



The Inside AEDG

April, 2023

The latest news, views, and announcements

INSIDE

Let's Talk

An update from the AEDG Board Chair

Incentives Available

Is your project eligible for an incentive package offered by the Port Authority?

Tax Abatement

Logoplaste is the latest to receive a tax abatement

MakerFest Returns

Become a sponsor today.

President's Pitch



Here is some exciting news! Lima/Allen County was recognized as 3rd in the nation in the category of a 3rd Tier Metropolitan for developmental projects in 2022. A 3rd Tier Metropolitan City is based on a population of 50,000 to 200,000. Lima/Allen County includes the City of Lima which has an approximate population of 35,000, the four surrounding townships plus Lima at 75,000 and the county of approximately 102,000. There were 12 projects throughout Allen County that were accepted in the recognition in 2022, including Proctor and Gamble, Lakeview Farms, Charles River, and Nutrien. When population within the category was considered, we were 2nd.

We continue to see significant growth in Lima/Allen County ranking 6th in 2019, 4th in 2020, 3rd in 2021 and now 3rd once again in 2022 in developmental projects. We are fortunate to be a part of significant investment in our businesses. To be considered a developmental project the metrics are to have \$1M capital investment, an addition of 20,000 square feet to the facility or the addition of 20 new employees.

It is our mission at Allen Economic Development Group to create an environment for new business development, to promote and nurture existing business and to facilitate the creation of new jobs in Allen County.

We strive to be a premier, trusted, and dependable business and economic development organization; known to work collaboratively with local, regional, and state development stakeholders for the advancement of Allen County.

The local partners and stakeholders are working together on projects that will enhance the lives of those that call Lima/Allen County their home. What can we do to better the growth, business, and economic development in the future? It takes all the entities working together with the same goals and mission in mind.

It is our vision for 2023 to bring exciting ventures to Lima/Allen County. Many projects will soon be completed throughout the county, with more coming soon. Additionally, we are seeing a new vibrancy to downtown life. These new restaurants, businesses and entertainment centers will provide the opportunity for people from all over the region to come and enjoy Lima/Allen County.

And what about the future? We have several projects in the pipeline for 2023 and see this year as a strong year as well. As we see it the best is yet to come.

AEDG Board Members

- Eric Pohjala
- Kurt Alexander
- Chad King
- Tammy Whitlow
- John Recker
- Rusty Rush
- Phil Buell
- Beth Seibert
- Sharetta Smith
- Howard Violet
- Keith Horner
- Dr. Cynthia Spiers
- Tim Turnwald

Incentives Available

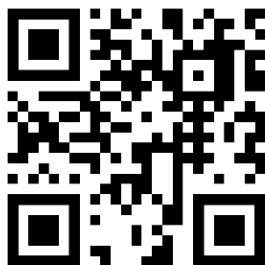
The AEDG Board works closely with the Port Authority of Allen County. The PAAC was established in 1982 and formed an Administrative Agreement with AEDG in 2018 and is governed by a seven-member board.

The PAAC provides valuable tools to our economic development office that assist us in promoting Lima/Allen County as a place to live, work and play. The PAAC offers the ability to apply for state and federal grants, loans, and other public funds. They can also offer incentives and financial options to attract prospects. These incentives include the Toledo Port Authority PACE, RFL, 166 and 504 loans; capital leasing finance structure which is a sales tax abatement on construction materials.

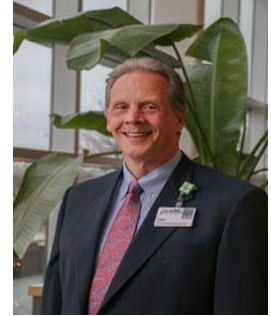
The PAAC can own, lease, and sell property. The PAAC is also involved in site development planning. This includes the ability to acquire purchase options, environmental studies, infrastructure improvements, site layouts, zoning and permitting.

All these things provide us the resources, expertise, and support to make an impact on business and economic development. We can aggressively promote business growth, seek, and attract new businesses to Allen County and support, retain, and grow the existing businesses in Allen County.

To learn more about the incentives available visit our website at www.aedg.org Let us know if we can be of help to you.



AEDG Board News



Let's talk...

As I look around, I see a lot of great things happening in Lima and Allen County. Not only am I seeing progress in Lima's Central District, Commerce Parkway, and being nationally ranked 3rd (again!) by the Site Selection survey, but I am also seeing an increase in people coming together **and** working together. I see a higher level of pride, excitement, and willingness to work together on issues to enhance our community.



The AEDG Board has been working hard to reach out to its key stakeholders (that's you!) to understand your goals and your thoughts/recommendations on what should be the priorities going forward. These conversations will go towards our development of our strategic plan that we are developing for 2024-2026. In addition, and more importantly through these conversations we are trying to rally everyone together for all of us to get behind 1 or 2 key initiatives we all feel are appropriate to work on and complete. We need to 'cross the finish line' with these projects now!

So, what am I asking of you? Well, two things: One, I want to hear your thoughts, questions, concerns, etc. And two, I want to know how are you going to help? We, all have done a tremendous job on economic development over the past several years. But I know we want more. So how do we do this?

Let's talk...

Eric Pohjala

Chairman, Allen Economic Development Board
Email - edpohjala@LimaMemorial.org

News from the Port Authority



The expansion of one company is making room for new employment in the region. Allen County Commissioners approved a resolution for Allen County to enter into an enterprise Zone Agreement with Logoplaste Lima LLC for the company's new project. The \$10 million investment will add 10 new jobs to the company and almost double the organization in size.

Their first project was a 100,000-square-foot project committing to 51 new jobs. They received a tax abatement at that time which was 75% for 10 years. Fast forward to 2023, with an increase in demands and product they are planning a second expansion.

"It is an expansion," said Plant Manager for Lima Logoplaste Anthony Klopfenstein. "It is a continuation of the first project that we initially did. We are looking to bring 10 more jobs. It is 135,000 square feet."

Congratulations Logoplaste!

Workforce Initiative

Many in our area are focusing on workforce attraction and development. AEDG works annually with partners from JobsOhio and OhioMeansJobs to assist in creating and communicating workforce initiatives. We meet regularly with businesses, academic and non-profit institutions to determine how we can best work together to improve the workforce in our area.

One of our initiatives for 2023 is assisting in MakerFest. *Your Path. Your Future.*

This year we are proud to say that MakerFest is returning. **MakerFest Your Path. Your Future** is a premier event connecting our region's employers to their future workforce. It will happen Oct. 12-13 at the Allen County Fairgrounds.

Matching talent with employers is a top priority in the region. **MakerFest Your Path. Your Future.** is an opportunity for companies to showcase their job options to the next generation of workers and highlight a training path to obtain a skillset to join the workforce.

The event will highlight jobs in six sectors: Manufacturing; Skilled Trades; Healthcare; Public Works/Safety; Business/Ag/IT; and Logistics/Transportation.

You can get involved! You can become a sponsor or a volunteer. More information can be found on the website: makerfestevent.com

