GREATER AKRON CHAMBER

THE POLYMER INDUSTRY CLUSTER®

TECH HUBS
U.S. Economic Development Administration
OFFICIAL DESIGNEE
TECHHUBS.GOV

Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub Projects

Overview:
The $51 Million grant will be distributed across 7 distinct yet interdependent projects, each led by a different partner organization. This award is important recognition of our region's global leadership, and can serve as a beacon for attracting new businesses, talent, and capital.

10 Year Goal

4,000+ direct jobs created or retained
$1 billion+ private investment catalyzed
3.9 million tons of CO2 reduction annually

Project 1
Total Federal + Match Funding: $5,687,500

Commercializing Recycling of End-of-Life Tires

Lead: Full Circle Technologies

Environmentally-friendly process that recovers functional polymers from old tires and reproduce, including into soft pliable rubber pellets to create liquid asphalt

Application: Major use of devulcanized rubber pellets, Ecorphalt, in the asphalt pavement industry to make roads more durable, prevent cracking, last longer

Project 2
Total Federal + Match Funding: $10,461,826

Sustainable Polymer Composites via Liquid Phase Mixing

Lead: The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Scale up an energy-efficient liquid phase mixing process that impacts composite materials in tires and across multiple industries

Application: Tires and beyond

Project 3
Total Federal + Match Funding: $12,358,208

Bio-Based Butadiene Feedstock

Lead: BioVerde Tech LLC

Manufacturing of sustainable Bio-Butadience for green synthetic rubber and other products to reduce the CO_2 footprint and use of fossil fuels in the industry

Application: synthetic rubbers, adhesives, plastics, and resins

Project 4
Total Federal + Match Funding: $6,685,850

Carbon Black & Nanotube from Methane Source

Lead: Huntsman

Integrate a novel high performance carbon nanotube material into common polymer applications to reduce carbon footprint and improve performance

Application: Lightweight composites for automobiles, aerospace, high- performance tires and rubber goods, and conductive fillers for EV batteries

Project 5
Total Federal + Match Funding: $11,460,286

Safer Anti-Degradant for Tires and Plastics

Lead: Flexsys

Scale up the production of a molecule to replace 6PPD in tire production to reduce the environmental impact of rubber products while maintaining high performance and safety of the products

Application: Tires and other rubber products

Project 6
Total Federal + Match Funding: $8,070,113

Workforce Initiative for a Sustainable Environment (WISE)

Lead: The University of Akron

Strengthen and diversify the region's talent pipeline through sustainability education and training, including an emphasis on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)

Focus Areas: K-12 pathways, technical certificates, associate, bachelor, and advanced graduate degrees

Project 7
Total Federal + Match Funding: $3,462,755

Regional Office of Innovation Governance

Lead: Greater Akron Chamber

Fortify and augment the Polymer Industry Cluster's Leadership Committee, staff, assets and activities to promote innovation, growth, accountability, and sustainability of efforts

Focus Areas: Advocacy, communications, economic development, governance, sustainability, and more

Get Involved

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