million investment from the Commonwealth to support the expansion of [REV Copack](#) — a beverage packaging company in Pittston Township. The company is investing \$3.1 million to more than

double its manufacturing capacity, creating at least 132 full-time jobs and retaining 18 jobs. REV Copack is moving its operation from the Grimes Industrial Park in Pittston Township to the CenterPoint Commerce and Trade Park, also in Pittston Township.

The Governor's office said REV Copack has outgrown its existing Pittston Township location and is relocating to a larger facility that will allow the company to scale up from two production lines to at least four production lines for its beverage packaging operation.

The company received a funding proposal from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for a \$1.5 million Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) loan and a \$55,000 WEDnetPA grant to train workers.

[Read More](#)

Last Chance to Participate! Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania to Host JA Inspire: A Career Exploration Experience in April

Meet the talent of tomorrow, TODAY! That's the motto of Junior Achievement (JA) of Northeastern Pennsylvania's [2025 Inspire Career Exploration Experience](#) taking place April 1 and 2 at Mohegan Pennsylvania in Wilkes-Barre. This event engages 2,500 students from more than 25 school districts throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania in 80+ hands-on, interactive exhibits with local companies in 10 career clusters. The result? Students are exposed to career opportunities, create connections and are inspired toward a pathway for future success.

This year, the JA team is working hard to expand the Manufacturing Career Cluster and is calling on the many great manufacturing companies in our region to step up and participate as exhibitors. Click the orange box below to learn more about Inspire 2025 and the exhibition opportunities. We hope you'll help inspire today's students to become the next generation of manufacturing workers!

[Sign up for INSPIRE 2025](#)

ICYMI! WVIA's NEPA @ Work Series Provides a Look Into Some of Northeastern PA's Premier Manufacturing Companies

Don't miss out on watching this great series by [WVIA! NEPA @ Work](#) is a captivating digital-first series that takes viewers on an exclusive behind-the-scenes journey into the heart of global manufacturing in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania. An exciting partnership between WVIA and [DiscoverNEPA](#), each five-minute episode and blog post will delve into the intricate processes, innovative technologies and the dedicated individuals driving success in our vibrant region.

Featured manufacturing companies include:

- Yuengling
- Gertrude Hawk
- Gentex Corporation
- Noble Biomaterials
- Olympia Chimney & Venting
- USHydrations
- EAM-Mosca
- PowerRail

- Production Systems Automation (PSA)
- SCHOTT

We encourage you to watch WVIA's NEPA @ Work series to learn more about each of these innovative manufacturers and the state-of-the-art products they make. You'll be amazed at what's being made in our region and the technologically advanced processes each facility employs!

Watch
Now

The Latest from NEPIRC



2024 - Another Year of Helping Regional Manufacturers Succeed

NEPIRC completed another rewarding year of providing strategic and critical support to manufacturers throughout northeastern, northern and north central PA. Throughout the year, 149 manufacturers turned to NEPIRC for advice, training and technical assistance. As a result of this work, NEPIRC's clients reported 1,315 created or retained jobs, \$62.5 million being invested in expansion and modernization efforts, \$175.2 million in new and retained sales and \$11.4 million in cost savings.

This data was gathered by the independent market research and analysis firm, the Fors Marsh Group, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, which confirms that NEPIRC engagements made a positive impact across the region. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the infographic.

Save the Date for Manufacturing Day
2025

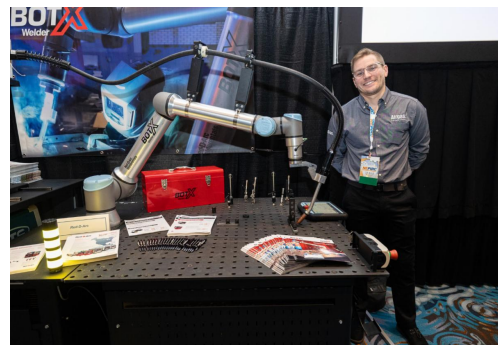
It's that time of year again to save the date for NEPIRC's 2025 Manufacturing Day (MFG DAY) Best Practices Summit & Expo!

Be part of MFG DAY on Friday, October 3, at the Mohegan Pennsylvania Casino & Convention Center in Wilkes-Barre. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with hundreds of manufacturers and industry professionals for a day of 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 available career opportunities.

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.

