

2011 Annual Report



SWITZERLAND COUNTY
economic development corporation

SCEDC Annual Report

Report to the Community

Two Businesses Began Construction in Markland Business Park in 2010

Two businesses, Process Systems and Services (PSS) and Trenwa, Inc., began construction of their facilities in Markland Business Park in 2010.

Work on the PSS site began in early June and was completed by the end of the year. The 3.5-acre site includes a 10,000-square-foot fabrication facility, creating up to 20 jobs over the next

Markland Business Park welcomes Process Systems and Services (PSS) and Trenwa, Inc.



Cover Photo—

Vevay's downtown has seen new life with help from Vevay Main Street.

three years. Offices for the company's corporate headquarters are also being located on the site. PSS plans to begin hiring and training additional fabricators and service technicians in 2010.

PSS specializes in thermoplastic tanks, piping, exhaust, filtration, and other industrial plastic and process systems. Permanent access to the PSS facility will be via a new road to be built by Switzerland County.

PSS, a third-generation industrial service company, has grown to serve the industrial plastics needs within the steel finishing, chemical, pharmaceutical, utility, and process OEM markets. Based in central Ohio, PSS also has a field office in Warsaw, Kentucky.

"We are excited that PSS is coming to our county," said Michael Jones, Switzerland County

Council president. "This family-owned company will make a great addition to the southeast Indiana business community."

"After studying numerous potential locations along the Ohio River and tri-state area, we decided on Switzerland County because of its proximity to key customers, access to regional workforce, and a pro-business attitude among county economic leaders," said Dieter Volk, PSS president. "Having a permanent base of operations in southern Indiana will allow us to more efficiently and cost-effectively serve our industrial plastic and process equipment customers in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and other surrounding states."

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered PSS up to \$8,000 in training grants based on the company's job creation plans. Up to \$25,000 from the state's Industrial Development Grant Fund will be made available to Switzerland County for water, road, and sewer improvements necessary for site development.

Trenwa, Inc., a manufacturer of concrete trench and utility products, also began construction for its manufacturing operations in Markland Business Park. The company will invest \$2.5 million to move to its 10-acre site. Its 25,150-square-foot plant is designed to manufacture pre-cast concrete trenches.

In business for 40 years, Trenwa also has facilities in Colorado, Florida, and Puerto Rico, and is headquartered in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Trenwa intends to begin hiring production associates in the spring of 2011 to coincide with the planned completion of its facility. The company is expected to create up to 24 jobs by 2012. The total economic benefit to the area of the construction and operation of the Trenwa facility is estimated at more than 17 million dollars over the next seven years.

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered Trenwa up to \$50,000 in performance-based tax credits due to the company's job creation plans. In addition, up to \$47,000 from the state's Industrial Development Grant Fund was made available to Switzerland County for water, road, and sewer improvements necessary for site development.

Trenwa's 10-foot-long concrete trenches are used for the distribution of electrical control cables, power cables, and mechanical piping. Its global customers, primarily related to the utility industry, include wastewater-treatment plants, telecommunication sites, wind farms, solar and nuclear power plants, and universities.

The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC), Switzerland County Commissioners, and the County Redevelopment Commission have been assisting Trenwa as it has prepared to construct its facility. "Whether you are talking about green energy or just generating more traditional power, the utility industry is going to be booming for a long time," said Jon Bond, president of the SCEDC. "Having a company that supplies that sector will be a great addition to our county's economy."

*In 2010,
Switzerland
County
welcomed new
businesses
to Indiana in
the energy
and advanced
manufacturing
sectors.*



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Community Attention Turned to Workforce Readiness and Life-Long Learning

In 2008, Switzerland County's need for an adult education, learning, and training facility was identified as one of the top priorities by local citizens leading our Economic Opportunities 2015 (EcO15) initiative. At that time, a partnership was formed with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service of Switzerland County, the Switzerland County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), the

Switzerland County 4-H Board, and SCEDC's EcO15 initiative.

In March, floor plans and elevation drawings for a new facility were completed. Switzerland County Commissioners and County Council voted unanimously to approve construction of the facility. They selected a proposal from Keystone Developers of Indianapolis to begin construction in 2011.

The building will provide office space for the Extension Service and EMA, a community room for 4-H that will accommodate up to 300 people, and Switzerland County's first facility designed for adult learners. Three classrooms, a computer lab, and an advanced manufacturing lab will provide residents with access to college

programs, industry-certification training, and computer instruction.

Property owned by the county on the corner of Arch and Seminary Streets in Vevay, adjacent to the 4-H Fairgrounds, is the site of this new facility. This location is ideal for the new offices of the Cooperative Extension Service and for a new modern meeting and banquet facility for the 4-H Board.

