

The Keweenaw in Michigan's U.P. Innovation Shore

2021-2022

Research | Tech Startups | Business Expansion | Outdoor Adventure Lifestyle



Welcome!

The Keweenaw (KEE-wi-naw) is the northernmost location in the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) of Michigan and is surrounded by Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area. The peninsula contains the historic towns of Houghton, Hancock, Calumet and Copper Harbor among others.

Today, the region's industry base has changed dramatically and is centered around technology. The cities of Houghton, Hancock, Calumet and others contain some of Michigan's top-ranked public schools, great health care, two prestigious universities-- Finlandia and Michigan Tech, with cutting edge research occurring at the latter, amazing outdoor recreation including some of the U.S.' highest rated extreme skiing and mountain biking, awesome arts and northern culture, and welcoming warm people and faces. The population is diverse-- Michigan Tech University serves more than 7,000 students, from 60 countries around the world.

These are just a few reasons that the Keweenaw is a great place to locate a company, live and work. Here, you will find a wide range of resources, outdoor activities and support services. Houghton has been named as one of the "Top 50 Best Small Towns in the U.S." and "100 Best Small Towns in America", "Fifty Most Beautiful Small Towns in America", and "Third Most Affordable Small Town in the U.S."

What is The Keweenaw Peninsula?

We would like to introduce **The Keweenaw Peninsula**-- located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, a majestic area containing rich natural resources.

The Keweenaw Peninsula represents our location, people, attitudes, projects, lifestyles, universities and even our snow. It is everything that makes up our communities along the south shore of Lake Superior.

The Keweenaw Peninsula is a unique place for companies seeking to expand or enter the U.S. market, and for individuals seeking outdoor adventure, recreational activities and beauty.



FM Wound Care, LLC., Hancock, Michigan



Mt. Bohemia, Mohawk Michigan

Where is the Keweenaw Peninsula?



Located in the Upper Peninsula ("The U.P.") Michigan, USA, the Keweenaw region contains the cities of Houghton, Hancock and others. It is just a few hours' drive from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Sault St. Marie, Ontario, Canada and is surrounded by beautiful Lake Superior. Rail is nearby, ocean vessels can be accommodated, and Chicago is just over an hour direct flight from the Houghton County Airport.



Why the Keweenaw Peninsula?

Why consider locating your business or corporate facility in the Keweenaw Peninsula? We are attracting and incubating the new and emerging economy businesses. There are many reasons.

- Lending institutions and investors have provided an increased amount of capital to business ventures
- Local and state government is providing incentives for businesses
- Michigan Tech University is a leading research institution and collaborates with companies, inventors and innovators
- A spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation
- Availability of high-tech business and entrepreneur support organizations
- Local companies offering high-tech, materials and manufacturing research, testing, design and engineering support services
- Warm, friendly and hardworking people
- The beauty of our land and coastline
- A rich abundance of natural resources



Quincy Mine, Hancock, Michigan

Research

Top 25 STEM University.

Michigan Technological University (MTU) today pursues research activities primarily in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, and was recently ranked Top 25 in the nation. MTU attracts over \$70 million in research expenditures from the federal and state government as well as industry. MTU is the home of twenty research institutes and centers. Here are just a few highlights:

- Materials Science and Engineering
- Carbon Technology Center
- Michigan Forest Biomaterials Institute
- Atmospheric and Space Sciences
- Computation, Data, Electronics, and Sensing
- Ecology, Ecosystems, and Environmental Policy
- Energy and Sustainability
- Health
- Life Sciences Technology
- Macro-, Micro-, and Nano-sciences
- Robotics and Mechanics
- Transportation and Infrastructure



Keweenaw Peninsula

Supporting business.

We are doing a lot to support both large companies and startups in the Keweenaw. Local high-tech and business support organizations provide business mentoring and financial assistance to base industry firms. **Talent Bridge** offers large companies premier satellite office space to leverage engineering, science and business student interns and graduates from Michigan Tech University and Finlandia.

MTEC SmartZone technology business incubator was established for high-tech startups. **FinnZone** commercial launchpad for Finnish SME companies entering the U.S. market was created, and **Innovation Shore Angel Network (ISAN)**, an angel investment organization was formed.

