
**Final Report for OH RBDG Grant 41-048-186963641 on all 5 Tasks Covering
June 1, 2019 through Oct. 31, 2020**

Task 1: Identify and analyze business opportunities (biomass feedstocks, suppliers & service providers, access to capital, workforce training) (100% complete)

This Task was considered the most essential to the project, in that all other Tasks were dependent on having the geospatial inventory of (1) biomass feedstock resources in the region, and (2) those companies that could provide ancillary services in support of the bioeconomy cluster, especially those that would secure and process biomass feedstock inventories. We have incorporated all publicly available data into the various layers of an Environmental Sciences Research Institute (ESRI) GIS database in the ArcGIS Pro version. Each layer is properly identified as to data source, data timeframe, and credit to organizations and individuals that have provided the data. This geospatial database is available in two formats:

A publicly-available exploratory version is available on a website

(<https://arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8861b925efcc47c2b6bc448d76ec75bo>)

- (1)) that is accessible to anyone having this URL link; our intention is to make this widely available.

This web map allows users to become familiar with GIS data layers which they can view and probe/mine the underlying attribute tables of each layer for specific data on each entry (e.g., manure production, food waste, municipal solid waste, sewage sludge, and service providers to the region in the financial, educational, workforce, economic development, local & state government sectors.

- (2) The most robust detailed and data-analysis-ready version is available only through the ATIP Foundation. Containing all information that is in the public website database, this version also includes more data on contact information for biofeedstock providers and corporations that intend to process these feedstocks. In many cases these data are deemed business confidential, thus, specific information has been withheld from the public version of the database. More importantly, for corporations desiring to develop strategic positions in this region to process biomass and produce bioenergy and valuable co-products, the ATIP Foundation will use this database interactively with corporations under contract with the Foundation to evaluate optimal locations for accessing biomass and delivering product and co-products at least economic expense; additional services offer access to local/state/and federal connections necessary to obtain permits for operation, strategic planning on fiscal resource acquisition, as well as access to several economic development organizations in the region that can facilitate all local arrangements as well as local political support.

Task 2: Identify, train, and provide technical assistance to regional Economic Development Authorities (100% Complete)

The primary focus of this task has been to identify, train and provide technical assistance to regional economic development entities, to enable them to support the growth of the Bioeconomy.

Our accomplishments include the following.

We have identified and provided information to all the economic development organizations in the region, and geo-referenced them in the GIS Database. We have made the GIS Database available to them. We have developed a Model for recruitment of Bioeconomy companies that is premised on co-management of the prospects with local economic development organizations.

We have engaged Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development, an organization that works with and represents 11 County Economic Development Corporations; 7 City Economic and/or Community Development entities; and 12 Public Development entities. They also work with 27 private entities, inclusive of Industry Associations & Cooperatives.

We have provided Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development and its members with information relative to the Bioeconomy, our Model for Rural Economic Development; the GIS Database, and information about the # business prospects who have indicated interest in the region, and our Prospect Management Process.

We have worked throughout the year with our Partner, the Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT) to ensure their understanding of the Model and their ability to provide the technical assistance to these regional, County and local organizations.

We have made presentations to these groups, and CIFT recorded one of our primary presentations for continued and future use.

In total, we have briefed and provided information and support to 42 organizations in or that serve our targeted region in Northwest Ohio.

Task 3: Assist in the creation / recruitment of new rural businesses (100% complete)

The primary focus of this task was to assist in the creation and/or recruitment of new rural businesses.

Our accomplishments include the following.

We have actively cultivated business interest in the Initiative and the region during the past year. We did so at several national conferences and events pre-COVID-19; we have done so virtually since. The result is a data base of # companies that have indicated they intend to (1) establish a business, locate a business or relocate their business in the next three years, and (2) will consider the region we are working in, in Ohio, as a possible site.

We have established a formal management system, defining how we will manage prospects, moving them from Suspects to Prospects to Clients to Projects to Finalists. The System includes co-management with the Economic Development Corporations (EDCs); a definitive set of services we provide in support; and a formatted approach for vetting Prospects, providing formal reports to our EDCs and their communities.

