

Manufacturers Enjoy What Southern Idaho Has to Offer

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High fuel, energy and transportation costs, increased business and living costs and the need to get products to market more efficiently, are encouraging manufacturing companies to consider western sites for their manufacturing operations. Southern Idaho has welcomed several new manufacturers to the region while existing manufacturers here have expanded, thanks to the numerous advantages this area offers.

Low labor, utility and land costs, pool of ready-to-work employees educated and trained at the College of Southern Idaho, ideal geographic location for easy transportation and numerous business incentives have been significant factors in bringing new business to Idaho in the last eight years, including numerous manufacturers: Coast-to-Coast Carports, Hilex Poly (plastics), Dutchmen Manufacturing, Jayco RV, Keifer Built (RV), Packaging Specialties, and Northwest Manufacturing to name a few.

By moving and expanding in southern Idaho, manufacturers are able to streamline their transportation and operation costs and take advantage of the skilled and available workforce here. Southern Idaho's Workforce Development Alliance (WDA) has established a comprehensive regional effort, themed Turning Point, to educate and promote non four-year degree career opportunities in the region, especially in manufacturing.

Turning Point includes a comprehensive web site that guides students, parents, educators, business and industry and the general workforce on career opportunities, courses, training and support programs in manufacturing, construction and alternative/renewable energy that don't require a four-year degree.

Southern Idaho's quality workforce also supports local expansions, assuring that work can be done efficiently and be cost-effective with hiring done locally.

A dedicated labor pool and progressive business climate helps reduce operational costs that have added directly to the bottom line for existing and expanding manufacturers in this region. For manufacturers, southern Idaho is one of the best locations to reach existing and emerging markets in the West.

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