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David West, Marketing Director
Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau



EDAB: Report of Recommendations

Board Purpose

Where we are today: Understanding our current approach to economic development

Where do we want to be in the future: Set goals for improving economic development

How do we get there: Define actions steps necessary to achieve goals



EDAB: Report of Recommendations

Where we are today: Understanding our current approach to economic development

- Existing Economic Development Efforts in Bucks County, Other Counties, and Regionally
- Case Studies: Pennsylvania Bio-tech Center and AE Polysilicon
- Business Survey



EDAB: Report of Recommendations

- Where do we want to be in the future:**
Set goals for improving economic development
- Maintain diversity in the economy
 - Maintain our high quality of life
 - Create a good business climate
 - Build and retain a skilled workforce
 - Revitalize downtowns and main streets
 - Reuse vacant and underutilized industrial and commercial sites



EDAB: Report of Recommendations

Where do we want to be in the future:

- Vacant or abandoned industrial sites repopulated with new businesses.
- Lower Bucks is center for green jobs and industries as development at U.S. Steel and Bridge Business Center continue to attract new businesses.
- Low-intensity campus-type office and business park development is established along key corridors: Routes 13 and 663.
- Boroughs have thriving downtown business districts with mix of retail, entertainment, service, and residential uses.
- Biotechnology industry expanded in Doylestown area with Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center and Delaware Valley College.
- We are an incubator for entrepreneurs who start small businesses that expand into stable businesses.
- More manufacturing and support businesses at key interchanges in Bristol and Milford.
- Businesses provide family-sustaining jobs and opportunities for employment at all income levels.
- Bucks County will not seek to become another King of Prussia, nor will we encourage strip commercial development that contributes to congestion or diminish appeal of downtowns and Main Streets.
- End the "brain drain" and retain much of its younger educated workforce.



EDAB: Report of Recommendations

How do we get there: Define actions steps necessary to achieve goals

- 1) Centralize the economic development function.
- 2) Adopt guiding principles of economic development: target areas, capitalize on green jobs, biotech, and knowledge industry clusters; and focus on quality of life.
- 3) Make better use of our existing economic development organizations and resources.
- 4) Help existing businesses we have in order to retain and help them grow.
- 5) Engage municipal partners.
- 6) Support workforce development that supports our economic development goals.



EDAB: Report of Recommendations

Next Steps: Implementation Concepts

Time is critical – Need implementation steps

- Commissioners endorse recommendations
- Reach out to economic development groups, local municipal officials, school boards, and citizens
- Use EDAB to develop implementation plan



Bucks County

Moving Forward

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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