

NORTHWEST KENTUCKY

A CENTER FOR GREEN INNOVATION

Entrepreneurs, scientists, and investors are finding Northwest Kentucky's Green River region encompassing Greater Owensboro, Henderson, and the counties of Union, Webster, Henderson, McLean, Daviess, Ohio, and Hancock rich in assets for innovation in green technologies such as plant made natural products and renewable energy.

Plant Made Natural Products

Owensboro is becoming a world center of plant-made pharmaceutical and plant natural product development through its unique collaborations in bioprocessing, cancer research, and agricultural production.

Renewable Energy

Kentucky is uniquely situated to lead the nation's synthetic fuels industry. Northwest Kentucky, with its abundance of coal, rich agriculture, rivers and significant infrastructure assets, is positioned to spearhead the Commonwealth's renewable energy efforts.

Green Region Innovation Network

The Green River Region is poised to lead green innovation in Kentucky. Through investment in supports for these new industries, both the region and the state will be able to capitalize on existing assets. The Green River Region Innovation Network was developed to create partnerships between higher education, research and development entities, and workforce training facilities to ensure that conditions are right for growth in green technologies in Northwest Kentucky. The work of the Network will



help diversify the regional economy through support of innovative developments in renewable energy and plant-made natural products.



Plan of Work

- Establish research and development vouchers to engage leading scientists and innovators in advancing green technology agenda in natural products and renewable energy production through the Green Region Innovation Network
- Workforce development initiatives, including high school career clusters and majors in biotechnology and energy technology at community colleges and universities
- Agriculture development programs encouraging regional farmers to grow for natural product and alternate energy uses.
- Seed funding to entice entrepreneurs and startups into the region for new company development in renewable energy through the Green Region Innovation Network and in natural products through the Owensboro Medical Health System "Bench to Bedside" initiative.
- Regional economic development marketing to attract, create and grow companies in the region.



Greater Owensboro
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Regional Assets

- **Kentucky Bioprocessing**, located in Owensboro, is the world's only commercial-scale contract plant bioprocessing facility.
- Partnerships with **world class research universities**:
 - **University of Louisville** James Graham Brown Cancer Center in partnership with the **Owensboro Medical Health System** created the Owensboro Cancer Research Program and a state-of-the-art cancer research center in Owensboro. UL researchers in Owensboro are working with plant made pharmaceutical production.
 - **University of Kentucky Center** for Applied Energy Research and Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center bring to bear resources and expertise in natural product uses of tobacco and applied energy development.
 - **Western Kentucky University** applied research programs, agriculture, energy and biotechnology
- **Biodiesel** production at the Owensboro Grain Biodiesel and Union County Biodiesel are currently producing a large share of the Kentucky's renewable fuels.
- Peabody Energy has identified Northwest Kentucky as the site of its proposed **\$2 billion coal gasification plant**.
- **Eleven of the 19 sites** identified by Kentucky Office of Energy Policy for **Coal Liquefaction and Coal Gasification facilities** are within a 40 mile radius of Henderson and Owensboro.
- **Three interstate gas pipelines** cross the region.
- The Northwest Kentucky region has 21.8 billion tons of **coal reserves**.
- **Northwest Kentucky is an agricultural hub**, leading in the Commonwealth's soybean, corn, and wheat production, and serving as a major source for tobacco. Its farmers have experience in raising crops for biotechnology products and expertise in meeting USDA regulations.
- **Numerous energy companies** already call the area home—Big Rivers Electric, Kenergy, Texas Gas Transmission, Southern Star, Orbit Gas, and Patriot Coal among others.
- The region is part of the **Owensboro and Evansville metropolitan areas** with workforce, infrastructure, and amenities of a combined population of half a million people.
- The region has an emerging **entrepreneurial atmosphere** with two venture/ angel investment groups and the **Emerging Ventures Center for Innovation** to provide technical assistance and access to financing and capital for high technology businesses.
- The **GREENing Western Kentucky Project**, sponsored by Mt. St. Joseph Conference Center, models renewable energy and studies energy sustainability.



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