The steady growth of the Cleveland Plus region’s polymer, chemical and plastics products cluster is taking on positive new momentum as companies discover the advantages of establishing their operations near the Utica and Marcellus Shale play. In short, high concentrations of Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs) in Northeast Ohio provide an abundant supply of low-cost feedstock.

STRENGTH ACROSS ENTIRE VALUE CHAIN
The region’s strength across the entire value chain – from extraction to processing and manufacturing to distribution – is clear, as polymer and materials companies benefit from access to markets, customers, innovation and a skilled, knowledgeable workforce. Businesses have all the resources they need to thrive in their established markets and expand into new ones.

POLYMER AND MATERIALS COMPANIES EXPAND IN NORTHEAST OHIO
Nearly 1,000 polymers and materials companies call Northeast Ohio home, including: Avery Dennison, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Lubrizol, OMNOVA Solutions Inc., PolyOne Corporation and Sherwin-Williams Company. Further, companies continue to invest, including these recent expansions:

Next Generation Films Invests $31.5 Million in Northeast Ohio
Next Generation Films, a leading manufacturer of plastic film and bags in the flexible packaging industry, has invested $31.5 million in the construction of a 79,000-square-foot production plant on an 80-acre lot to expand its presence in Lexington, Ohio. The company, known for producing specialty products including breathable packaging and barrier films, will add 78 new positions and retain 473.

Lubrizol Opens New Facility in Avon Lake
Lubrizol Advanced Materials Inc., a leading global producer of advanced specialty polymers, polymer-based additives and chemical additives used in everyday consumer and industrial applications, chose Avon Lake in 2017 for a new thermal plastics manufacturing line as part of its Vision 20/20 project, a transformational initiative that began in 2015. This expansion reinforces the company’s commitment to Northeast Ohio and brings the number of employees here to more than 2,300.

ONGOING TECHNOLOGY BOLSTERS GROWTH
Northeast Ohio’s polymer and materials industry is poised for additional growth. As natural gas and gas liquids in Utica Shale deposits provide low-cost energy and a domestic source of raw materials, state-sponsored programs, grants and incentives, such as the $2.3 billion Ohio Third Frontier initiative, support applied research and commercialization, entrepreneurial assistance, early-stage capital and talent-pool expansion.
RESOURCES TO IGNITE YOUR BUSINESS
Building a strong support network is critical to the success of your business. Cleveland Plus offers you access to organizations that can help you succeed:

- America Makes (formerly The National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute) is a public-private partnership of industry, academia, government and workforce development resources focused on accelerating the adoption of additive manufacturing technologies in the U.S. to increase domestic manufacturing competitiveness.

- National Polymer Innovation Center, at The University of Akron, merges the college’s research expertise with business partners to develop new plastics materials and converting technologies to manufacture devices and materials for emerging industries.

- PolymerOhio Inc. is a networking group providing a broad range of programs and services to strengthen Ohio’s polymer industry.

- National Composites Center develops advanced manufacturing technologies to provide the industry and consumers with high-performance materials that last longer and cost less than conventional materials.

WORLD-CLASS R&D INSTITUTIONS

- Case Western Reserve University Institute for Advanced Materials
  Case scientists dedicate themselves to creating the next generation of advanced materials through groundbreaking research. Universities.com ranks Case No. 1 in its 2018 ranking of the best colleges offering polymer/plastics engineering degrees.

- Kent State University Liquid Crystal Institute
  Considered the birthplace of the modern LCD industry, Kent State’s Liquid Crystal Institute is the most comprehensive research and education center in the field of liquid crystals. Its industrial partnership program offers resource, characterization and synthesis facilities, and assists in licensing new technologies, commercializing inventions and sponsoring research.

- The University of Akron College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering
  This center, home to the world’s largest polymer academic program and greatest concentration of polymer expertise, is helping to establish Northeast Ohio as an advanced functional materials hub that competes on the world stage in the development and commercialization of materials. The Akron Polymer Training Center is fast becoming the world’s leading provider of development and training for the advanced materials industry workforce.

- Stark State College
  Featuring the ShaleNET Share program and a 7,000-square-foot Well Site Training Center, Stark State College works collaboratively with businesses to support the polymer and materials supply chain by developing knowledgeable, skilled workforces for the region’s growing oil and gas industry.

To find out more about Cleveland Plus, contact us at 888.NEO.1411. Or visit clevelandplus.com today.