

LEAN & THE ENVIRONMENT

Lean is the set of "tools" that assist in the identification and steady elimination of waste and non-value added activity, resulting in a better quality product. Lean was termed by John Krafcik in 1988 and is derived from Toyota's Production System (TPS) model. TPS focuses on the overall flow of production, whereas Lean focuses on reducing waste, time, and costs. However, the end results of both are the same.

Lean principles and methods require continuous improvement through employee engagement. Companies primarily choose to implement lean principles to reduce production resource requirements and reduce the intensity of time, all while improving product quality, increasing customer responsiveness and reducing costs. In other words, Lean principles are considered to be, "more value with less work." A common mistake made by companies is thinking that Lean principles are only applicable to manufacturing. Lean is applicable to all types of companies from customer service operations to office production to manufacturing. Lean aims to make the work simple enough to understand, to do, and to manage.

According to the EPA, Lean principles provide powerful coattails for environmental improvement. Since Lean principles focus on eliminating waste in all aspects of the term, Lean reduces the amount of energy and water used, lowers emissions, and reduces the generation of solid wastes. Implementing Lean methods into your organization can significantly decrease your organization's environmental "footprint." To learn more about Lean and how to implement Lean practices into your organization, join us at the 2009 Minnesota Waste Wise Workshop Series: Integrating Lean into Your Environmental Initiatives on March 10, 2009.

LEAN RESOURCES

United States Environmental Protection Agency

"Lean Manufacturing and the Environment"

www.epa.gov/lean

"Lean Manufacturing Guide"

www.leanmanufacturingguide.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Minnesota Waste Wise offers free printer, toner, and cell phone recycling? Simply go to the Minnesota Waste Wise Web site at www.mnwastewise.org and click on the "Free Printer Cartridge and Cell Phone Recycling" button or click on the following link www.mnwastewise.org/recycling-programs/ink-cartridge-cell-phone-recycling-form.cfm and sign up for the program. It's free and easy.

IN THE NEWS

GreenBiz.com. February 2, 2009

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“New Wal-Mart CEO Says Sustainability Drive Will Continue at Full Speed”

<http://www.greenbiz.com/news/2009/02/02/new-wal-mart-ceo>

The Daily Journal, International Falls. January 30, 2009

“Enrollment in new RRCC program begins” MnSCU approves Rainy River Community College's green and sustainable construction technology program

<http://www.ifallsdailyjournal.com/news/rrcc-news/enrollment-new-rrcc-program-begins-lisa-kaczke-staff-writer-101>

EVENTS

RAM Spring Forums

Feb. 19, Feb. 23, and March 3

Various Locations

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is holding three forums to help those in the recycling industry better understand the impacts the current state of the economy is having on recycling. Visit the RAM Web site at www.recycleminnesota.org for more information or to register.

2009 Minnesota Waste Wise Workshop Series: Integrating Lean Into Your Environmental Initiatives

March 10, 2009

400 North Robert Street, Suite 1500

Saint Paul, MN 55101

Learn what Minnesota companies are doing to Lean into their businesses and how to integrate Lean into your business to save money. For more information, contact Kate Worley at (651) 292-4662 or kworley@mnchamber.com. To register on-line or to view the workshop agenda, visit www.mnwastewise.org.

19th Annual Energy and Design Conference and Expo

Hosted by Minnesota Power

March 9-11, 2009

Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center

The event delivers a diverse selection of quality seminars and workshops to a variety of building, housing, and environmental professionals along with educators, students, homeowners, and others. For more information and to register, visit www.duluthenergydesign.com.

NEW WEB SITE

Check out the new Minnesota Waste Wise Web site at www.mnwastewise.org to find environmental sustainability resources, learn more about your membership benefits or join online as a new member. For more information on membership, contact Minnesota Waste Wise at (651) 292-4675.

SPONSORSHIP & ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Minnesota Waste Wise offers a variety of advertising and sponsorship opportunities to fit all of our members' needs. Please visit our website to learn more about sponsorship and advertising opportunities. www.mnwastewise.org/documents/Sponsorship-Advertising-Opportunities.pdf

WASTE SORTS OFFERED AS NEW MEMBER SERVICE

Minnesota Waste Wise is now offering waste sorts to Minnesota Waste Wise members. Earn a credit for your LEED-EB certification with a waste sort done by Minnesota Waste Wise staff. Learn more about your waste streams to effectively reduce and recycle more. The waste sort includes a

waste assessment of your facility prior to the waste sort; a safe, employee-free on-site waste sort, and a report complete with photos, spreadsheets, charts, recommendations, and resources. Waste sorts are a sliding fee-based service. For more information on waste sorts, contact Minnesota Waste Wise at (651) 292-4675.

MATERIALS EXCHANGE

Minnesota Materials Exchange program is a free service that links organizations that have reusable goods they no longer need to those who can use them. Inform Minnesota Waste Wise of any unwanted items, such as office furniture or equipment, you would like to sell or donate. Minnesota Waste Wise will post the materials in our monthly electronic newsletter and/or on the Minnesota Materials Exchange website operated by the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP).

For the complete list of available and wanted materials, visit the Minnesota Materials Exchange web site at www.mnexchange.org. To list an item with Minnesota Waste Wise, e-mail lgolightly@mnchamber.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

BASF Chemical Company, Shakopee
Cenveo, Minneapolis
Minnesota Environmental Initiative, Minneapolis
Minnesota State Operated Community Services (MSOCS), Statewide
Northern State Bank, Thief River Falls
Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Park Rapids

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Not a member but would like to join? Are you a current member wanting to take full advantage of your member benefits? Contact Kate Worley at (651) 292-4662 or kworley@mnchamber.com.

Disclosure: Wise Mail is a tool to inform our members of current events or waste issues. The content of Wise Mail is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Minnesota Waste Wise does not endorse any of the following waste services, organizations or events. Any such portrayal is unintentional by Minnesota Waste Wise. If you would like to be taken off the Wise Mail list, contact Waste Wise at (651) 292-4663 or mnwastewise@mnchamber.com.