

# Your Ally in Huntington County

In Huntington County, Indiana, the facts speak for themselves. Since 2008, more than 40 companies have enhanced the economic climate—thanks, in large part, to an economic development process that makes doing business easy.

## CSP: “Above and Beyond”

Jerry Reid, plant manager at Continental Structural Plastics (CSP), is one of several business leaders who can attest to the county’s business friendly environment. In fact, he credits CSP’s relationship with Huntington as one of the primary reasons for the facility’s growth since the Huntington plant opened in 2010.

“The community here – the city and county – have been great to work with. They’ve cut through a lot of red tape for us and done a lot of good things for CSP as a whole. I tip my hat to Huntington Mayor Brooks Feters and Huntington County Economic Development Director Mark Wickersham. They’ve gone above and beyond to help CSP feel at home.”

CSP Huntington manufactures body panels for the automotive industry, and the Corvette Stingray, named 2014 Car of the Year at the North American International Auto Show, is among the iconic cars it produces panels for.

“This world-class opportunity to work on the Corvette was possible in large part because of CSP’s obsession with quality,” said Wickersham. “It’s proof that our local workforce has the talent to satisfy even the most discriminating buyer.”

## Metronet: 21st Century Telecommunications Infrastructure

Communications company Metronet was likewise drawn by Huntington County’s pro-business environment. The company provides a 100% fiber-optic network to local customers with the potential for completely unlimited bandwidth.

- Occupancy. In the same period, the county redeveloped 94% of the formerly vacant industrial space.

- New projects. In 2013, Huntington County Economic Development facilitated 4 attraction projects—DIY Group, Australian-based Auger Torque Ltd., Echo Lake Foods and Metalloid Alumicoat—and assisted existing employers with expansion projects. Since 2008, 59 projects have accounted for nearly \$190 million in capital investments.

## Collaboration: Key to Success

Finally, Huntington County’s steady industrial growth is supported by both local and regional collaboration.

In the City of Huntington, Mayor Brooks Feters has focused leaders on three initiatives: continuing economic development, enhancing city neighborhoods and running the city efficiently.

Two years ago, the City of Huntington faced a significant budget shortfall. In 2013, it posted a surplus approaching \$2 million—without raising taxes.

On the regional level, Huntington County is one of 10 counties in the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, benefiting from the shared commitment to excellence, innovation and customer service.

“At the end of the day, what you’ll find here is a team eager to be your ally, not your adversary,” said Wickersham. “We want you to be profitable. And Huntington County’s a great place to do just that.”

## Learn More

Contact Mark Wickersham at Huntington County Economic Development, (260) 356-5688, mark@hcued.com or hcued.com. 🏠



Strategically located in the Great Lakes Region on the I-69 NAFTA Corridor, Huntington County, IN, is ready to be your ally.

“Without Mark Wickersham and the economic development team, our company wouldn’t have made a multimillion-dollar investment, let alone expanded three times since as a direct result of the partnership with the community,” said Steve Biggerstaff, Metronet project consultant.

## Unemployment Down, Occupancy Up

Employers’ testimonials aside, several other measures show the impact of the county’s business-friendly approach and resilience in the wake of the Great Recession.

- Employment. In June 2009, the unemployment rate peaked at 14.3% but by December 2013 plummeted to 6%.