

Our Mission

Our mission is to make every Maine manufacturer the most successful business it can be. Maine MEP is the most comprehensive resource available for manufacturers in Maine. Whether working with high-tech companies or start-up makers, Maine MEP forges close and collaborative relationships with our clients to meet their particular needs.

Our Team

At the heart of Maine MEP are our skilled project managers, who have years of hands-on experience in manufacturing and stay on top of the latest technologies, best practices and certification requirements. They give manufacturers an extremely high level of expertise and a partner who is genuinely invested in their success. Scan the QR code to learn more about our current team members.



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Veggie Life Foods

Transforming Space Into Productivity

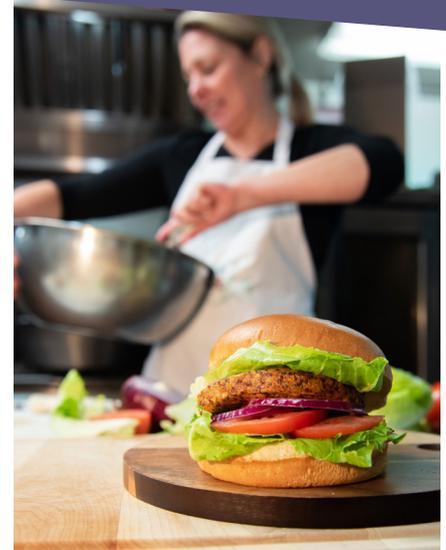
Veggie Life creates vegan food products that celebrate vegetables rather than imitating the flavors of meat. With humble roots making from-scratch veggie burgers for rafting guests in The Forks, Maine, Veggie Life has grown to supply over 170 restaurants and stores with all natural and allergen free products.

The Challenge | After launching the business in 2019, owner Jaime Shaw found success getting restaurant menu placements by selling her products through distributors. For five years, Veggie Life operated out of shared kitchen spaces that were not optimized for production, limiting production capacity and growth opportunities. In 2024, they purchased a new space to build a production facility designed specifically for their needs. But with no real experience in this area, they sought professional expertise to help them make the most of their investment.

Maine MEP's Role | Jaime Shaw reached out to MaineMEP for assistance and requested an expedited schedule. Within days, Senior Project Manager Bill Whittier scheduled six 4-hour-long consulting sessions with the Veggie Life team. The sessions took place at the new facility as Bill and the Veggie Life team familiarized themselves with the space and its potential. Together, they laid out the step-by-step processes of production for Veggie Life's top-selling products, identifying more suitable kitchen equipment and developing procedures to reduce production costs and increase product quality. The project was completed in less than a month, rapidly speeding up the time to the new production launch.

Results of Maine MEP Assistance

- ✓ 200% increase in production output
- ✓ Significant improvement in product quality after separating processing freezer from holding freezer
- ✓ \$800,000 invested in the community
- ✓ Lower production costs, allowing for more competitive pricing



"We feel so lucky that we were connected with Bill Whittier and the Maine MEP. They really helped us break down our production process to create a kitchen layout and flow that will help us reduce costs, create jobs, and scale our business."



JAIME SHAW
Owner



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2025 Impact Report

DISTRICT 1 IMPACTS



2025 Maine MEP Highlights | District 1

“Maine MEP offers a comprehensive range of services including quality systems, process efficiency improvements, automation, and advanced manufacturing solutions. Whether you’re a small shop just getting started or a large manufacturer scaling operations, our team helps identify and implement improvements that drive productivity and competitiveness. We also connect manufacturers to practical AI resources that support operational efficiency.”

