

## Lean and Green in Portland

Over the years, Portland has often been called "green." Today, that means much more than the color of the flora from all of our rain. One of the most popular meanings of "green" is "Earth/climate friendly activity." To many of us, that indicates sustainable practices. In the past, sustainable practices were those that could last you for your lifetime. Today, it has to do with practices that focus on leaving little to no environmental footprint so that you could conceivably go on forever.

The mantra "reduce, reuse, recycle" has been a familiar saying here for a long time. It has become so popular, that many Portland area companies have spawned out of these simple concepts to create their own little pocket industries in an eco-friendly way. The most recent professional development meeting at APICS Portland addressed just these thoughts. We heard from Gary Langenwalter just what sustainability meant, and why it was important for us to take it seriously. Gary discussed the 3P's of the triple bottom line (people, planet, and profit), and how sustainable practices can generate positive results to all three.

Anyone who has reviewed sustainability even briefly should see many of the same underlying principles of waste reduction and continuous improvement in Lean. At the January PDM, we heard from Rick Middleton and Buck Fitzgerald at A-dec how lean principles have made constructive impacts in their daily lives and how they are using lean as a competitive advantage. In March, John Reel will talk to APICS Portland about how the Oregon DEQ is using lean in their office to streamline their practices. Both local companies are building positive results by reducing their waste.

Portland APICS has brought lean and sustainability topics to our membership because you have asked for them. These topics are not only timely in today's economy, but they are useful tools in reaching the goals for the future of your business. These tools along with the APICS body of knowledge are an indispensable recipe for success. Imagine using lean and sustainable practices in developing your supply chain to out perform your competitors supply chain. That is a winning combination! We will continue to bring lean and sustainability seminars this year alongside our regular classes to give you all of the tools you need to succeed today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Randy Urness, CPIM, CSCP  
President, APICS Portland Chapter