

## Video: Introduction - What is a Lean Committee?

One of the main causes of failed lean journeys is the absence of a vision from top-level management. A Lean committee is a governing body of department managers that ensure lean is part of the company's overall business strategy.

A Lean committee is a group of cross-functional managers that together create a unified vision for lean. No one individual is responsible for the final decisions made by the group. Decisions are made as a group to ensure all points of view are looked at.

This committee should meet once a month to address the overall progress of Lean deployment by continually developing a strategic plan.

This plan must include concise goals and objectives that contribute to organization business targets.

Establishing these goals is critical in helping develop a culture that understands the importance of measurements.

Lean is a process improvement methodology and its concepts are intended to improve a company's key performance indicators.

Although the concepts within Lean can transform your culture and create an easier work environment, long-term Lean journeys succeed when there is a firm understanding of performance improvement.

Lean journeys do fail, and in many cases its failure is due to a lack of commitment, planning, and objectives.

To combat this, one of the Lean committee's main responsibilities is to ensure that a positive impact is made on both the people and the business.

Within the committee's Lean strategy, there are points throughout the year where kaizen events are scheduled to achieve the goals and objectives set by the Lean

plan.

Kaizen events are scheduled projects typically lasting two to five days in which a select team implements Lean concepts in a work area.

These kaizen events are intended to provide fast results and are a great way to bring employees together to improve a process.

The committee should create their Lean plan during the 4th quarter of a given year to be then executed in the next year starting in the 1st quarter.

The Lean plan should be communicated to all employees ahead of time so everyone is aware of the vision and goals that lay ahead. This helps in creating a unified vision.

Many organizations struggle finding the best approach to focus kaizen event activities.

There are many different opinions on this subject, but it is recommended to start small and slowly work your way up into more complex areas and focus.

One failure is starting in an area or process that is consistently troublesome. These areas often involve issues that are too complex to tackle for the beginning of a Lean implementation. Start small and then move on to more complex areas as you get more experience.

Establishing a lean committee is the first step in ensuring a Lean success.

Lean involves everyone in the company, but it is the responsibility of leadership to create a vision, make a plan, and identify how Lean is going to improve the organization's performance internally and in the marketplace. [📄](#)