

More than \$167M Capex, 2,500+ New Jobs Created in Kankakee County Enterprise Zone



The outcomes are clear. From the Kankakee County Enterprise Zone's inception in 1984, EZ-qualifying projects have generated more than \$167 million in new capital investment and created more than 2,500 new jobs.

Positioned in the Greater Chicago region, the KCEZ encompasses the villages of Manteno, Grant Park and Hopkins Park, the City of Momence, and parts of unincorporated Kankakee County.

"Today, industry can locate virtually anywhere," explains Manteno Mayor Tim Nugent. "As such, nearly every community that seeks to grow has incentives of some kind in place to encourage new investment and new job creation.

"Kankakee County's business climate is stronger than it has been in decades," Nugent continues. "That good news is due, in part, to a valuable enterprise zone program that allows our industries to retain and reinvest more of their earnings, producing value in the form of jobs at all skill levels for our residents."



Plochman's Mustard has utilized Kankakee County Enterprise Zone incentives to expand and hire at its Manteno-area headquarters operation. From this location, more than a dozen Plochman's varieties are produced for shipping to points across North America.

ABC Coating selected the Manteno area in 2016 to construct its 80,000-square-foot production facility after leasing in an adjoining county for more than a decade. The new location not only provided better access to primary supplier Nucor Steel's Bourbonnais mill but enabled expansion and the ability to utilize KCEZ Program incentives.

"This is a great move that will enable us to meet our growth objectives," ABC Coating Vice President Tom Greenfield told the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County in 2016. At that time, the company – which employs 32

"Enterprise zones are among Illinois' most important and effective tools to stimulate economic growth and neighborhood revitalization," remarks Illinois Enterprise Zone Association President Mike Van Mill. "Although the Enterprise Zone Program is overseen and supervised at the state level by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

(DCEO), its ultimate success depends on the level of localized commitment and participation."

And, in the KCEZ, local officials have been



Utilizing incentives provided by the Kankakee County Enterprise Zone Program, Momence-based organic and conventional specialty ingredient grower and processor Van Drunen Farms completed construction of a 100,899-square-foot processing facility in 2015. VDF and sister company FutureCeuticals occupy nine facilities in the Greater Chicago community of Momence, Illinois. From 2010 to 2017, the firms' combined employment has grown from 370 to 680.

anticipated expanding its workforce by as much as 25 percent by spring 2017.

Plochman's Mustard and Servpro of Kankakee County also have utilized KCEZ incentives to expand and hire at their respective Manteno-area headquarters operations.

The Illinois Enterprise Zone Program is designed to stimulate economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in economically depressed areas of the state. This is accomplished through state and local tax incentives, regulatory relief and improved governmental services

amenable to the program and have continued to show its support over its more than 30-year existence.

"From the perspective of our taxing bodies, forgoing some revenue in the short term is seen as a sound and reasonable investment," explains Momence Mayor Mick Porter. "In our community's case, we have worked in cooperation with long-standing manufacturing neighbors that have a record of success in creating jobs and generating significant tax dollars over time."

Porter continues, "Enterprise zone participation is our community saying to private industry in a tangible way, 'We appreciate the great value that you provide in the form of new capital investment, new jobs and new tax dollars, and we want you to continue to grow here versus elsewhere.'"

Momence is home to sister company food processors Van Drunen Farms – the largest supplier of organically grown culinary herbs in the United States – and FutureCeuticals – a research and development-driven nutraceutical provider that holds more than 50 patents on functional food ingredients. Together, the companies own and operate 670,000 square feet of manufacturing, storage, R&D, sales and administrative space in nine Momence facilities. The companies' total employment has nearly doubled in seven years, from 370 workers in 2010 to 680 today.

VDF and FutureCeuticals also invest heavily in local economic and community development initiatives, such as the Main Street Momence downtown revitalization program.

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"Van Drunen Farms and our sister company FutureCeuticals have taken advantage of the Kankakee County Enterprise Zone on various capital projects since 2014," notes FutureCeuticals President Jeff Van Drunen. "Whether the project was as simple as a roof replacement, exterior remodel or a parking lot improvement, or as complex as building our new processing facility and a corporate office

customer service and marketing force to support outreach to food, beverage, dietary supplement and pharmaceutical customers across the globe. Another 20 to 30 employees are expected to be hired by 2019.

While Kankakee County has experienced significant growth in the last decade in terms of capital investment, jobs, employment, exports and gross domestic product, the

KANKAKEE COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE

Total Capital Expenditure = \$167M • New Jobs = 2,500+

RECENT PROJECTS

ABC Coating - Manteno Diversatech Campus	New 80,000 SF Metal Fabrication Facility
Servpro - Manteno Diversatech Campus.....	New 50,000 SF Service Facility
FutureCeuticals - Momence.....	14,000 SF Headquarters Expansion
Van Drunen Farms - Momence.....	New 100,000 SF Processing Facility
Silva International - Momence	Expansion: New Food Processing Room
Urban Farmer - Manteno Diversatech Campus	New Business: Complete building renovation
Pactiv - Manteno Diversatech Campus	Roof Restoration
Edmund Allen Lumber Expansion - Momence.....	New Building

expansion, the EZ has helped our companies expand here in Illinois and incentivized the investment of more than \$25 million into our local operations. This helps us remain competitive on a global scale, resulting in new job opportunities and future expansion possibilities."

A provider of fruit-, vegetable- and grain-based powders and extracts for food ingredients, dietary supplements, cosmetics and health care products, FutureCeuticals' most recent project announcement in January 2017 called for a \$2 million, 14,700-square-foot expansion of its headquarters operation. According to the company, the additional space will house its 50- to 60-member sales,

community still lags the state significantly in areas like post-secondary educational attainment and personal income. The Kankakee County Enterprise Zone Program, local economic development officials are convinced, has helped to level the playing field and spur sustainable growth for a historically under-resourced and disadvantaged community.

"Without question, our community is more vibrant with the EZ program than it would be without it," remarks Porter. "In an uncertain economy with few resources to devote to new industrial and commercial development, we are fortunate that this program is in place and has been successful here."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Michael J. Van Mill, President

Illinois Enterprise Zone Association
vanmillm@villageofbourbonnais.com
815-937-3570



Produced by the Illinois Enterprise Zone Association. The primary purpose of the member-based IEZA is to facilitate and guide local-level enterprise zone activities. These IEZA activities include the determination of specific economic development objectives, the selection of incentives, collaboration and coordination, drafting of applications and carrying out the day-to-day local administration duties of the enterprise zones.



Learn more about the Illinois Enterprise Zone Program @ ieza.org