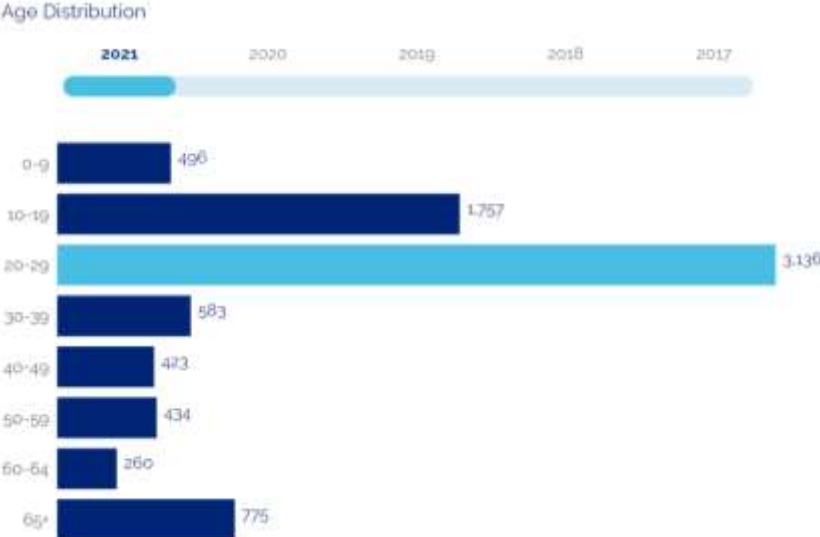
A culture of innovation is at work to help move businesses forward.



Houghton, Michigan Community Profile.

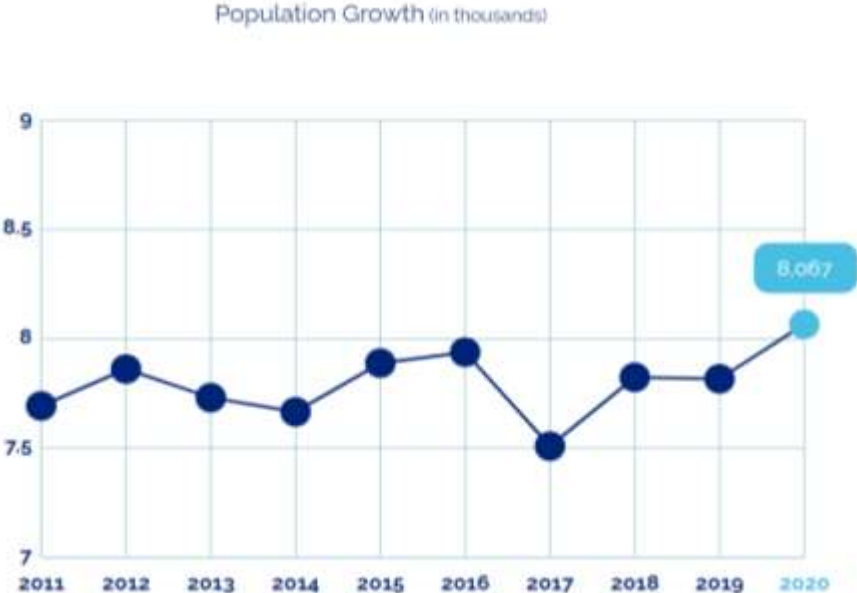
People

The total population of Houghton is 7,868. The median age is 22.36



Median Age

22



Houghton, Michigan Community Profile.

Educational Attainment

54.53% of the population in Houghton have an Associate's degree or higher; 26.41% have a Graduate degree or higher.



Total Employees

4,893



The work distribution of total employees in Houghton is:



30%

Blue Collar



69%

White Collar

Houghton, Michigan Community Profile.

Businesses and Jobs

Houghton has a total of 353 businesses. In 2019,

How many employees do businesses in Houghton have?



State of Michigan

Business incentives.



INCENTIVE PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Michigan has established several state and local economic development resources that provide support for companies investing and expanding their operations and workforces in Michigan communities. Some of these include:

MICHIGAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (MBDP)

The Michigan Business Development Program is available from the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF), in cooperation with MEDC. The program is designed to provide grants, loans or other economic assistance to businesses for highly competitive projects in Michigan that create jobs and/or provide investment.

- For more information, including eligibility requirements and program guidelines, view the [Michigan Business Development Program fact sheet](#).
- For process documentation, view the [MBDP process document](#).
- For program guidelines, view the [MBDP guidelines document](#).
- For more information read the [MBDP expansion of program guidelines for strategic business growth projects](#).

