The MEP National Network™ is a unique public-private partnership that delivers comprehensive, proven solutions to U.S. manufacturers, fueling growth and advancing U.S. manufacturing.

**WISCONSIN CENTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTIVITY**

The Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing and Productivity (WCMP) collaborates with the UW Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center (MOC) and the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) to help Wisconsin manufacturers grow their businesses and become more profitable. WCMP enhances the success of Wisconsin's small to midsize manufacturers by providing expert and accessible services in the areas of growth and innovation, continuous improvement, training, export assistance, supply chain management, and profitable sustainability. WCMP is a strong advocate for manufacturers in Wisconsin and supports Wisconsin manufacturing at a national level. A strong advocate for the state's small and midsize manufacturers, WCMP strives to transform industry through consulting services, industry studies, seminars, publications, and annual Manufacturing Matters! Conference. WCMP is an affiliate of NIST’s Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), a national network of 59 centers that provide assistance to small and midsize manufacturers.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2017

- **$117.8 Million**  
  Total Increased/Retained Sales

- **1,117**  
  Total Increased/Retained Jobs

- **$53.2 Million**  
  New Client Investments

- **$30.7 Million**  
  Cost Savings

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WISCONSIN CENTER FOR MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTIVITY
REDUCING COST AND POLLUTION

ABOUT KLONDIKE CHEESE COMPANY. Klondike Cheese has been producing award-winning cheese at the same location in Monroe, Wisconsin since the late 1800s. The family-owned company employs 80 people and is a major area employer.

THE CHALLENGE. The Buholzer family is focused on sustainability for financial reasons and to reduce the ecological impact on the community, where the family has lived for four generations. As soon as they heard about the Wisconsin Profitable Sustainability Initiative (PSI) pilot program, they applied. PSI's goal is to help participants reduce costs, gain competitive advantage and minimize environmental impacts. PSI brings together a team of energy, environmental, logistics and lean experts to work with manufacturers to identify and implement improvements. Klondike's management was interested in learning about the ways to reduce environmental impact both by using fewer resources and by developing ways to better handle the waste water from their manufacturing processes.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Wisconsin MEP, a NIST MEP affiliate, conducted a Lean and Clean review at Klondike, which mapped out all of the manufacturing processes to discover where wasted time and resources occur. The review found that an immediate opportunity to reduce cost, time and pollution was in the cut and wrap packaging process that was outsourced to other companies. By purchasing packaging equipment to finish the product in-house, the company can eliminate a bottleneck in the production process, cut product delivery time by 70% and reduce fuel use and pollution resulting from shipping product to and from packaging companies.

"We are committed to growing the company and investing in our community. PSI has helped us get focused and get started on projects we’d been thinking about for quite some time. I’m excited about the plans we have for the future."

-Ron Buholzer, President

RESULTS

- $150,000 investment in equipment
- $75,000 annually in costs related to shipping
- Anticipated hiring of four full-time employees
- Projected savings of 1600 gallons of diesel fuel
- Reduced approximately 16 metric tons of CO2 emissions