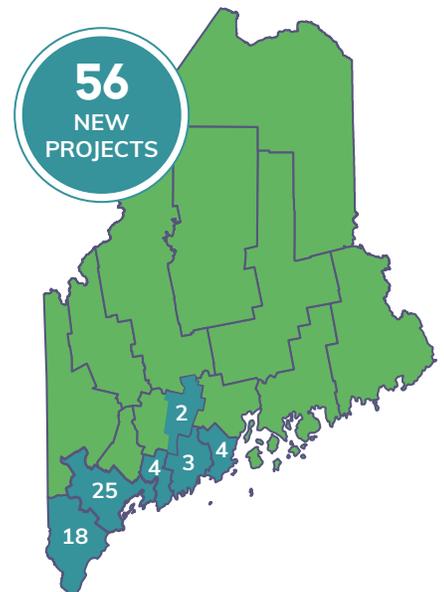


JIM FAY
President

In 2025, Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) continued to diversify services to best serve the needs of southern Maine manufacturing companies. Highlights include building awareness of manufacturing careers and opportunities by partnering with other stakeholders on tours of manufacturing facilities, a Cyber Resilience workshop, and continuing to support the expansion of supply chains in the region.



PROJECTS BY COUNTY



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CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Cold Current Kelp

Sustainable Kelp Grows Sustainable Business

Cold Current Kelp is a kelp farm and skincare company in Kittery, Maine. The business partners, Krista Rosen and Inga Potter, are good friends who share a desire to grow kelp for its many environmental benefits and its incredible potential as a nutrient-packed ingredient. They started their journey in 2021 to create clean skincare products that are unique, authentic, and effective.

The Challenge | Originally a home-based business, Rosen and Potter dreamed of Cold Current Kelp transitioning to a full-time venture that would support them both and house operations in their own facility. Balancing at-home production alongside R&D, the team required support identifying the right-sized steps and technology to move from a home-grown process to full-scale manufacturing, and the ability to scale responsibly as product demand increased.

Maine MEP's Role | Rosen and Potter began working with MaineMEP's field staff in early 2024. Focused on planning and feasibility, the team created a process map to document the current state. The exercise identified process limitations that were used to inform their planning strategy to achieve increased capacity, revenue and efficiency. Likewise, they also needed to identify technologies that fit both the scale of operations and the budget. Through observations, staff documented the process and created a custom tool to calculate production capacity. Part-time production data were used to estimate full-time output with current equipment. That baseline established the performance requirements for new technology in meeting desired production goals.

Results of Maine MEP Assistance

- ✓ 10% increase in sales
- ✓ \$11,500 in new plant and workforce investments
- ✓ \$22,000 cost savings and expenditure avoidance
- ✓ 1 new job created



"We have enjoyed working with Maine MEP and have found them to be highly professional and knowledgeable. They have saved us from unnecessary investment, connected us with manufacturing partners that we would never have found on our own and guided us toward 'next steps' in growing our business from a manufacturing perspective."



KRISTA ROSEN
Co-Founder



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2025 District 1 - Companies Served

