



Center for Applied Competitive Technologies at Sierra College

Lean & Sustainability Cost Saving Assessments

Employers in Placer and Nevada counties and north to the state border can benefit from lean and sustainability tools and training offered by the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT -- sierracollegelearning.com) at Sierra College.

Through a grant from the California Community College Chancellor's Office, Economic and Workforce Development Program, manufacturers and technology companies can profit from establishing lean and sustainability programs. Through the Sierra College CACT, employers can learn best practices in identifying waste and implementing energy saving processes and sustainable business practices. When combined with lean and continuous improvement principles, Northern California manufacturers can improve their financial performance in the globally competitive marketplace. Sierra College CACT offers three options to help businesses:

- Participate in a Pilot CACT-supported Lean and Sustainability Assessment
- Use the CACT Lean and Sustainability Self-Assessment Tool
- Embark on an In-depth Process Improvement and Lean Assessment with Sustainability with CACT coaching and employee training

Pilot CACT-supported Lean and Sustainability Assessment

As part of the grant-funded program, Sierra College CACT is seeking several businesses to participate in a no-cost pilot Lean and Sustainability Assessment. With the support of a CACT Consultant working with your team on-site, review business functions over a one to two day period including:

- Assessment of paper, energy use, lighting, water use, recycling and travel.
- Assessment of manufacturing processes: 7S, quality, work cell areas, visual controls, standard work, total production maintenance, continuous flow, pull systems, leveling, quick changeovers, and continuous improvement, training, and supplier and customer alliances.

To assess energy efficiency, the CACT consultant may bring tools such as an infrared camera to measure energy use and heat loss. Once your team has participated in the assessment, you may arrange to borrow these tools again to measure the impact of any changes your company makes.

Pilot participants will be asked to evaluate the program.

- Your company will receive a confidential report identifying inefficiencies with sustainability scores and making recommendations.
- Your company will be asked to evaluate the experience and what you learned after completing the assessment, and again six months later to identify any changes made as a result of the assessment and the benefit of participating.

- Results will be kept confidential and data will be consolidated and presented anonymously in grant reports.
- With your permission, your testimonial about the assessment experience and benefits may be used by Sierra College CACT to promote the value of the assessment and implementing lean and sustainability practices.

CACT Lean and Sustainability Self-Assessment Tool

If you prefer to conduct your own assessment, you can use CACT's open source tool to identify opportunities to increase sustainability and cut costs by reducing energy and other waste. You'll receive instructions and a spread sheet listing items to assess with a rating system that includes:

- Assessment of paper, energy use, lighting, water use, recycling and travel.
- Assessment manufacturing processes: 7S, quality, work cell areas, visual controls, standard work, total production maintenance, continuous flow, pull systems, leveling, quick changeovers, and continuous improvement, training, and supplier and customer alliances.
- With training, your company may borrow energy measurement tools.

There is no fee to use the self-assessment and you'll be asked to evaluate it.

- Participants will complete a brief survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the tool in indentifying areas for improvement.
- After six months, CACT will follow-up with you for feedback on improvements made as a result of the assessment's findings.
- With your permission, your testimonial about the assessment experience and benefits may be used by Sierra College CACT to promote the value of the assessment and implementing lean and sustainability practices.

In-depth Process Improvement and Lean Assessment with Sustainability

As an alternative or follow-up to a self-assessment or participating in the CACT pilot assessment program, your business may consider a much more in-depth assessment.

- It is ideal for businesses embarking on a lean waste-reduction program to cut costs, reduce energy use and increase efficiency using existing resources.
- CACT provides an initial meeting at no-cost and prepares an estimate for an in-depth assessment with recommended actions and the coaching needed to implement the changes.

Previous clients have found this program to be highly successful in boosting productivity and profitability.

How to get started

To participate in the CACT pilot assessment, conduct a self-assessment or get more information about an in-depth lean, sustainability and process assessment, contact:

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Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies



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