

2022 Accomplishments



Establishing a Forum for Industry Leadership

The Polymer Industry Advisory Council was expanded from 23 to 35 organizations in 2022. This expanded group helps set the agenda for the Polymer Industry Cluster work, developing and promoting projects to achieve common goals. Several working groups have been established to deep dive into key areas of development, including in R&D, workforce, startup support, and B2B services.



Making the Case for Capturing Industry Investment

In 2022, several collaborative proposals were developed, seeking transformational funding to execute on shared priorities. Combined, the proposals under development or submitted in 2022 total nearly \$250 million in direct support to Polymer Industry Cluster initiatives in Northeast Ohio, including for critical innovation infrastructure, industry-driven R&D, commercialization, robust workforce development, and more.



Building Relationships and Shared Vision

The Polymer Cluster Networking Reception series was established as an informal setting for polymer industry stakeholders to gather, build networks, share ideas, and have fun. The Polymer Cluster Connectivity Conference was established as an annual event to educate and motivate current and prospective Polymer Industry Cluster leaders and leverage the collective knowledge and experience of attendees to develop strategies and priorities for the work of the Polymer Industry Cluster.



Strengthening and Diversifying the Talent Pipeline

The Polymer Industry Cluster was awarded a \$100,000 Spark Grant under the State of Ohio's Industry Sector Partnership program, providing added capacity to drive employer engagements with both students and adult job seekers, developing a training map to access programs and resources, and improve the region's retention of graduates. We will pursue a more advanced \$250,000 Accelerator Grant under the same program for 2024 to amplify our impact.



Creating a Voice for the Polymer Industry

Polymer Industry Cluster initiatives were elevated in regional advocacy operations. These include prioritizing the education of our elected officials and relevant agencies on the current state and opportunities of the polymer industry in Northeast Ohio. We also convened efforts to align support from industry leaders, key institutions, and elected officials to advance funding initiatives for the industry seeking more than \$67 million.



Driving Awareness and Visibility

A webpage was built to present an overview of the Polymer Industry Cluster work and increase its visibility to the public, and a logo was created to establish the Polymer Industry Cluster brand. Web domains and social media handles were secured for future standalone website and social media channels. The Polymer Industry Cluster gained international attention at the K Show convention.