The plans were developed using grant funds provided by the EcO15 initiative. EcO15 will also furnish the computer lab, classroom desks and chairs, and instructional technology equipment.

All tenants of the new building have education and learning as their core primary mission. Space is also planned for a WorkOne Express office and for counseling services provided by educational institutions such as Ivy Tech, Vincennes University, Purdue University, and Indiana University. All partners share the goals of preparing Switzerland County residents for the changing job market, allowing easier access to college programs, and providing certifications.

Groundbreaking is planned for mid-2011, with construction expected to be completed in early 2012.



EcO15

Manufacturing • Healthcare • Tourism



R E P O R T

Grant dollars from the EcO15 Program will be used to equip a new community learning center.

Economic Development Administration Grant for Markland Business Park Infrastructure

Switzerland County purchased the property for the 100-acre Markland Business Park in 2007. Since that time, the project has gone through extensive design and permitting steps with state and federal agencies. The extension of utilities to the site began in 2008 and has continued through 2010. Switzerland County was recently awarded a \$767,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to construct the needed infrastructure for the remainder of the property, including a new entrance drive and roadway, storm-drainage system, and wastewater lines.

The funds were awarded to various entities within the county, including the Switzerland County Commissioners, the Switzerland County Redevelopment Commission, the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation, the Patriot Water Company, and the Florence Regional Sewer District. Since purchasing the property, the Switzerland County Redevelopment Commission has been overseeing the engineering, pre-planning, and permitting needs to develop the park.

The State of Indiana is providing matching funds for infrastructure to support both the Process Systems and Services and Trenwa facilities. The federal dollars will focus on the remainder of the park. The Markland Business Park has already been certified as "Shovel Ready" by the state's Economic Development Corporation. This grant provides an even bigger step towards attracting new business and industry to the site. The work funded by the EDA grant dollars will begin in 2011 and be completed mid-2012.

"Everyone in Switzerland County is working extremely hard toward the development of the Markland Business Park, and these grant funds will be used to create jobs in both the short and long term for residents of Southeastern Indiana," said U.S. Representative Baron Hill.

SCEDC Completes Final Draft of Update to Economic Development Strategy

In 2010, SCEDC completed a final draft of the update to Switzerland County's Economic Development Strategy. This strategy document was the product of 18 months of research, planning, and discussion by a group of community leaders that came together to form the Strategy Steering Committee.

The county's first strategy document was released in late 2004. This document has served as a guide for Switzerland County's economic development activities since that time. In 2008, SCEDC released a Progress Report on the county's economic development strategy. This report was created not only to give the community an update on economic development activities,

but also to serve as a starting point for a strategy update.

The new strategy will concentrate the focus of future economic development activities on a few targeted areas. This should allow key initiatives to happen faster. The finished strategy is scheduled for release in 2011.



Community leaders met throughout 2010 to finalize the County's Economic Development Strategy Update.

Federal and state grants provide an even bigger step towards attracting new business and industry to the site.



R E P O R T

Switzerland County Partners in New Regional Economic Development Group

A regional partnership will make Southeast Indiana more competitive for businesses and jobs.

Switzerland County has joined four other Indiana counties to create the Southeast Indiana Growth Alliance. This new regional economic development group has been formed to promote southeast Indiana as the “Affordable Cincinnati Address.” Just minutes away from the western edge of Cincinnati, this region includes Ripley, Franklin, Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland counties, as well as the city of Batesville. The alliance is a unique example of regional cooperation bringing together economic development groups in each of the participating counties for a common purpose.

The group’s website, www.southeastindiana.org, promotes the low cost of doing business and the availability of affordable real estate in southeast Indiana. Economic development organizations decided to create the alliance to market the overall region. “We have been working to coordinate our marketing efforts for

several years,” said Jon Bond. “We know we can accomplish more working together than we can individually.” Indiana’s conservative approach to fiscal management results in a reduced likelihood of tax increases, and lower workers’ compensation rates equal a lower cost of doing business.

Alliance members believe that a business relocating to southeast Indiana will have all the regional benefits without the costs found in other parts of the Greater Cincinnati area.