JOBS READY MICHIGAN

The Jobs Ready Michigan program was created by the Michigan Strategic Fund to meet the talent needs of companies that are expanding or relocating to Michigan. The program is designed to be flexible and responsive to the specific talent needs of companies and to address the costs associated with recruiting and training individuals for occupations that are high-wage, high-skill, or high-demand.

Program awards may be used for a variety of activities related to talent recruitment and job training including, but not limited to, employee recruitment expenses, development of customized training development plans, instructor and training materials costs, purchase of equipment related to training, construction of training facilities, and on-the job training costs.

- For more information, view the [Jobs Ready program guidelines](#).

STATE ESSENTIAL SERVICES ASSESSMENT (SESA) EXEMPTION AND ALTERNATIVE STATE ESSENTIAL SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

The State Essential Services Assessment is required for manufacturers that do not pay personal property tax on eligible manufacturing personal property. The MSF, in certain circumstances, may choose to exempt or reduce the Assessment for projects that create jobs and/or private investment in Michigan through the State Essential Services Assessment (SESA) Exemption or the Alternative State Essential Services Assessment Incentive.

Business incentives.



- For more information, including eligibility requirements and review criteria, view the [SESA fact sheet](#).
- For program guidelines, view the [SESA guidelines document](#).

MICHIGAN COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (MCRP)

MCRP is a program available from the MSF, in cooperation with MEDC, designed to promote community revitalization that will accelerate private investment in areas of historical disinvestment, contribute to Michigan’s reinvention as a vital, job-generating state, foster redevelopment of functionally obsolete or historic properties, reduce blight; and protect the natural resources of the state.

- For more information, including eligibility requirements and program guidelines, view the [Michigan Community Revitalization Program fact sheet](#).
- For process documentation, view the [MCRP process document](#).
- For program guidelines, view the [MCRP guidelines document](#).

Innovation - Advanced Materials

Accelerating development and commercialization.

The Carbon Technology Center has been established to develop fundamental and applied carbon materials technology. Consistent with the strengths of Michigan Tech, emphasis is placed on materials characterization and end use applications. This partnership between industry and academia has resulted in a world-class carbon research center.

Michigan Tech University is the designated research and commercialization center for **Advanced Materials** in the State of Michigan, through the **Michigan Translational Research & Commercialization (MTRAC)** program. MTRAC supports collaborative translational research projects led by teams of researchers, and business advisors as needed, working in the area of advanced applied materials. The mission of this program is to advance materials-based technologies into commercial development that address poorly met market needs across many sectors such as life sciences, aerospace, automotive, construction.



Keweenaw Peninsula is on the Move.

The Keweenaw Peninsula is on the move. Local manufacturing companies have undertaken significant expansions in the past five years; a large number of new home-grown businesses have started up, including the spin-off of new technologies from MTU; several international technology companies have recently entered into the area from Finland, Sweden, Poland and China; a burgeoning cluster of advanced materials and manufacturing growth companies has emerged-- some of these companies are manufacturing and shipping products around the world; Green forces is a collaboration and cluster of proven companies who provide total high-tech solutions to the defense and aerospace industries. Green Forces companies specialize in system engineering, aerospace manufacturing, software development and advanced materials. Amazing research and innovation are occurring here.



Houghton, Michigan

Industry sectors.

The Keweenaw is experiencing a burgeoning of high-tech businesses and clusters.

- Advanced Materials
- Biomedical
- Smart & High-Tech Manufacturing
- Engineering, Testing and Validation Svcs
- Software, IT, Programming
- AI, IoT, Big Data, Predictive Analytics
- Food, Ag & Water Tech
- Space, Aerospace and Defense
- Electronics, Communications, Digitalization
- Timber, Wood Products
- Forest Biomaterials (in development)
- Education Technology (Ed-Tech)
- Energy
- Transportation & Mobility

Local companies are supplying high-tech products to the nation and world. **Neuvokas Corporation** manufactures a basalt FRP rebar that is price competitive with steel.

Calumet Electronics is an American printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturer. **REL, Inc.** designs and develops equipment for manufacturing partners, specializing in process equipment for non-destructive testing, servo driven material handling equipment, and high strain rate material testing.



Neuvokas Corp., Ahmeek, Michigan

Business Expansion

International companies.

Expanded outreach is occurring to national companies and international corporations interested in locating facilities in the area. They are discovering the unique offerings and opportunities in the Keweenaw. We also have companies headquartered here with international sales.