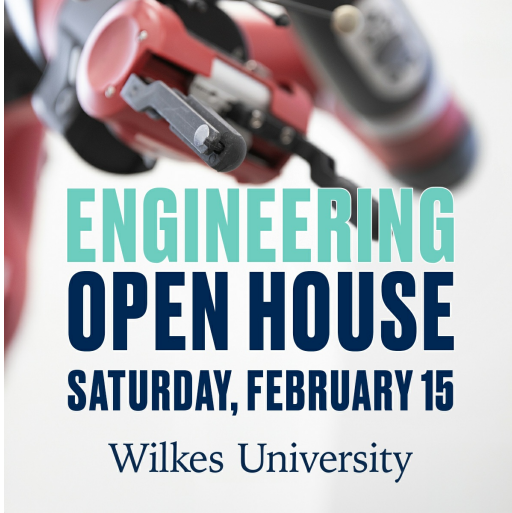
What Does MFG DAY Entail? MFG DAY offers attendees the opportunity to participate in educational breakout sessions; hear from nationally acclaimed speakers; meet and network with manufacturing and non-manufacturing decision makers, buyers and business owners; interact with PA-made products; see the great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

Sponsorship/exhibitor information for this year's event will be available soon!



NEPIRC Business Advisor Helps Promote Wilkes University Engineering Open House

Courtney Deignan, NEPIRC's Business Advisor for Luzerne and Columbia



counties, is a member of Wilkes University's Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering Industrial Advisory Committee. As a member, she is helping to promote an upcoming Engineering Open House to students interested in learning more about the University's engineering programs. Attendees will get a behind-the-scenes look at engineering through an industrial panel, lab visits and interacting with current faculty & students. Please share the event with anyone who might be interested! [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and sign up.

Mark Morgis and Brian Matyjevich Celebrate Work Anniversaries

The work anniversaries of Mark Morgis, NEPIRC's Continuous Improvement Specialist, and Brian Matyjevich, Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer and NEPIRC's Professional Safety Expert & Lean Specialist, are being recognized this month.

- Mark Morgis will celebrate two years on February 7!
- Brian Matyjevich will celebrate five years on February 17!

Mark and Brian are two of NEPIRC's project managers who deliver many of the organization's training programs and oversee implementation projects.

Many thanks to Mark and Brian for all they do to help NEPIRC's manufacturing clients grow and succeed!



Webinar: Energy Audit – How Easy is it to Do One, and is Now the Right Time for Your Organization?

[Catalyst Connection](#), NEPIRC's Pittsburgh-based sister Center, is hosting a monthly

Sustainability Change Champion Webinar Series. The series kicked off in December and will run through February. The webinars do not build upon each other, so if you miss one, you can still sign up for the others.

The fourth and final webinar will take place on February 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Entitled, *Energy Audit – How Easy is it to Do One, and Is Now the Right Time for Your Organization?*, the webinar will provide emerging leaders with a number of examples of energy audits and helps them understand how to implement energy audits at their organization.

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

Medical Marijuana and the Workplace was Topic of Discussion at January's NTRPDC Manufacturing Industry Partnership Meeting

Last week, Brian Matyjevich presented at the [Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission's \(NTRPDC's\)](#) quarterly Manufacturing Industry Partnership meeting. Brian discussed medical marijuana and the workplace to a room of regional manufacturers who had many questions, which led to a lively discussion.

NTRPDC's Manufacturing Industry Partnership is open to any manufacturer in the Northern Tier. The next meeting is scheduled for Apr. 24 at 8 a.m., location to be determined. Anyone interested in learning more about the Industry Partnership or would like to attend should contact Melissa Fleming, NTRPDC's Workforce Director, at Fleming@NorthernTier.org.



Get on the Bus to Clean Energy Adoption

If you live in Luzerne County, PA, have you seen NEPIRC's ad on the Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA)'s CNG buses yet? If not, keep an eye out while driving, but please do so safely!

Which program is the ad promoting, you ask? NEPIRC is a recipient of a clean energy grant thanks to funding provided



by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) ARISE program that helps manufacturers improve energy efficiency, reduce their carbon footprint or shift or expand clean energy product lines. Benefits of making these changes can include:

- Business growth
- Cost savings
- Increased efficiency
- Energy independence
- And more!

NEPIRC is ready to assist manufacturers with this endeavor. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and get started!



Manufacturer of the Month: Noble Biomaterials

Located in Scranton, PA, [Noble Biomaterials](#) is a leading manufacturer specializing in silver fiber technology for antimicrobial properties. Registered as a medical device manufacturing facility by the FDA, Noble Biomaterials has numerous 510(k) medical device clearances and is also a manufacturer of several EPA-approved antimicrobial and anti-odor products.

Noble Biomaterials' products are used in hospitals, burn care centers, military installations and U.S. embassies throughout the country and around the world. Among brands like lululemon, Athleta, Anta, Mack Weldon and others, many people have purchased products that possess the antimicrobial and anti-odor technology from Noble Biomaterials and might not even realize!