To date, we have secured 1 formal commitment; a company that converts manure to energy and commodities;

Of the remaining # prospects;

1 are finalists

0 are Projects

14 are Clients

12 are Prospects

29 are Suspects

See attached OH RBDG ATIP Status of Corporate Interest.xlsx for details. Note that these data have been limited appropriately to avoid any confidentiality issues with companies, should this document be obtained by anyone under FOIA or FOIA-like authority.

Task 4: Conduct Local Community or multi-County Economic Development Planning (100% complete)

The primary focus of this task was to conduct local community or multi-County Economic Development Planning. From our perspective, the true deliverable was to develop and document a strategic approach, regional in nature, supported by the 6 identified groups of stakeholders.

Our accomplishments include the following.

We have secured regional support for the Plan, entitled “Advancing the Bioeconomy in Ohio: A Strategic Approach for Regional Rural Economic Development” (attached). The document fully describes our approach; the critical stakeholders; the primary elements; engagement of the stakeholders; availability and utilization of USDA Resources, as well as other Federal and state resources; and the creation of regional capacity.

In Ohio we have also briefed and secured support from the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation; the Office of Workforce Development, Jobs & Family Services; the Ohio Department of Higher Education; and the Ohio Department of Education.

We have also briefed and secured support from the US Department of Energy.

As we conclude the Project, the Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT) has agreed to provide leadership to the Plans Implementation.

Task 5: Establish centers for Training, Technology and Trade (100% complete)

The primary focus of this task was to establish the awareness, understanding, and knowledge necessary to enable public education, higher education, and the State and local workforce boards to support the education and training needed to support the growth of the Bioeconomy in Ohio; particularly in the 9 Northwest Counties where we have been working.

Our accomplishments include the following.

We have engaged public education, community colleges, and universities in the region, to develop a path forward, to ensure they are equipped to provide the training needed by the bioeconomy sector, based on the education, knowledge, skills and competencies needed to support business development in the region.

We have completed an assessment of the primary skills & competencies needed to develop a skilled workforce for the Bioeconomy.

To do so, we engaged ACT, the National leader in assessments and testing tools, to work with us to assist in our evaluation.

We also engaged Ohio State Workforce Director Kim Hall, who asked Emily Fabiano, Director, Strategy and Operations within the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation, to work with us to inform the state, and engage the local Workforce Boards that serve our 9 County targeted area. She in turn introduced us to Ryan Thompson, Office of Workforce Development, Jobs & Family Services; Dr. Cheri Rice, Vice Chancellor, Higher Education Workforce Alignment, Ohio Department of Higher Education; and Cassandra Palsgrove, Ohio Department of Education. We have worked with all 4 to ensure State understanding.

We have conducted interactive activities with the local Workforce Board, Community Colleges, and School Districts within the 9 County Region we are working in.

Our purpose was to (1) brief them on the Bioeconomy in general, and more specifically our Initiatives, to create awareness; and (2) engage them in determining the role each can play to ensure we are able to produce the workforce to support the growth of the Bioeconomy Industry Cluster.

Wes Jurey attended the National Career Development Summit, in Washington, D.C.; an annual event well attended by federal and state officials, academicians, workforce officials, career and technical educators, and business and industry.

His purposes were to (1) inform attendees about the Bioeconomy in general and more specifically about our "Advancing the Bioeconomy" Initiatives; and (2) engage State and Federal officials in support. As a result, Scott Stump, Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical & Adult Education, US Department of Education, agreed to work with ATIP relative to the role public education can play in developing the workforce needed to support the growth of the Bioeconomy as an industry cluster.

We also engaged Scott Ellsworth, Senior Advisor to the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council in Ohio. Essentially, we have provided information, knowledge, and materials, including our GIS Database, to enable the education and workforce systems to support the growth of the Bioeconomy.

By my signature, I attest to the work accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,



Wes Jurey, President & CEO
ATIP Foundation

Attachments:

Compilation of OH RBDG_ Quarterly Progress Reports for Project 41_048186963641_v10.26.20.pdf
Advancing the Bioeconomy in NW Ohio_A Strategic Approach for Rural Economic Development
v4.17.2020.pdf
OH RBDG ATIP Status of Corporate Interest