LaSalleTech, a local company founded in Hancock was recently acquired by **CameronTec Group (Itiviti AB)** of Stockholm, Sweden. LaSalleTech specializes in the provision of products and services for messaging and transaction processing to improve the quality of financial services.

Pettibone Traverse Lift is a leading manufacturer of material-handling equipment founded in 1881 and headquartered in Baraga, Michigan. The company's product lineups include the Cary-Lift family of rough-terrain forklifts and the Extendos and Traverse telehandler model families.

Calumet Electronics, manufacturer of printed circuit boards with over 300 employees has hired Moyle Construction, to build a 35,000 sq. ft. expansion which will be completed in 2022.



Our Recreation

Living here gives us the room to innovate.

The U.P. has a reputation for smoked fish, pasties, silent sports, amazing trails, eco-tourism destination, the world's largest Great Lake, and of course...snow.

Along with these natural resources, we have five-minute commutes to work, virtually no crime, and some of the Midwest's highest ranking public schools.

The people that live here are often described as welcoming, collaborative, friendly and outdoorsy.

These attributes give us the room to think clearly and be creative.



Copper Harbor, Michigan



Copper Harbor, Michigan



Bete Gris, Michigan

Outdoor Life

We head for the trails and hills.

Whether it's a hike along the shores of **Lake Superior**, moose spotting at **Isle Royale** or extreme skiing at **Mount Bohemia**, rated #1 for powder skiing east of the Rockies, we take advantage of every opportunity to enjoy our beautiful outdoors.



Isle Royale, Michigan



Mt. Bohemia, Mohwak Michigan,



Isle Royale, Michigan

The Culture

Our heritage and diversity provide strength.



The Parade of Nations and Multicultural Festival, held in September, celebrates diversity with a colorful parade of flag-bearing students, staff, and community members. More than eighty nations are represented in this popular event.

We created our own winter festival-- **Heikinpäivä**. The celebration's themes are taken from Finnish folk saying associated with the name day for Heikki (Henrik's day — 19 January).

Finnish speaking residents of the area still recall the proverbs their parents and grandparents brought with them from Finland. In particular, the weather proverbs connected with St. Henrik's Day, where huge amounts of winter snow are the norm.



The People Coming together to help and celebrate.

We pull together and congregate in a variety of ways. From fundraising for a new skatepark at the **Keweenaw Brewing Company (KBC)**, or one of our festivals and parades attracting tourists from around the country, people in the Keweenaw Peninsula come together.



KBC, Houghton, Michigan - SkatePark Fundraiser



City of Houghton, Michigan

Our Region Majestic and beautiful.



Whether it's a night time view of the aurora borealis (northern lights) here in the Keweenaw, or a trip on the Ranger boat to Isle Royale, the opportunities to explore by hiking, boating, biking or driving are amazing.

Northern Lights, Keweenaw Peninsula



The Ranger, Isle Royale, Michigan



Copper Harbor, Michigan

Keweenaw Peninsula

The right fit for your company?



Houghton, Michigan

The Keweenaw Peninsula is growing and attracting companies utilizing its competitive advantages including the technical resources available through Michigan Tech University, natural resources, a first rate telecommunications network, an available labor force including Michigan Tech science and engineering graduates, a commitment by the local community to provide continuing assistance to industry, and a quality of life that provides some of the best outdoor recreation and beauty in the United States. These factors allow us to stand out as a choice among small to medium size locations for business expansion.

Small town charm and scenic beauty, coupled with clusters of high-tech, and advanced materials and manufacturing provides a unique and compelling location for the right companies.

With availability of business parks, build-to-suit and commercial development and office space, the Keweenaw is an excellent opportunity for your company. For many businesses, we can provide a lower cost, higher quality alternative for both living and conducting business operations than major cities such as Detroit, Chicago or New York.

Keweenaw Peninsula

To business leaders, families and individuals.



