

SUSTAINABILITY

Helping manufacturers gain a competitive edge, maintain profitability and job creating growth while increasing energy efficiency and reducing environmental impacts.

A sustainable approach to manufacturing is one that merges environmental, societal and economic concerns. Continual improvement is necessary in these three areas in order to secure the future of companies, communities, supply chains and the environment. The Manufacturing Extension Partnership – part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the U.S. Department of Commerce (DoC) – focuses on sustainability as a key business growth strategy to improve U.S. manufacturing competitiveness. In fact, MEP has adopted Sustainability as one of its key Next Generation Strategies. Companies that commit to implementing eco-friendly changes find themselves with lower operating costs, access to new markets and a more profitable enterprise.



Sustainability efforts at MEP include:

E3 — Economy, Energy, and Environment: A coordinated federal and local technical assistance initiative that is helping manufacturers across the nation adapt and thrive in a new business era focused on sustainability. Joining forces with the local community, E3 provides manufacturers with customized, hands-on assessment of production processes and assists with the implementation of energy-saving projects. E3 serves as a unique model by working directly with the local manufacturers, utilities, and business communities and streamlining the delivery of technical and financial resources from a pool of E3 collaborating agencies and programs, including DOC, DOE, DOL, EPA, SBA, and USDA.

For more information about E3, contact Brian Lagas at brian.lagas@nist.gov

Building Construction Technology Extension Pilot project (BCTEP): A collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy focusing on training building operations staff to retune energy systems in smaller commercial and industrial buildings. Commercial buildings account for almost 20% of the total U.S. energy consumption, and 10% to 30% of the energy used in commercial buildings is wasted because of improper and inefficient operations. While sophisticated energy management and control systems are used in large commercial buildings to manage heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems and components, many buildings still are not properly commissioned, operated, or maintained. This lack of proper operation and maintenance leads to inefficiencies, reduced lifetime of equipment, and, ultimately, higher energy costs. Three MEP Centers are teaching a “building re-tuning” approach to small manufacturers that detect energy savings opportunities. Re-tuning is a systematic process to identify operational problems by leveraging data collected from the building and correcting those problems at no-cost or low-cost.

For more information about BCTEP, contact Stacey Wagner at stacey.wagner@nist.gov

