



Welcome,

Energy costs have tempered in the past year, but interest in improving sustainable practices appears to remain strong. One example is Wal-Mart's recent announcement to implement a Sustainability Index for every product on the retailer's shelves. If implemented, this will definitely impact suppliers' manufacturing practices to compete for higher scores for their products.

Many Georgia industries are already moving forward aggressively to improve their sustainable practices, from conserving energy and water to reducing waste in product design. This issue of Focus Forward highlights recent sustainable activities of several Georgia manufacturers and resources to help your firm do the same.

Call or e-mail me directly to discuss ways that you can partner with Georgia Tech and make your firm a more sustainable and productive enterprise.

Best regards,

Chris

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Georgia Tech Helps Midway Manufacturer Cut Energy Costs

Saving energy is important to Terry McCormick. As executive vice president of Elan Technology, Inc., a technical glass and ceramics manufacturer in Midway, Ga., he has seen energy costs rise dramatically, with no end in sight. The 62-year-old company, which employs 51 people, makes ceramic components for electrical and thermal insulation and glass components for hermetic seals. With an energy assessment from Georgia Tech, the firm has decreased costs and increased productivity. So far, McCormick estimates Elan has saved more than 11 percent of its annual energy usage. To learn more about this effort, [click here](#).



For more information on Georgia Tech's energy conservation assistance, contact Bill Meffert (404.894.3844, bill.meffert@innovate.gatech.edu).

MEP Awards

Two Enterprise Innovation Institute staff--Alan Barfoot and Don Pital--recently received well-deserved recognition from the federal Manufacturing Extension Partnership, winning awards, respectively, for Innovator of the Year and Practitioner of the Year. To learn how they earned this acclaim, go to [Alan Barfoot receives award](#), or [Don Pital receives award](#).



ISO 50001 Update

The project committee tasked with developing an international management system standard for energy similar to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 held its second meeting in March, this one in Brazil. There the group decided to move to a third stage of development, namely a committee draft. To learn more about the progress of ISO 50001 and how it will benefit manufacturers, [click here](#).

Sustainability's Role in Business Excellence



The Enterprise Innovation Institute's Craig Cochran, a quality guru and Tech's region manager for North Metro Atlanta, highlighted sustainability in a recent session of his bimonthly Business Excellence Network meetings. He fielded some questions about that topic for *Focus Forward*, and you can read his responses [here](#).

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A Green Gathering -- Georgia Tech's Environmental Networks

Through the Georgia Environmental Partnership (GEP), Georgia Tech's Energy and Sustainability Services conducts a series of Environmental Network Meetings each spring and fall at strategic locations across the state. The meetings, offered at no charge, address high-priority industry needs targeting pollution prevention, energy efficiency, and environmental compliance. To learn more about these meetings and GEP, [click here](#).



SafePlay Plays it Green

When it comes to sustainable manufacturing, a Marietta, Ga.-based manufacturer of playground equipment practices what it preaches, as attendees learned at a Georgia Tech innovation forum in April. Bill Orser of SafePlay Systems discussed sustainable manufacturing in general and, more specifically, how his 20-year-old firm puts principles into practice.



He observed that people and organizations tend to define sustainable manufacturing to suit their niche or purpose. What it involves today, he added, are several factors, among them:

- Use less energy and materials.
- Substitute nontoxic for toxic materials, renewable for nonrenewable materials.
- Reduce waste via cleaner operations.
- Convert outputs to inputs; that is, recycle.

Recycling is a major part of the SafePlay game plan. It makes durable playground equipment from recycled plastic milk jugs. All plastic purchased goes into the products, not landfills. There's no insect damage and no rusting, he said, so maintenance costs are low. The products, he claimed, have more than twice the lifespan of their steel counterparts, and the firm has a buy-back program wherein it will repurchase what it originally sold, grind it up, and recycle it again into marketable park benches, tables, bins, and so forth. And the company will meet customized needs.

Use of sustainable techniques has increased SafePlay's output, he said, and the continual use of recycled materials reduces its waste stream. But, he observed, "sustainability is a journey."

Upcoming Courses

Each issue of *Focus Forward* lists Georgia Tech's open-enrollment courses designed for industry and selected Web sites, publications, and programs of possible interest to its readers.

[Navigating Environmental Compliance](#) - August 12, 2009

Why, who and how will your company benefit?

- Georgia Tech will get your company up to speed on environmental regulations and make sure your facility is in compliance and avoids costly fines.
- Engineers, controllers, facility managers, safety managers and directors and environmental professionals will gain useful tips while attending this training course.
- After attending this class, you will be able to guide your organization to the latest requirements and specific regulations applying to your facility.

[ISO 14001:2004 EMS Lead Auditor Training RABQSA-TPECS](#) - August 24-28, 2009

Why, who and how will your company benefit?

- Georgia Tech's experts will help you approach ISO 14001:2004 registration from the professional auditor's point of view by focusing on key audit skills that enhance auditing capability. This intensive workshop covers key aspects of leading an audit team for your firm, another firm, or vendors/suppliers.
- Lead auditors, organizations undergoing a third-party audit, individuals pursuing RAB EMS auditor certification, environmental management system management reps, and EMS audit program managers.
- Implementing an effective EMS audit program within your company can help with identifying nonconformities and positive findings.

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