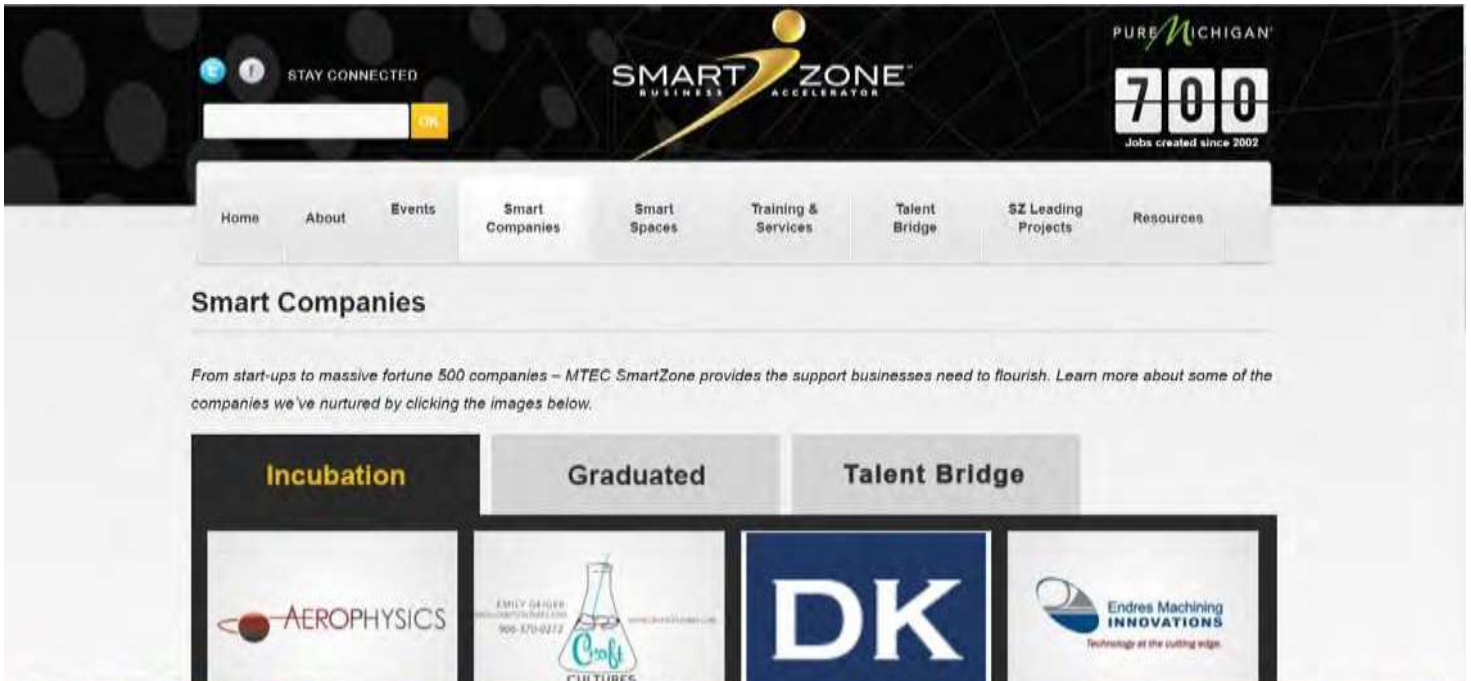
People crave adventure, right? Enterprises seek new markets and products. Here, the two worlds merge.

Experience a remote, wild, and natural climate—with resources, outdoor recreation, and cutting-edge research.

What's your next plan for growth and adventure? Contact us.

Jeff Ratcliffe, Executive Director
Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance
(Languages spoken: English)
906.482.6817
jeff@kedabiz.com

Patrick Visser, Chief Commercial Officer
MTEC SmartZone
906.523.1594
pvisser@mtcesz.com



Starting a new company ... or growing an existing one? MTEC SmartZone can help.

MTEC SmartZone has been guiding entrepreneurs and helping create high tech jobs in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. We're one of 20 Michigan SmartZones that provide office space, training, access to funding, coaching and other resources to help businesses owners develop products and ideas, commercialize and innovative.



MTEC SmartZone Powerhouse, Houghton, Michigan

HUBZone **DCAA** **ITAR** **AS9100** **ISO** *Nadcap* **MIL-PRF** **UL** [906] 231-7769

GREEN FORCES
PROVEN COMPANIES. INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS.

ENGINEERING & DESIGN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT MANUFACTURING TESTING SOFTWARE/FIRMWARE

GreenForces is a collaboration of proven companies who provide total high-tech solutions to the defense and aerospace industries.