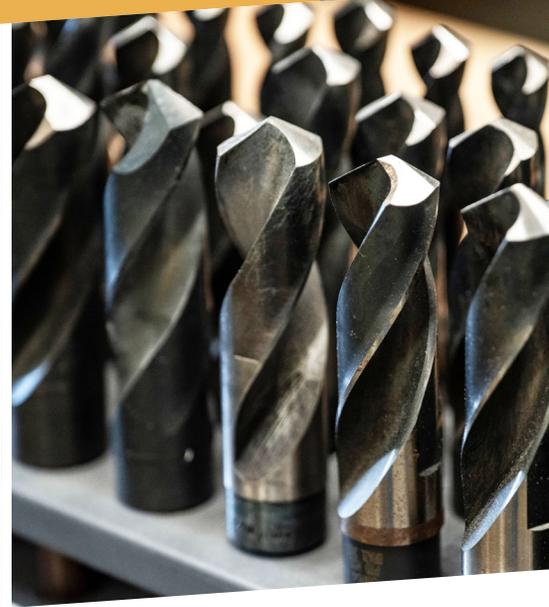
- A E C Engineering, Freeport
- Accelera, Biddeford
- Alfred's Upholstery & Co., Alfred
- American Steel and Aluminum LLC, Portland
- Artforms Inc, Brunswick
- Atlantic Sea Farms, Biddeford
- Barrette Outdoor Living, Biddeford
- Bath Iron Works, Bath
- Brant and Cochran LLC, South Portland
- Brodis Blueberries, Hope
- Cold Current Kelp, Kittery
- Croft, Rockland
- Edward H. Best, Thomaston
- Enercon Technologies, Gray
- FHC, Bowdoin
- Fiber Materials Inc / Tex Tech, Biddeford
- Flowfold, Gorham
- Garland Manufacturing Co, Saco
- Greisen Aerospace, Portland
- Grimburg Less Lethal, Bridgton
- Harpswell House, Brunswick
- Heiwa Tofu, Rockport
- Hüga Heat LLC, Southport
- Hussey Seating Company, North Berwick
- Juneberry, Portland
- Junora, Biddeford
- Knickerbocker Group, Boothbay
- Lowry Aeration Systems, Westbrook
- Maine Homestead Market, Alfred
- Maine Pie Company, Biddeford
- Midstate Machine, Winslow
- Molnlycke-Rynel, Brunswick
- NIKEL Precision Group, Saco
- North American Kelp, Waldoboro
- OpBox, Woolwich
- Paradigm Windows, Portland
- Pemberton's Gourmet Food, Gray
- Perro Machine & Engineering Inc, Bridgton
- Ready Seafood/Maine Seafood Ventures, Saco
- Salmonics LLC, Brunswick
- Saunders Electronics, South Portland
- Shovel and Spoon, Limington
- STARC Systems, Brunswick
- Sunnyfield Farm Baking Co, South Portland
- Tanbark LLC, Saco
- The Baker Company Inc, Sanford
- The Holy Donut, Kennebunkport
- The Maine Crisp Company, Winslow
- Tootie's Tempeh, Portland
- Two Fat Cats Bakery, Portland
- US Felt Manufacturing Inc, Sanford
- Wilbur's Of Maine Chocolate Confections, Freeport
- Wildwood Oyster Co., Portland
- Wright Energy Storage Technology (WEST), Brunswick
- Yokogawa Fluid Imaging Technologies, Scarborough
- Zootility, Portland

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2025 Impact Report

DISTRICT 2 IMPACTS



2025 Maine MEP Highlights | District 2

"Maine MEP brings deep manufacturing expertise to every corner of the state. Our team of seasoned professionals is embedded in communities across Maine, allowing us to understand the unique challenges and opportunities facing local manufacturers. With boots on the ground statewide, we deliver hands-on support that's practical, responsive, and tailored to each manufacturer's needs."

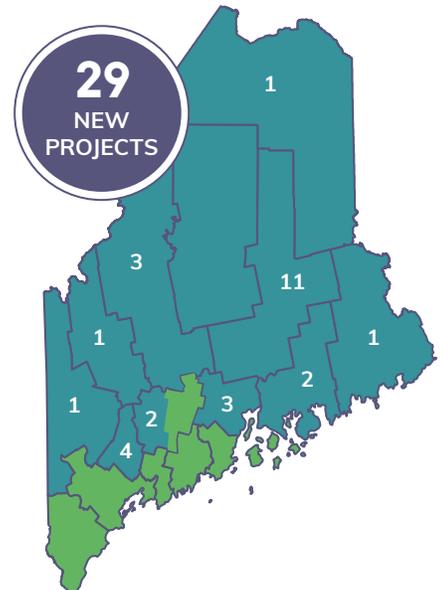


JIM FAY
President

In 2025, Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) expanded their work in northern and central Maine and focusing on programming for rural counties. We piloted our first Maker to Manufacturer event in Skowhegan, expanded Lean training options in Bangor and Aroostook County, and supported workforce development through the Advanced Manufacturing Center's B.O.T Loft training facility. These efforts blended seamlessly to strengthen skills and opportunities across Maine's manufacturing sector.



