



*Supporting Manufacturing Through Sustainability*

## **Partnership with North Carolina's Industrial Assessment Center Leads to More than \$4 Million in Recommended Energy Savings**

The Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC) is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Virginia's Manufacturing Extension Partnership, GENEDGE. MTC's mission is to enhance the success of industry in Southwest Virginia through innovative consulting. By initiating a partnership with U.S. Department of Energy Industrial Assessment Centers, MTC has increased the breadth of services and value it provides its manufacturers.

MTC already had a pollution prevention program, and adding energy conservation assessments to the existing suite of environmental programs, seemed like a natural progression to Keith Litz, PEM, and Environmental and Energy Specialist with MTC. "With less energy being consumed there are less greenhouse gases to impact the environment," said Litz.

With a little research, Litz was able to locate the U.S. Department of Energy Industrial Assessment Centers (IAC), which provide free assessments to manufacturers that meet certain criteria. The MTC has been working closely with the center at NC State University, with great results. This IAC represents one of 24 programs affiliated with universities across the country. The national IAC program is celebrating 40 years of serving small- and medium-sized manufacturers with recommendations for improving efficiency, reducing waste and water and increasing productivity through immediate changes in processes and equipment. Since 1993, the North Carolina IAC has served more than 540 manufacturers.

The process involves the MTC identifying clients, assisting with scheduling and the completion of a pre-assessment form, and conducting a post-assessment survey to collect results. "The partnership brings a high level of value to manufacturing clients," said Litz. "It allows us to provide another credible resource to our already comprehensive array of services," he said.

The program also calls on undergraduate and graduate students to assist with assessments, providing hands-on, real-world experience, as they train to become the next generation of energy engineers.

Since December of 2009, sixteen clients have been served in Southwest and Southside Virginia through this partnership with completed assessments and recommendation reports that highlight payback and energy conservation measures at low or no-cost options. Industries served run the gamut, from mattress makers to food & beverage producers to automotive parts manufacturers. More than 28 million kilowatt-hours were included in the energy conservation measures identified for the collective 16 companies. Five additional assessments in Southwest Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, are currently scheduled for this year.

Like many MEPs around the country, MTC and GENEDGE have a wide array of experienced project managers with diverse industry experience to help manufacturers remain competitive.

MTC also provides services in the following core competencies:

- Continuous Improvement
- Growth and Innovation Services
- Industrial Engineering Services
- Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and Project Support Course
- Quality Management Systems

About the **Manufacturing Extension Partnership**:

[GENEDGE](#) and [MTC](#), respectively, is part of a nationwide network of **Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) centers** that are cooperatively affiliated with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

About **NC State Industrial Assessment Center**:

The NC State Industrial Assessment Center is part of [Energy Solutions](#), within the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at NC State University. The group identifies opportunities in energy efficiency, co-generation and renewables that reduce energy, save costs and increase profits, resulting in a more competitive and sustainable base of industry. The group's mission is to train the next generation of energy engineers while simultaneously strengthening business and industry in the Southeast through fuel- and technology-neutral energy solutions that yield reductions in energy.