System Engineering
Aerospace Manufacturing
Software Development
Specialized Materials

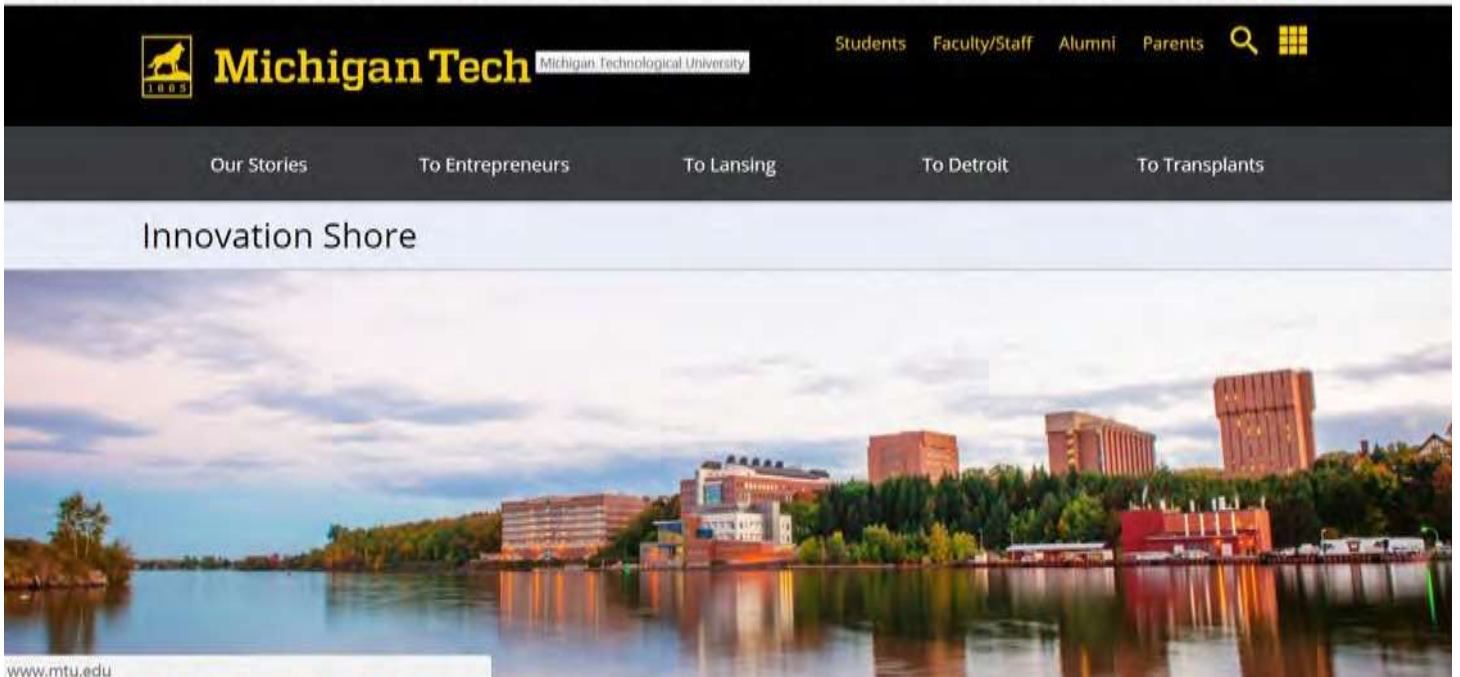
ADVANCED LIGHTWEIGHT ENGINEERING

PROVEN COMPANIES: **Calumet** **L'ANSE** **GS** **COMTEC** **IR TELEMETRICS** **MichiganTech** **ie** **GLS** **Pharmaceutical Incorporated**

Source: Green Forces

GreenForces is a collaboration of proven companies who provide total high-tech solutions to the defense and aerospace industries.

- System Engineering
- Aerospace Manufacturing
- Software Development
- Specialized Materials



Innovation Shore at Michigan Tech University

The world requires innovation—now more than ever. Science. Technology. Engineering. Math. Along the wild shores of Lake Superior, researchers, students, and entrepreneurs at Michigan Tech create the future.



Source: Keweenaw Convention & Visitor's Bureau

Keweenaw Convention & Visitor's Bureau

A World of Things to Do!

"X" marks the spot.

Ever since we were kids, we all knew that's where the hidden treasure was. A treasure that could be virtually anything, and was always as big as our imaginations. To find such riches today, all we need to do is follow the roads that lead to the Keweenaw Peninsula. The treasures you'll take home are Pure Michigan.



