

COMPANY PROFILE

Manchester Industries, a division of PaperWorks Industries, is one of the largest independently-owned paper and paperboard converters in North America. Founded in 1978, the company uses precision converting technology to provide prime paperboard grades from leading mills to paper merchants and packaging companies. Its corporate headquarters are in Richmond, Virginia, and it has other facilities in Texas, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania. There are 22 employees at the Wilkes-Barre facility.

SITUATION

The Manchester Industries facility in Wilkes-Barre needed to reduce waste in its manufacturing processes and increase personnel productivity to improve its competitiveness. Management identified Lean Manufacturing training as a key strategy to help achieve these objectives and turned to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NEPIRC), a NIST MEP affiliate, for assistance.

SOLUTION

NEPIRC's Certified Lean Instructors engaged Manchester Industries' production workers and supervisors in Lean Manufacturing training with simulation. Through the "learn-and-do" training, employees managed to seek out and reduce non-value activities and waste in their operations. The Wilkes-Barre facility is now operating well below industry averages for waste, and well above for productivity. As it continues on its Lean journey, the company is looking forward to future improvements. Manchester Industries has asked NEPIRC to return to the Wilkes-Barre facility to provide additional Lean Manufacturing training to recent new hires as well as to office staff.

RESULTS // Reduced waste from over 3% to 1%, Increased productivity from less than 1 ton/hour to over 1.5 tons/hour

TESTIMONIAL

“ We are proud of the operational improvements achieved in our Wilkes-Barre facility. NEPIRC's training and simulation, and their outstanding instructors, help make it possible. ”

- Jerry Gazinski, Operations Manager
Manchester Industries, Allentown, Pennsylvania

