

# IMC Announces Summer 2022 Lean Manufacturing Level One Certification Graduates

written by Lauri Moon | September 26, 2022

IMC is excited to announce the latest graduates of our Lean Manufacturing Level One Certification program. This eight session certification program uses a unique approach to teach participants to:



- Understand how to recognize and eliminate waste through the PLAN-DO-CHECK-ACT (PDCA) cycle
- Determine key activity categories: value added, non-valued-added, and necessary non-value-added
- Identify and map the value stream, pinpointing areas that require improvement
- Develop a roadmap and implementation plan
- Turn data into actionable information to quantify problems and prioritize countermeasures
- Understand “Kata” methodology and how to use a structured coaching approach to drive continuous improvement thinking and acting, down to the contributor level

## Training Topics:

- A3 Thinking
- Value Stream Mapping (VSM)
- Effective Communication

- Kata Principles
- Root Cause Analysis
- Training Within Industry (TWI)
- Graphical Analysis
- Project Coaching & Feedback
- Teaming
- Single Minute Exchange of Dies (SMED)
- Capstone Lean 101

## **Lean Certification Training Benefits:**

During the course of our Level One Lean Certification, participants learned to:

- Apply what they learn to an actual Continuous Improvement project at their facility, and every student develops the components of their own A3
- Develop an ability to identify non-value-added activities (i.e. waste) in processes through DVIRC's "learn and apply" approach
- Help develop solutions to minimize or eliminate non-value-added activities
- Build essential skills related to job instructions, relations, and methods
- Work with a learning partner to implement Continuous Improvement practices

Congratulations to the 41 graduates from the following companies:

- Alberts Spray Solutions
- Andritz
- Architectural Precast Innovations, Inc.
- Construction Specialties
- Custom Container Solutions, LLC
- First Quality Products
- Furmano Foods
- Jersey Shore Steel Co.
- Lewis Lumber Products, Inc.
- Lycoming Engines
- Nutek Disposables

- Overhead Door
- Pneu-Dart
- Shop-Vac USA, LLC
- Stellant Systems
- Strong Industries
- Thermal Product Solutions, LLC



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# Volatile Energy Prices Will Impact Bottom Lines

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IMC recently hosted a webinar where our energy partner, APPI Energy, shared what the volatile energy markets will mean with historic increases in the cost of energy for manufacturers in PA for the coming year and beyond. Dan Forgacs, VP of Market Intelligence & Analytics for APPI, presented

both historical data and projected commercial energy costs as well as potential ways to combat its effects on the bottom line. Included were the projected or confirmed



commercial energy increases by utility companies in PA:

- PECO: \$.07699/kWh, up from \$.06816, June 1 - August 31
- PPL: \$.11695/kWh, up from \$.09675, June 1 - November 30
- Met Ed: \$.10625/kWh, up from \$.07482, 42% increase, June 1 - August 31
- Penelec: \$.11056/kWh, up from \$.08031 per kWh, 38% increase, June 1 - August 31
- Penn Power, \$.12533/kWh, up from \$.10002 per kWh, 25% increase, June 1 - August 31
- West Penn Power, \$.10115/kWh, up from \$.06542, 55% increase, June 1 - August 31

Key to potential solutions were the reduction in peak demand, the use of alternative energy sources, and increasing energy efficiency in facilities. Also presented were opportunities to explore energy procurement opportunities and potential grants and incentives for energy related improvements.

If you missed the webinar, but are interested in learning more, or would like to connect with an IMC Business Advisor to discuss ways to potentially reduce your energy costs through efficiency measures, process improvement, and/or energy procurement services with APPI Energy, email [info@imcpa.com](mailto:info@imcpa.com).

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# **Pennsylvania      Manufacturing Advisory Council Releases Playbook for Competitiveness**

written by Lauri Moon | September 26, 2022



As Pennsylvania's third-largest employment sector – with more than 560,000 full-time workers generating nearly \$115 billion of goods last year alone – manufacturing drives Pennsylvania's overall economy. On August 31, 2022, the Pennsylvania Manufacturing Advisory Council, a nonpartisan partnership

of manufacturers and industry experts, released Pennsylvania's Manufacturing Competitiveness Playbook – an actionable strategy document that identifies three game changers and 10 specific recommendations to make Pennsylvania's manufacturing economy more robust and resilient – thus creating more good-paying jobs for Pennsylvanians.

The efforts of the industry-led, 25-member Pennsylvania Manufacturing Advisory Council were focused on developing recommendations that government leaders across the Commonwealth should consider as ways to expand Pennsylvania's manufacturing economy. The Council's resultant Playbook includes data and advice derived from insights and commentary offered by more than 500 Pennsylvania manufacturers.

“Over the course of the past year, the Council conducted industry roundtables, one-on-one interviews, and surveys to learn directly from manufacturers what statewide policy and programmatic or procedural changes would most immediately and dramatically enhance their ability to compete, win and grow in today's economy, and the Council's report reflects that knowledge and insight,” said Eric Joseph Esoda, Council Co-Chair.

Through careful analysis of industry input, the Council, within its Playbook, recommends three game changers for strengthening Pennsylvania's manufacturing competitive position:

- Recapture Pennsylvania's manufacturing competitive advantage by aggressively pursuing manufacturing growth sectors to drive prosperity.
- Invest in the factory of the future to boost the performance of small and medium-sized companies, improve the quality of manufacturing jobs and

provide better career options for more of Pennsylvania's citizens.

- Unleash the power of advanced manufacturing to drive regional prosperity through policies and services that are more responsive to the needs of manufacturers.

The Playbook builds on Pennsylvania's historic strengths in manufacturing and captures a vision for Pennsylvania's future as a global leader in advanced manufacturing.

"It's vital that we do more for manufacturing because it represents one of Pennsylvania's largest sectors, pays better than most others and offers good benefits," said Dan Fogarty, Council Co-Chair. "The Playbook is a great first step toward coming together around how we can be there for the sector and for communities across the Commonwealth that both support and benefit from our great industrial employers," he added.

The full report can be downloaded on the Manufacturing Advisory Council's website: <https://www.pamanufacturingcouncil.com/playbook>.

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# **IMC Welcomes Ben Eltz, CEO of DiamondBack Truck Covers to Board of Directors**

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Ben Eltz, CEO  
DiamondBack Truck Covers

IMC is excited to welcome Ben Eltz, CEO, DiamondBack Truck Covers to its Board of Directors.

Ben Eltz is the CEO of DiamondBack Truck Covers, a startup that was born at Pennsylvania State University in 2002. Ben joined DiamondBack Truck Covers eight years ago when the company was beginning the transition from garage startup to established company. In these eight years, the company has increased revenues by 300% and profitability by 600%. DiamondBack has captured 1% of the nationwide truck cover market and has its eyes on doubling that over the next three years. Ben has a Bachelors Degree from Penn State in Industrial Engineering and a Master's Degree in Finance from Indiana University.