Expanding Statewide Impact

2023 was a year full of new and exciting opportunities that bolstered PennTAP’s ability to support economic development, innovation, and sustainability projects across the commonwealth of PA.

Our team achieved numerous professional milestones, underscoring PennTAP’s dedication to excellence. One notable accomplishment, facilitated by increased grant funding, was the promotion of Alanna Colvin to Associate Director, enriching the team with her extensive experience and leadership. Additionally, Technical Advisors, Jenn Jones and Amy Jorden, obtained certification as Energy Managers, enhancing our team’s proficiency in energy-related endeavors.

We further broadened our services by securing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding through the Rural Energy for America (REAP) Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program. This funding unlocks fresh avenues for PennTAP to offer technical support to agricultural producers and rural small businesses statewide.

PennTAP also had the privilege of being qualified by the US Department of Energy as an Industrial Assessment Center (IAC)-equivalent. This qualification gives PennTAP the authority to provide crucial energy assessments that manufacturers can use to apply for specialized grants and potentially access up to $300,000 to support the implementation of energy-efficient practices outlined in the assessment. This qualification solidified our pivotal role in advancing sustainability and innovation throughout Pennsylvania.

“

We must build on our legacy as Pennsylvania’s only land-grant university and our foundational purpose of serving our commonwealth, our nation, and our world. We must be agile to meet the needs of our students, an evolving workforce, the commonwealth and, indeed, humanity.”

— Dr. Neeli Bendapudi
President, Penn State University
PennTAP is committed to nurturing and training the workforce of the future. In 2023, we facilitated connections between small to mid-sized businesses and Penn State student talent through Penn State Learning Factory projects and capstone courses. Additionally, with support provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), PennTAP was able to offer project funding support to manufacturers located within 13 Northwest PA counties.

Another integral part of fostering innovation and investment in PA’s future came in the creation of PennTAP’s TEC Talks. These regional events organized in collaboration with Penn State campus Chancellors in Northeast PA, brought together a diverse panel of experts, including Penn State research faculty, industry executives, and community leaders. Topics for each session were focused on emerging technology-manufacturing industries in the region and worked to identify opportunities for building regional innovation ecosystems, increasing workforce education, and fostering job retention and growth for the future.

BY THE NUMBERS

$76,500  Penn State Learning Factory
Total Grant Funding Provided to  Students Engaged
Learning Factory Project Sponsors

115  Learning Factory
Projects

23  Companies Awarded Grant Funding
to Sponsor Learning Factory Projects
Client Support

In 2023, PennTAP played a crucial role in supporting PA businesses by completing comprehensive energy and operational assessments, providing assistance in securing grants to offset implementation costs, and fostering collaboration between industry professionals and Penn State academics to drive innovation and improvement in the industry landscape.

A notable example of PennTAP’s client impact was our collaboration with Balfurd Linen & Uniform. Following a thorough assessment of their Tipton, PA site, PennTAP’s support and recommendations led to substantial projected annual energy savings as well as assistance in obtaining a USDA REAP grant of $182,976 as well as additional Act 129 Rebates.

Moreover, PennTAP client Parker Lord, a leading supplier of adhesives in the transportation, consumer products, defense, general industry, and power industries, was recognized as 50001 Ready by the Department of Energy (DOE) through the completion of our 2023 DOE 50001 Ready Cohort.

SUCCESS STORY

“The PennTAP team was very professional and knowledgeable during the entire project. I would recommend them to others looking for energy efficiency upgrades for their organization.”

— Heather Schneider
Regulatory Manager, York Wallcoverings, Inc.—which was able to save thousands annually following PennTAP’s site evaluation and recommendations

BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$8.4M</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Benefit</td>
<td>Counties Served</td>
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<td>Individuals Trained</td>
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<td>227</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students Engaged</td>
<td>Client Cases</td>
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Sustainability Commitment

As a commonwealth-wide service provider, PennTAP is committed to aligning with nine UN Sustainable Development Goals, a commitment evident in the work that we do. Our technical advisors assist clients in minimizing environmental impact through comprehensive assessments, emphasizing the reduction of energy and water usage, hazardous materials generation, and overall business costs. We continue striving for environmental, human, and economic vitality, for PA both now and in the future.

Just one of PennTAP’s Economy, Energy and Environment (E3) Assessments in 2023 detailed conservation opportunities and recommendations that would not only save our client, Custom Container Solutions, thousands of dollars annually but also reduced their propane consumption by 13% and their greenhouse gas emissions by 3.1 metric tons. Overall, this allowed the steel container manufacturer to increase their production by 30-35% while reducing their impact on the environment.

As consumers, shareholders, and governments call for enhanced corporate responsibility in sustainability, environmental stewardship, human rights, equity, diversity, and inclusion, PennTAP recognized the importance of guiding and supporting PA manufacturers in strengthening their sustainability initiatives. With specialized focus in 2023 on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) awareness, PennTAP hosted public webinars to educate manufacturers on the creation and implementation of crucial internal ESG programs, ensuring their readiness for evolving corporate standards and future sustainability endeavors.

PennTAP’s success in 2023, and moving forward to 2024, was made possible through the support of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the U.S. Department of Energy, the five-year renewal of Penn State’s U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) University Center status, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
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Learn more at penntap.psu.edu