NEPIRC thanks Noble Biomaterials for its innovation and dedication to excellence in the materials manufacturing industry.

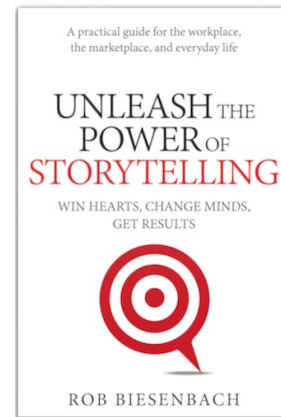
If you'd like to be featured as a Manufacturer of the Month, please email Chelsey@NEPIRC.com for more information.



Hosting a Plant Tour? NEPIRC Can Help With That

Let NEPIRC make planning your next plant tour a little easier with our Plant Tour checklist! The publication also provides information on NEPIRC's OSHA-approved plant tour headsets that include two speaker sets and 12 guest sets that are available for use to help ensure your guests can easily hear the tour guide. There is also no charge to reserve and use the headsets.

Interested to learn more? Click the button below to download the guide or email Info@NEPIRC.com to reserve your headsets now.



Learn How to Unleash the Power of Storytelling!

This month, NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club is reading [*Unleash the Power of Storytelling*](#) by Rob Biesenbach. Study after study confirms that stories have unparalleled power to break down walls, build trust and influence people to act. More than facts and data alone, stories are fundamental to capturing and expressing our ideas, wishes and beliefs and getting the results we want. The right story can help you nail a job interview, earn a raise, close a sale, strengthen relationships with customers and employees, become a more comfortable networker, rally a team and more.

Join us if you'd like to learn how to harness the power of storytelling in your life and career! NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 27 from noon to 1 p.m. via MS Teams. Click the button below to learn more about this book and join the Club.

Download Plant Tour
Guide

Join the Club!

Upcoming Training Programs; Register Today!

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

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., in person at NEPIRC Towanda and virtually via MS Teams

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

- Tuesdays, March 4 to March 25, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the TekRidge Center, Jessup

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

- Wednesdays, March 5, 12 and 19, 8 a.m. to noon, virtually via MS Teams

Applied 3D Scanning & Printing Technologies, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Friday, March 14, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Arc Flash / NFPA 70E Training, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Monday, March 17, 8 a.m. to noon, at NEPIRC Effort

SafeLandUSA Training, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Monday, March 24, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at NEPIRC Towanda

ISO9001:2015 Internal Auditor Training, taught by Ray Kryeski:

- Wednesday, March 26 and Thursday, March 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the TekRidge Center, Jessup

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

- Tuesdays, April 1 to April 22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at NEPIRC Towanda

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

- Wednesdays, April 2 to May 21, 8 a.m. to noon, at the TekRidge Center, Jessup

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

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

High-Impact Leadership, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Tuesdays, April 15 to June 10, 8 a.m. to noon, at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

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

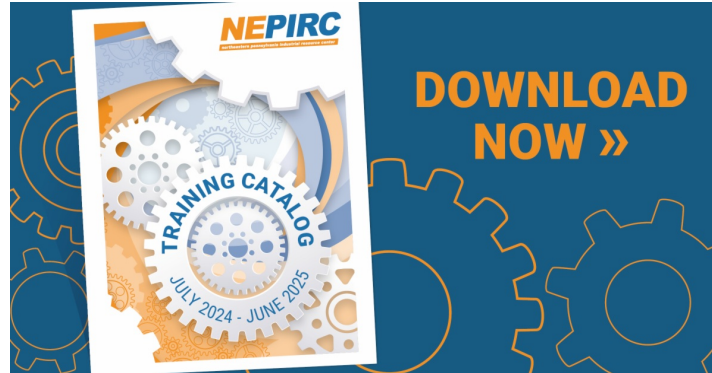
[Learn More & Register](#)

Browse NEPIRC's 2025 Training Catalog

Don't see a training program that interests you in the above list? Browse NEPIRC's Training & Events Catalog to find additional trainings not yet listed.

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

- **Cut and Sew Services** - Manufacturer being sought for cut and sew services for pillows shipped to North Carolina. Manufacturer needs to process 50-yard rolls of upholstery weight goods into throw pillows for resale. Rolls of fabric will be supplied; however, thread and zipper need to be supplied by the manufacturer. This is a small batch run with potential for volume at a later date.
- **Reusable Totes** - Manufacturer being sought out for reusable totes shipped to Hawaii. The totes need to be made of injected-molded HDPE with seamless construction to minimize dirt and residue buildup. The totes will be used in various environments, including humid tropical conditions and kitchen settings. Totes must also be lightweight for easy handling and compatible with standard shelving and transportation equipment. Approximately 30 units needed.



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