

MANUFACTURERS ALLIANCE REPORT 2016-2017

ABOUT

The Manufacturers Alliance was founded by the Kalispell Chamber to inform policymakers, legislators, the public and the media about manufacturing's vital leadership role in innovation, job creation, and economic vitality; encourage policies and activities that support innovation and business success; and, ensure that manufacturers have access to the workforce they need. The Manufacturers Alliance is a regional affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers and consists of manufacturing members of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce.



MANUFACTURERS ROLE IN THE FLATHEAD ECONOMY

Manufacturing comprises the largest component of Flathead County's basic industry earnings for the period 2014-2016, amounting to 29 percent of this sector. Wood products manufacturing makes up 14 percent of this total and other manufacturing makes up 15 percent.

AGENDA

Manufacturing and innovation offer tremendous opportunities for our economy and quality of life. This year the Manufacturers Alliance will be running at full speed and will spearhead a Chamber-wide effort to advance our manufacturing companies and their policy interests.



PUBLIC POLICY



REDUCE BUSINESS EQUIPMENT TAX: We will continue to work towards the reduction and elimination of the business equipment tax as part of a state-wide tax reform package.



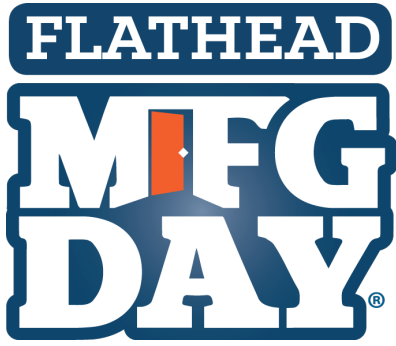
LOWER WORKER'S COMPENSATION COSTS: In 2011 we helped pass a law that led to a \$100 million reduction in Montana worker's compensation costs. We will continue to fight for policies that bring down work compensation premiums.



EXPAND TRADE OPPORTUNITIES: Ninety-five percent of the people we want to sell to live outside the United States – 1.8 million live just across the border in Canada. The Chamber will support trade agreements that improve the export market for Flathead Valley manufacturers and agricultural producers.



BUILD A HIGH-QUALITY, HIGH-SKILLED WORKFORCE: We will work with our educational partners to ensure that Flathead manufacturers have access to a workforce with 21st century skills. We will continue support of the Manufacturing trades program at Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC), Glacier High's engineering academy, and Flathead High's biomedical academy. We will also push for student housing and four-year degrees at FVCC to expand the breadth of the student recruitment market and the scope of curriculum offerings.



SIGNATURE EVENT: FLATHEAD MANUFACTURING DAY

Flathead Manufacturing Day gives manufacturers an opportunity to raise awareness of manufacturing issues and opportunities by engaging with the community and showing curious visitors what they do. On the first Friday in October of every year (October 7, 2016 this year), thousands of manufacturers

across the nation participate in Manufacturing Day by hosting open houses, public tours, career workshops and other events. Through this collective effort, Manufacturing Day draws public attention to manufacturing's present-day reality and encourages job seekers to develop the skills they need to qualify for long-term careers in this secure and growing sector of the economy. In 2015, 16 facility tours and issue forums were attended by over 700 members of the Flathead Valley community and media coverage included local newspaper, radio and television in addition to mentions from National Manufacturing Day and associated social channels.

HOW TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE

SPONSOR
MANUFACTURING
DAY



HOST A
FACILITY TOUR



MAKE A
PRESENTATION



HOST A
ROUNDTABLE
DISCUSSION



INCLUDE IN YOUR
CURRICULUM AT
SCHOOL OR COLLEGE



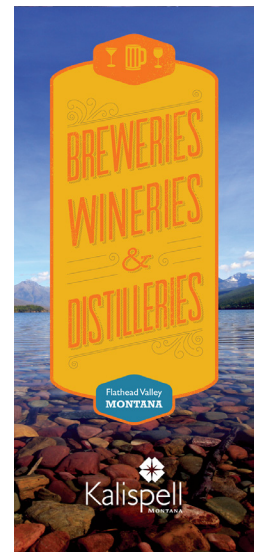
ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

MANUFACTURING DAY: Events, seminars, and roundtables run from September 20th through the Flathead Timber Tour on October 20th.



EXPAND COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Manufacturers need safe, modern infrastructure to access their customers and clients and for vendors and customers to reach the Flathead. This effort has resulted in new air service to Chicago and Los Angeles. We are pressing for new routes to Portland and the Bay Area. Additionally, now that the Bypass is scheduled for completion in November 2016, we are pushing for the reauthorization of the federal highway and aviation bills to improve Main Street, West Reserve Drive, and Woodland Avenue.

WINERY, BREWERY, AND DISTILLERY MAP: This map combines one of the newest areas of tourism growth, agri-tourism, with one of the hottest areas of manufacturing growth, micro wineries, distilleries and breweries. 10,000 copies are made available to the 2.5 million visitors to the Flathead Valley each year and it is one of the most downloaded features on our visitor website.



MEMBERS OF THE MANUFACTURERS ALLIANCE

DIAMOND



PLATINUM



SILVER

Counter Assault Bear & Pepper Spray
ProBuild
Proof Research
Sonju Industrial

BRONZE

Bio-Energy Systems, Inc.
Bonsai Brewing Project
Bushy Tail Screen Printing
BMC West
Ceres Bakery
Colter Coffee Roasting
Daily Inter Lake
Defiance Machine
Distinctive Countertops & Cabinetry
FH Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.
Flathead Beacon
Flathead Lake Brewing Company
Glacier Country LLC
Glacier Distilling Company
Glacier Pre-Cast Concrete
Glacier Signs & Monuments
Glacier Sun Winery/Apple Barrel
Great Harvest Bread
Heaven Scent Solutions
Insty Prints
Kalispell Brewing Company, LLC
Kalispell Denture Studio
Kalispell Creamery
Kalispell Truss Center
Montana Gold Bullet Inc.
NEMO Arms, Inc.
Nomad Global Communications Solutions
Northern Care Inc. Prosthetics & Orthotics
Northwest Cabinet Works
Scott Company
Spotted Bear Spirits
Synergy Aircraft
Tamarack Alehouse & Grill
The Towne Printer
Thomas Printing
Thompson Precision
Timberline Tool
ViZn Energy Systems, Inc.
Western Building Center
Whistling Andy Inc.
Whitefish Handcrafted Spirits

“Manufacturing is a core business sector that improves our quality of life collectively in the Flathead Valley and has great growth opportunities for the foreseeable future.”



KALISPELL

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