TEE YHTEISTYÖTÄ KANSSAMME

Uudisraivaajat tulivat Ylä-Michiganin niemimaalle enimmäkseen alueen käyttämättömien luonnonvarojen takia, ja he tekivät töitä kaivostoiminnan, metsäinhakkuun ja maatalouden parissa. Tämä aikakausi toi mukanaan vahvan työmoraaalin ja päättäväisen asenteen, mikä näkyy vielä tänäkin päivänä. Tuotantomenetelmien kehittyessä alueen talous muuttui lisäarvioprosessien ja -tuotannon ansiosta, ja viime vuosikymmeninä liiketoiminta on kehittynyt vahvan osaamistalouden ympärille.

[LUE LISÄÄ](#)

DO BUSINESS WITH US

Pioneers to Michigan's Upper Peninsula mainly settled for the region's untapped wealth of natural resources developed in mining, logging and farming. This era ushered in a strong work ethic and survivalist determination that still exists today. As production methods improved, the region's economy transformed with value-added processing and manufacturing, and in recent decades, developed around a strong knowledge-based economy.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[JOIN US](#)

NEWS & EVENTS

JUHANNUS '17 - A THREE DAY FESTIVAL IN THE HEART OF FINNISH AMERICA

It's been more than three years since some 8,000 Finns and friends...

RECEPTION FOR CONSUL GENERAL MANU VIRTAMO, MAY 1 FROM 4-6PM AT FINNISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

The Finnish American Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a...

JANUARY DESIGNATED FINNISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN MICHIGAN

LANSING — State Rep. Scott Dianda's (D-Calumet) resolution...



MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

HEAR THE WATER ROAR

The Upper Peninsula

Michigan's Upper Peninsula presents attractions unmatched anywhere else. Explore the depth of a mine, a shipwreck tour, climb to the top of a lighthouse, explore a colonial fort and hear the roar of mighty waterfalls. Check out our [ATV trails](#) and [mountain bike trails](#) – there is no place more scenic or more varied in its terrain than the Upper Peninsula.

****Traffic changes announced for 2017 Annual Mackinac Bridge Walk**** - Citing safety and security recommendations by the Michigan State Police and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Mackinac Bridge Authority will close the bridge to most vehicle traffic during the 2017 Annual Bridge Walk on Labor Day. Please plan your travel accordingly.



ATTRACTIONS



TRAILS AND THE GREAT



WATERFALLS



Source: PureMichigan

Keweenaw Peninsula

Fun things to do.

Outdoor Activities & Recreation

Maasto Hiihto – Hiking; Cross-Country Skiing Swede
Town Trails – Hiking; Cross-Country Skiing Canal
Run – Race
Rock Picking
Fishing Charters
Summer Boat Cruises – Ranger; Isle Royale Queen
Snowmobiling Trails
Four-wheeler Trails

Sightseeing

Porcupine Mountains
Brockway Mountain
Copper Harbor
Eagle Harbor
McClain Park
Isle Royale
Quincy Mine
Geo-Heritage Tours

Arts & Entertainment

Rosza Center
Calumet Theatre

Events/Festivals

Winter Carnival
Juhannus
Heikinpäivä
BridgeFest
CopperDog 150 - Sled Dog Races
Strawberry Festival
Pasty Fest
Art Fairs (Eagle Harbor, etc)
Great Bear Chase

Dining & Nightlife

Suomi Restaurant
Harbor Haus
Fitzgeralds
Ambassador
Keweenaw Brewing Company
Brickside Brewery
Red Jacket Brewing Company
Continental Fire Company Bonfire

Tori and Farmer's Markets

Hancock Tori
Lake Linden Farmer's Market
Houghton Farmer's Market

Keweenaw Peninsula **Business support organizations.**

Economic Development

Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance

Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region

InvestUP

Michigan Economic Development Corp.

