

A man and a woman, both wearing white hard hats and safety glasses, are looking at a laptop in a factory setting. The man is on the left, wearing a white shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a blue denim shirt. They are both smiling and appear to be working together. The background shows industrial machinery and a factory floor.

PennTAP

Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program

Annual Report 2024

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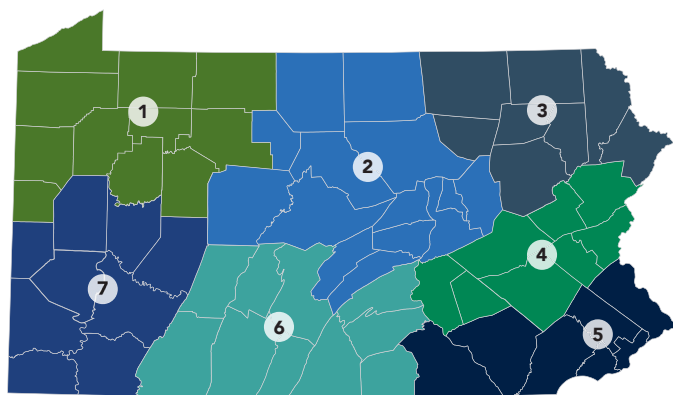
Expanding Statewide Impact

2024 was a year of expansion for PennTAP, strengthening our ability to drive economic growth, enhance operational efficiency, and improve business sustainability across Pennsylvania. With three new hires, we expanded outreach and introduced a dedicated advisor in the Philadelphia region. By positioning our team where they are needed most, we are providing businesses with personalized, hands-on support.

To further our engagement efforts, we introduced new outreach strategies. Live facility tours showcased real-world efficiency and cost-saving improvements,

while interactive webinars provided actionable insights from industry experts. Most notably, our new website now serves as a central hub for businesses to easily access funding opportunities, technical assistance, and sustainability resources.

Looking ahead, PennTAP remains committed to empowering Pennsylvania businesses by providing expert technical support and strategic funding opportunities. As we expand our reach and enhance services, we continue fostering sustainable growth, operational excellence, and long-term economic resilience across the commonwealth.



Advisors by region

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Heidi Shadeck | 5. Robert Martz, MSc |
| 2. Jenn Jones, C.E.M., CSSGB, C.W.E.P. | 6. Amy Jorden, C.E.M., CSSGB |
| 3. Krista Schneider, LEED Green Associate | 7. Nicholas Ritchie, MSc, PMP, P. Eng |
| 4. Rich Joyce, MBA, CSSGB | |

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“PennTAP embodies Penn State’s commitment to driving innovation, sustainability, and economic growth across Pennsylvania. By expanding outreach and enhancing technical support, PennTAP continues to help businesses access critical resources, improve efficiency, and strengthen their competitive edge. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to fostering partnerships that create lasting impact for the commonwealth.”

*Andrew Read,
Senior Vice President for Research, Penn State*





SUCCESS STORY

“

I like how PennTAP aligns to support manufacturing where our organizations lack competence and for which investing internally may not be feasible or reasonable.”

— **Mike Yurkewicz**
*President,
Engineered Plastics, Inc.*

Advancing Our Mission

PennTAP is playing a key role in helping Pennsylvania manufacturers reduce costs and modernize operations through the RISE PA Program. Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protections (DEP), this program provides grants to help manufacturers implement cost-saving, energy-efficient technologies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As the administrator of the Small-scale Award Track (SAT), PennTAP will assist small and mid-sized manufacturers (SMMs) in navigating the application and funding process, ensuring they maximize the impact of implementation grants beginning in Summer 2025. To be eligible for SAT funding, applicants must submit a completed site assessment report conducted by an approved qualified assessor, which may include PennTAP.

PennTAP's no-cost Pollution Prevention & Energy Efficiency (P2/E2) Assessment qualifies as an eligible assessment for grant consideration. These assessments help facilities identify opportunities to lower environmental impact and operational expenses by identifying waste reduction opportunities and energy-efficient technologies to enhance operations.

Through the RISE PA program, PennTAP is poised to make a significant impact on Pennsylvania's industrial sector, helping manufacturers reduce costs, improve sustainability, and enhance their competitive advantage. By providing expert technical assistance and facilitating access to funding, we continue to drive innovation and sustainable growth for businesses across the commonwealth.

BY THE NUMBERS



4.95/5

Client Satisfaction Rating



SUCCESS STORY

“

PennTAP has been invaluable in helping us discover and win grant opportunities critical to moving our business forward. The assistance we received from PennTAP highlights why Laurel Materials is proud to be based in Pennsylvania.”

— **Dan Summa**
*President and Co-Founder,
Laurel Materials Co.*

Client Support

PennTAP remains dedicated to fostering innovation by connecting Pennsylvania businesses with the resources, expertise, and funding needed to drive technological advancement. Through our extensive network, we help companies form key research partnerships, engage with industry experts, and secure grants that accelerate their growth and impact.

Laurel Materials Co., a leader in sustainable graphene production, partnered with PennTAP to explore ways to scale their production and apply for grant funding. Our team connected them with Penn State materials

science experts. Together, they applied and received a Manufacturing PA Innovation Program grant that awarded them \$69,380 to support a graduate student to work on their research. Through our network connections, Laurel Materials also engaged with the Innovation Partnership to pursue additional funding for further development.

By bridging the gap between industry and research, PennTAP helped Laurel Materials advance its groundbreaking technology while leveraging Pennsylvania’s robust innovation ecosystem.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$14.3M

Economic Benefit

1200

Individuals Trained

34 Counties Served

80 Jobs Created or Saved

257 Students Engaged

115 Client Cases

Sustainability Commitment

PennTAP remains committed to helping businesses operate more efficiently, reduce expenses, and enhance long-term profitability. In 2024, our team provided businesses with strategies to streamline operations and increase cost savings through smarter resource management. Additionally, our student interns played a hands-on role in advancing sustainability efforts—conducting energy audits, optimizing workflows, and helping manufacturers achieve measurable efficiency gains.

By equipping companies with sustainability strategies and providing future industry leaders with practical experience, PennTAP continues driving environmental and economic impact across Pennsylvania. Through education, technical support, and direct engagement, we empower businesses to integrate sustainability into their operations while strengthening their long-term resilience.



PROGRAM SUPPORT

PennTAP’s success in 2024, and moving forward to 2025, was made possible through the support of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), 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 The Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and US Department of Agriculture.



Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program

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Learn more at penntap.psu.edu



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