

# Annual Report 2023



## Expanding Statewide Impact

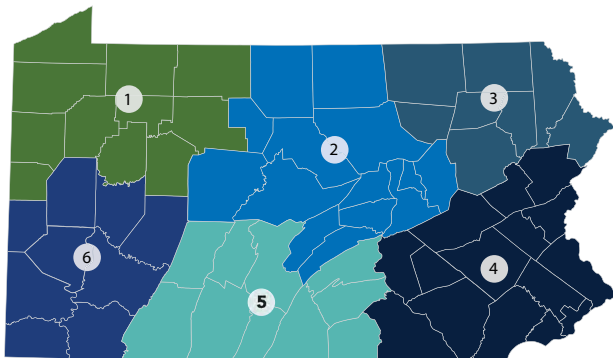
2023 was a year full of new and exciting opportunities that bolstered PennTAP's ability to support economic development, innovation, and sustainability projects across the commonwealth of PA.

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.



### Advisors by region

- 1. Heidi Shadeck
- 2. Jenn Jones, C.E.M., CSSGB, C.W.E.P.
- 3. Krista Schneider, LEED Green Associate
- 4. Rich Joyce, MBA, CSSGB
- 5. Amy Jorden, C.E.M.
- 6. Stephen Wiedemer

“

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*







## SUCCESS STORY

“

None of this would have been possible without PennTAP, and I am beyond grateful for their commitment to giving me meaningful work experience this summer.”

— Ben Feidler

*Penn State Earth and Mineral Sciences student and US Silica Mapleton Depot summer intern*

## Future Investment

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**

Total Grant Funding Provided to Learning Factory Project Sponsors

**115** Penn State Learning Factory Students Engaged

**23** Learning Factory Projects

**21** Companies Awarded Grant Funding to Sponsor Learning Factory Projects



## 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*

## 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.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**\$8.4M**

Economic Benefit

**1000+**

Individuals Trained

**38** Counties Served

**26** Jobs Created or Saved

**227** Students Engaged

**95** Client Cases

# 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.



## PROGRAM SUPPORT

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).

# PennTAP

Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program

## Engage With An Office Near You

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Lower Level  
Erie, PA 16510  
(814) 898-7563

### **PennTAP – Penn State Greater Allegheny**

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101 Frable Building  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
(412) 926-3224

### **PennTAP – Penn State Hazleton**

76 University Drive  
Slusser/Bayzick Building, Room 211  
Hazleton, PA 18202  
(570) 450-3099

### **PennTAP – Penn State New Kensington**

The Corner  
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 106  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
(724) 757-2702

### **PennTAP – Penn State Schuylkill**

200 University Drive  
Kiefer-Jones Building, Room 104  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
(570) 385-6276

### **PennTAP – University Park**

200 Innovation Blvd, Suite 115  
Technology Center Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814) 865-0427

Learn more at [penntap.psu.edu](http://penntap.psu.edu)



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