

KENTUCKY MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

The Kentucky Manufacturing Extension Partnership (KMEP) is a statewide, not-for-profit partnership that provides assistance and training to help manufacturers of all sizes grow, improve their manufacturing and business strategies and processes, adopt advanced technologies, increase productivity, reduce costs, and improve competitiveness. KMEP's cost effective services give companies the tools to be competitive. Whether it is a spot solution or total transformation, all technical assistance and training is customized to fit their objectives.

KMEP provides manufacturers with services they need to achieve a 20/20 balance: at least 20% growth to their top line, along with at least 20% decrease in bottom-line costs. These services address top-line growth for clients, specifically focusing on identifying new sales, developing new products, entering new markets, and deploying new business models. With professionals averaging over 20+ years of applicable in-industry experience, KMEP can deliver the training and services needed to address the full spectrum of needs faced by businesses and the industry.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2023



\$113.9 Million

Total Increased/Retained Sales



1,160

Total Increased/Retained Jobs



\$76.4 Million

New Client Investments



\$24.7 Million

Cost Savings

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Kentucky Manufacturing
Extension Partnership

CLOSE THE LOOP: LEAN MANUFACTURING

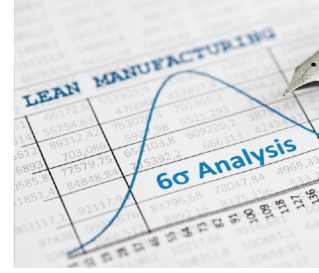
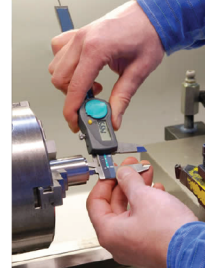
ABOUT CLOSE THE LOOP INC.. Close the Loop of Hebron, Kentucky, provides best-in-class sustainability solutions to help companies create and elevate their corporate social responsibility programs. Since the company's inception in 2001, the team at Close the Loop has taken pride in pioneering sustainability solutions that redefine corporate social responsibility. With a mission to empower companies to minimize waste, even the toughest to recycle items, they collectively strive for a circular economy, which makes the most of valuable resources, transforming items that generally end up in landfills and oceans into useful commodities that can be returned to the supply chain.

THE CHALLENGE. Ryan Wiegand, Close the Loop's operations managers, led an initiative to enhance operational efficiency and employee engagement with a workforce unfamiliar with Lean practices. Seeking expertise, Ryan turned to the KY-MEP, part of the MEP National Network™, for assistance.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. KY-MEP delivered hands-on lean training in both English and Spanish, tailored to the unique needs of Close the Loop's diverse workforce. KY-MEP's approach created an atmosphere where the employees are not just trained, they are inspired and empowered to embrace a culture of continuous improvement, resulting in a 50% reduction in turnover and increased efficiency.

"The Kentucky MEP team was great to work with. Their Principles of Lean Manufacturing class is not your typical classroom training; the hands-on simulation allowed our team to use the lean principles they learned, apply changes, and see results. This experience allowed our employees to understand how lean principles can affect the efficiency of their individual responsibilities and the positive impact on the overall production outcome."

-Ryan Weigand, Operations Manager



RESULTS



50% reduction in turnover



Up to 30% increase in line efficiency



20% of existing labor reallocated to new lines



Cleaner facility where everything has a purpose and place



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