Pure Michigan

Chamber of Commerce

Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Incubator & Accelerator

MTEC SmartZone

Higher Education

Michigan Technological University

Finlandia University

Gogebic Community College

Private Sector

Advanced Materials and High-Tech Manufacturing

Aerospace & Defense

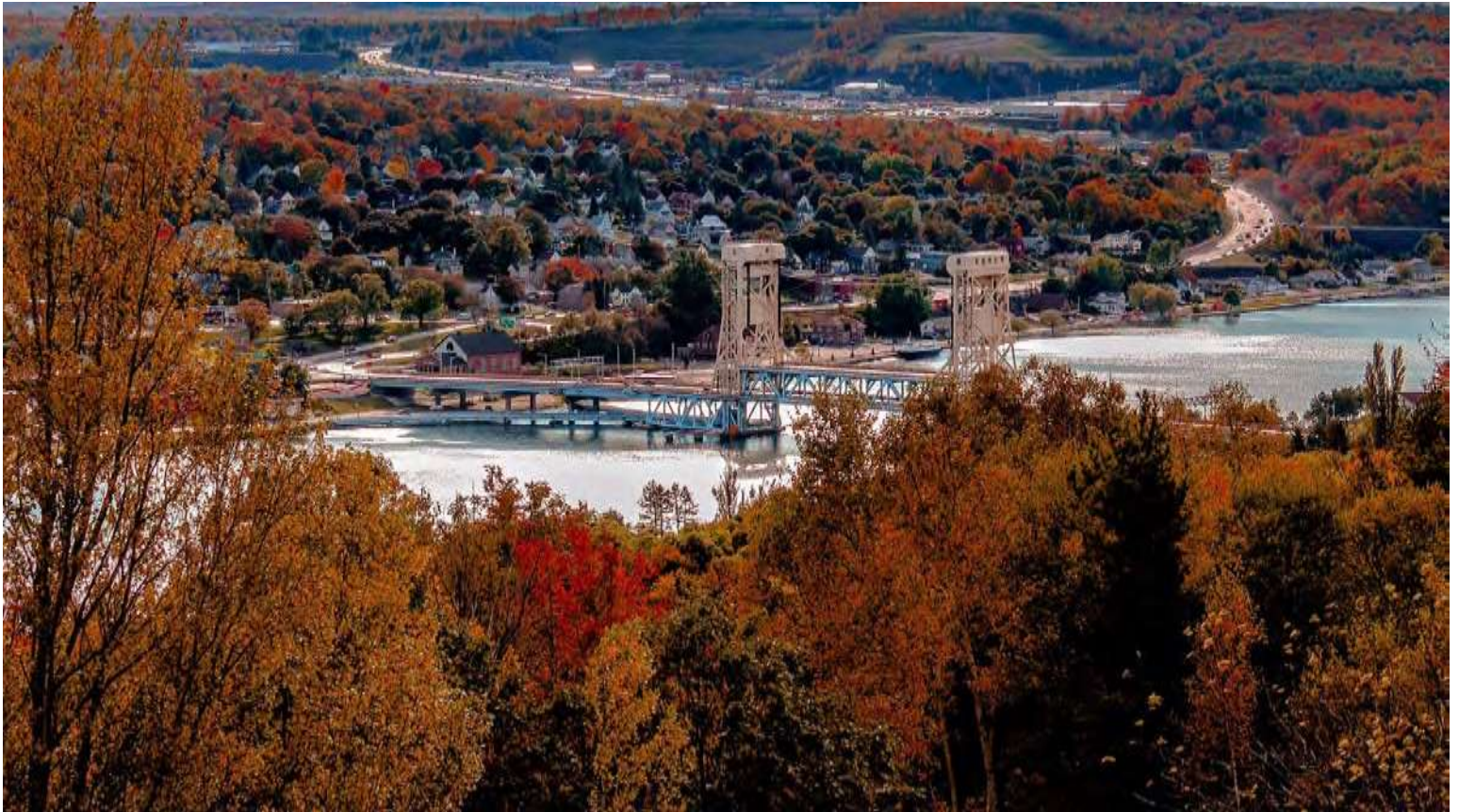
Engineering Services

Software Development

Forestry & Timber

Mining Technology

Business Services; legal, financial, marketing



The Keweenaw can change the way you think by embracing the lifestyle and exploring the business opportunities.

Photo Credits: Devin Leonarduzzi, MTEC SmartZone, Brockit, Inc., City of Hancock, Michigan, Michigan Tech University, The Princeton Review, MEDC, State of Michigan & PureMichigan, Midwest Living, Neuvokas, REL, Inc., Evergreen Technology, Copper Harbor Trails Club, Powder Magazine, The Finnish American Reporter, The Finnish Theme Committee, Lake Superior Magazine/MDOT, National Park Service, Jeanette Bynum/SunshineNomads, GreenForces, Michigan Forest Biomaterials Institute, Finlandia University, Keweenaw Convention & Visitor's Bureau, and Upper Peninsula Marketing Department, Inc.