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Challenge or Opportunity:

Need a Green Team for Manufacturing

Approach or Solution:

Do you need a Green Team and an Environmental Manager

If you are in manufacturing of any size, it's your duty to quantify the environmental aspects of and associated impacts of your activities. You might not have the resources to implement a Green Team or even hire an Environmental Manager so we're here to help. In a recent article published in Manufacturing.net our own Michelle Hamm offers the following guidance:

With two decades of experience in overseeing and establishing environmentally-friendly policies within a manufacturing organization, Hamm has become a trove of information about resources manufacturers could look into when thinking about how they might become more sustainable. A timeline for implementing a similar solution, along with relevant resources:

1. The first step in any green plan is to assign someone the role of managing and overseeing the project — from within the company or out, whichever is the best option.
2. Next, decide how far you want to go. Are you looking to simply comply with current or impending regulation? Or do you want to establish more ambitious goals?
3. Identify resources to help aid in the roll-out of the new plan. Existing suppliers and customers are a good start — they know better than most the inputs and outputs of your particular industry.

4. Go to local regulatory agencies. Hamm has found a great deal of value in being involved in the local rivers committee, which has become a partner of sorts in ensuring the Contoocook remains in the best shape possible.
5. Branch out to state-wide regulatory bodies. Many states offer grants for energy audits so that there's no cost to get an overview of the situation.
6. Get involved in the state legislature. While it's one thing to stay apprised of EPA regulations, it's just as important to not fall short of state rules. By working with these policymakers, Hamm has been able to stay aware of any critical changes.
7. Speaking of the EPA, they can be a great source as well. Their WasteWise program can help detail how a facility can reduce, reuse and recycle what they're already using.
8. Finally, document the progress. Without proper documentation, there's no chance of going ISO 14001-certified, much less ensuring that your investments are actually paying off.

Impact:

New ideas, lower costs and more engaged employees!