PROJECTS BY COUNTY



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CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Shaw and Tenney

Equipment Resurrection Provides 900% Capacity Increase

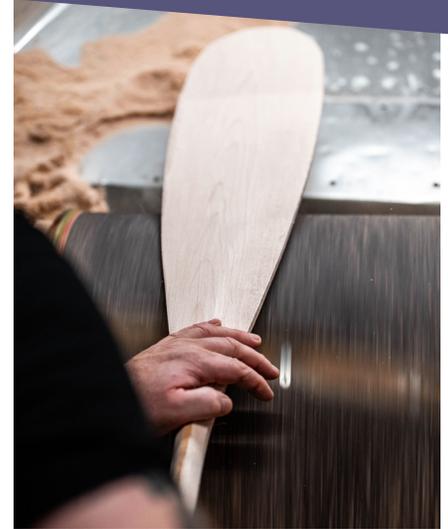
Shaw and Tenney, based in Orono, Maine, has carried on its tradition of handcrafting some of the finest wooden oars and paddles since 1858, making them one of the oldest marine products manufacturers in the U.S. The six artisans they employ take great pride in achieving the highest quality wooden products, from classic canoe paddles to sculling oars to masts and flagpoles.

The Challenge | In an effort to increase production capacity, the previous owner acquired a 1960s-era duplicator lathe, along with other specialized equipment, but sold the business before the machinery was put into service. The new owners, Jennifer and Neil Gutekunst, recognized the potential of the idle duplicator to address a bottleneck in the rough-shaping phase of oar production—upstream of the fine handcrafting work Shaw and Tenney is known for. They continued investing in the project, ultimately bringing the duplicator lathe into production to streamline their traditional manufacturing process.

Maine MEP's Role | Based on their past success with Maine MEP and the Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC), Shaw and Tenney reached out to see if the AMC could help with preparing their duplicator lathe to meet their needs. Over the next two years, various aspects of the 4-spindle lathe were improved, replaced, or refurbished to prepare it for its role in improving production efficiency. The full effort included manufacturing tooling, equipment guarding, quality control tools, all new motors, belts, and bearings, plus creating oar-patterns out of steel — all to cover the duplicating process from beginning to end.

Results of Maine MEP Assistance

- ✓ **900% increase** in capacity
- ✓ **Exploring markets** outside of the marine-products industry for times when oars are not being turned
- ✓ **New lines** of utility oars to markets they previously couldn't support



"The team at the AMC was a tremendous resource in getting our 1960s-era duplicator lathe back into service. They were thoughtful, skilled partners who helped us nearly rebuild the machine from the ground up and bring it online after years of sitting idle."



NEIL GUTEKUNST
Owner



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2025 District 2 - Companies Served

- Bixby and Co., Rockland
- Blue Hill Berry Company, Penobscot
- Bourgeois Guitars, Lewiston
- Carrabassett Coffee Company, Kingfield
- Chow Maine, Ellsworth
- Compotech Inc, Brewer
- Dabesta Pizza, Bangor
- Genplex Inc, Skowhegan
- Go Logic, Belfast
- Grey Goose Gourmet, Wayne
- J S McCarthy Co Inc, Augusta
- Johnson Outdoors, Old Town
- Lubec Brewing, Lubec
- Maine Wood Heat, Skowhegan
- Nyle Systems LLC, Brewer
- Orono Spectral Solutions, Hermon
- Pineland Farms Dairy Company Inc., Bangor
- Pride Manufacturing Co., Burnham
- Shaw & Tenney Inc, Orono
- The Devils Half Acre Distillery, Hermon
- The Dingley Press, Lisbon
- The Good Crust, Canaan
- The Pussums Cat Company, Turner
- Thos Moser Cabinetmaker Inc, Auburn
- Tiny Homes of Maine, Dyer Brook
- Triple Caution Machine Works, Bangor
- Troy Industrial Solutions, Brewer
- Wells Wood Turning & Finishing Inc., Buckfield
- WS Emerson, Brewer

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