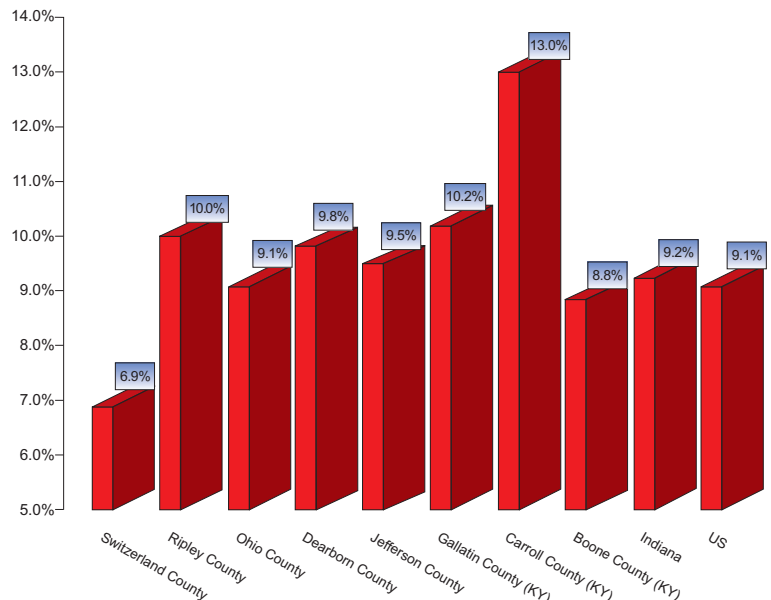


Vevay Main Street Hosts Successful Fundraiser

In May 2010, Vevay Main Street presented “A Flair for Wine.” This event featured four regional wineries and five area eateries, and a live art auction. After six years of helping to bring Vevay’s historic business district to life, Vevay Main Street was excited to announce its first gala fundraiser was a success. Guests attending the event enjoyed a great night out while helping support Vevay Main Street to continue its many programs, including colorful flower pots and First Fridays and Second Saturdays at the historic Hoosier Theater.

Switzerland County Has the Lowest Unemployment Rate in Southeast Indiana

Switzerland County again has the lowest unemployment rate in southeast Indiana at 6.9 percent. The state’s seasonally adjusted jobless rate was down three-fifths of one percent from November to 9.2 percent in December, putting Indiana’s rate almost even with the national rate. Indiana’s unemployment was lower than that of neighboring states in December. Illinois came in second at 9.3 percent, Ohio fell to 9.6 percent, Kentucky was at 10.3, and Michigan declined 0.7 to 11.7 percent.



Switzerland County You Learn...You Earn! Program

The 2010 Swiss Wine Festival provided the perfect opportunity to introduce a new EcO15 initiative in Switzerland County: the "You Learn...You Earn!" program. You Learn...You Earn! allows Switzerland County residents to receive information on available jobs, career counseling, and how to take the next steps in educational attainment. More than 300 people registered for You Learn...You Earn! during the



wine festival; following the festival, those who had not yet registered were encouraged to do so online at www.youlearnyouearn.com. One recently-released report concludes that, by 2018, nearly three out of every four jobs in the United States will require training and education beyond a high school diploma. You Learn...You Earn! is designed to help Switzerland County residents remain competitive for employment opportunities in the post-recession economy. Improving our county's ranking in educational attainment is critical to attracting new businesses to the Markland Business Park and other areas in our county and region. Existing regional industries, along with several new business prospects, have told SCEDC that the availability of skilled personnel is a critical factor in their business success. SCEDC is listening to current and potential employers and is working to understand their specific skill needs.

County Announces Plans for Building Near Markland Park

Switzerland County leaders have announced plans for a new building, to be called Markland Center, that will serve a variety of community needs, including assisting needy families and providing important meeting space for small businesses and entrepreneurs. The building will include office and volunteer space for the Community Food Bank and the Salvation Army of Switzerland County. The facility will also include an open meeting and training area for the use of area businesses and a modern-equipped conference room. The building will have a climate-controlled room to accommodate offsite servers and fiber-optic communications. In addition to being able to provide network and telecommunications services to firms in the Markland Business Park, this facility could create new options for delivering high-speed internet to new areas of the community. The project is expected to be completed in 2011.

County residents are being trained to remain competitive for employment opportunities.



R E P O R T

**SWITZERLAND
COUNTY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

OFFICERS

Jonathan Bond
JD, CEcD
President

Michael Busch
*Vice President
Workforce
and Business
Development*

Walter A. Cole
Intern

**BOARD
MEMBERS**

Judy Firth
Chair

Rhonda Griffin

Bruce Williams

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Financial Report

Statement of Activities—Years Ended December 31, 2010 & 2009

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u> RESTATED
Support and revenues		
Contract service revenue	\$ 182,500	\$ 170,000
Grant revenue	181,953	120,064
Economic Development Commission revenue	<u>55,300</u>	<u>2,188</u>
Total support and revenues	419,753	292,252
Expenses		
Economic Development	383,095	300,309
Management and general	<u>35,045</u>	<u>36,674</u>
Total expenses	418,140	336,983
Change in net assets	1,613	(44,731)
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>43,678</u>	<u>88,409</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 35,291</u>	<u>\$ 43,678</u>

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