

Testimonials

Wyandot County Building a Stronger Community Economic Development

Maureen Wise— Human Resource Manager, M-Tek Inc.

“Eric Romich in his position representing Wyandot County and Economic Development has been an invaluable support for me and my company, M-Tek, Inc. Eric used his knowledge of city, county and state resources to gather a select group of key individuals to assess our future projects. This hand chosen group successfully determined our company’s eligibility for programs across the entire spectrum. Without Wyandot County Office of Economic Development’s involvement we would not have been able to reach the same timely and successful conclusions.”

Mike Bishop—Plant Manager, Endres Processing

“The WCOED personnel provided valuable insight into the various government programs to identify potential funding for a plant expansion, rail spur, maintenance shop and office complex. Their network of contacts expedited the process of establishing fact finding meetings to review grant and loan parameters with the various government agencies. This investment will retain jobs and has the potential of increasing employment within the business unit and local area. WCOED is an asset for businesses to help them expand their operations.”

Steve Ihnot—Chief Financial Officer, Juwi Solar Inc.

“WCOED was instrumental in attracting the solar generation facility to Wyandot County, and then integrating the project into the local community once the location was selected. The organization provided endless support through the project’s development and into construction.”



Current Members

- AEP Ohio
- ACI Const. Co., Inc.
- Angeline Industries
- Clouse Construction Corp.
- Commercial Savings Bank
- Construction Services Inc.
- Double K Sanitation
- First Citizens National Bank
- First National Bank of Sycamore
- First Ohio Credit Union, Inc.
- Guardian Automotive
- Kimmel Corporation
- Koehler Surveying Inc.
- Morral Excavating
- National Lime & Stone Co.
- North Central Electric Cooperative
- Ohio Power Systems
- Pfeifer Hardware
- Raynon Electrical Products
- Schilling Propane Service
- United Insurance Service
- Upper United Development
- Vaughn Industries
- Village of Carey
- Wyandot County Commissioners
- Wyandot Memorial Hospital



**A Proactive Community
Approach, Towards Sustaining
Our Economic Viability & Quality
of Life for Tomorrow !**

2009 Wyandot County Economic Development Impacts

Business Retention and Expansion Program (BR&E) -

WCOED offers a comprehensive and aggressive BR&E program that is designed to assist local organizations with planning and implementation of projects to help local businesses grow. Our BR&E Program enables community leaders to define the strengths and weaknesses of the local economy as identified by existing businesses and workers. Armed with data from real feedback, WCOED and community leaders can work together to prioritize, develop, and implement actionable items and policy that best address local business and industry needs. In 2009 WCOED conducted 60 BR&E visits with local companies.

New product development & Commercialization

The WCOED Business & Retention program identified a need for assistance in new product commercialization from a local company possessing intellectual product. The WCOED has partnered with The Ohio State University to identify a R&D partner to help bring this product to market and generate new jobs in the community.

Business Attraction Program - The WCOED Business Attraction program utilizes BR&E Information on the local economy to identify local supply chain assets and match them to target industries that fit our existing local economy. In addition, we utilize partnerships with Ohio State University to capitalize on industry market research identifying companies that match the location, infrastructure, and assets of our community. After target industries are identified, marketing materials are developed and distributed to a list of prospects. In 2009 we developed promotional packets that were tailored to the solar industry. Three local companies were identified and highlighted in the packets that were distributed to over 250 companies.

Wyandot County Economic Development Website – In June of 2009 WCOED launched an Economic Development website. The development website is the main portal to market the area to new business development prospects, communicate state and federal business assistance programs to local businesses, and promote available buildings and properties that are for sale. Our website analytics have shown extremely high amounts of traffic on the website from nearly every state in the US and 26 international visits. This feedback illustrates there was an existing need that was not addressed prior to the establishment of the WCOED.

Wyandot Solar Project – The Wyandot County Office of Economic Development (WCOED) was instrumental in the realization of the Wyandot Solar Project. Wyandot Solar LLC is a 12 MW solar generation facility located on an 85 acre property by the county airport. This is the largest solar facility in Midwest and one of the largest in the country. Wyandot Solar has a number of benefits including: revenue generation for the local community, a compensation agreement with the school system, a renewable energy curriculum prepared for local schools, and small solar generation systems installed at high schools. The project has created local jobs in an emerging technology, will offset ~14,500 tons/year of greenhouse gas, and will strengthen the power grid which benefits existing and future business in the area. According to Wyandot County Commissioner Steve Seitz, “I believe that without Wyandot County Economic Development we would not be building Wyandot Solar, which is a 35 million dollar project.”



Equipment expansion generating jobs - In July, 9 months after startup, the office announced a local company was undertaking an equipment expansion project that will increase their capacity an estimated 70%. WCOED was the lead in collaborating with six different agencies/departments to identify assistance programs to help support this project. Pending grant approval, Phase 2 of this project would include a new rail spur and a new maintenance building on site. This investment has the potential for an estimated 10 to 20 new jobs.

Workforce Development – WCOED has partnered with the Wyandot County One Stop Program and the ODOD to organize outreach for workforce development assistance. While many of these programs have been available in the past, they have not been effectively marketed to businesses. WCOED has promoted this program via Business Retention & Expansion visits, public speaking, print marketing flyers, and the economic development website. As a result, we have the potential to bringing approximately \$200,000 workforce development grant dollars back to the community.

