



Shale Crescent USA: An Introduction

Offering a world-class advantage to energy-intensive manufacturing industries

INTRODUCTION

The **mission of the Shale Crescent USA economic development initiative is to encourage business growth in the Ohio Valley**, based upon low natural gas prices that allow manufacturers to operate more efficiently while producing products more economically, with access to water and half the population of the United States and Canada.

Shale Crescent USA is made up of business leaders, regional economic development partners, non-profit and non-governmental agencies, area Chambers of Commerce, utilities, and financial and educational organizations throughout Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Together, our goal is to seamlessly provide information and resources for companies and entrepreneurs looking to relocate, expand, or start up, including available properties, access to capital, workforce, incentives and taxes, energy and utilities, as well as connections to political, financial, supplier, and customer networks.

The Ohio Valley is blessed with natural resources and cultural attributes that combine to make the region an economic powerhouse of opportunity. **Businesses can rely on well-connected waterways, abundant natural gas, and favorable weather, while drawing from a pool of talent resulting from more than a century of manufacturing and industry.** The region's identity is grounded in this rich history, and the people and businesses of Shale Crescent USA stand ready to welcome the next chapter of modern, advanced manufacturing.

The Shale Crescent USA region offers four world-class advantages:

1. Low-Cost, Abundant Natural Gas

The Shale Crescent USA stretches across the prolific Marcellus and Utica shale plays, which **together form the largest shale reserves in the United States, amounting to 53 percent of total U.S. reserves.** As a result, the area enjoys **the lowest natural gas prices** in the developed world. **Shale development in the Appalachian Basin** is driving the nation's record-setting gas production and **will account for 35 percent of total U.S. production by 2020**—up from just 5 percent in 2010.

2. Access to Water

Forty billion gallons of water flow through easily accessible waterways daily for transportation, processing, and cooling purposes. **Ohio permits nearly 500 million gallons per day of industrial water withdrawals,** and the Ohio River and its tributaries **connect** the region's 23 barge ports to the Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, and the Atlantic Ocean.

3. Proximity to Major Markets

Businesses located in the Shale Crescent USA are **within a day's drive of 50 percent of high-demand North American market and 70 percent of the demand for polyethylene.** Quick access to markets means savings on transportation and less vulnerability to disruptions on cross-continent infrastructure.

4. Skilled Labor Force

Businesses in the Shale Crescent USA can rely on an educated, experienced workforce that has the transferrable skills needed for modern manufacturing. **The region produces more STEM graduates than the national average,** and our colleges, universities, building trades programs, and K-12 schools have partnered with business to implement innovative STEM-focused curriculum geared toward high-demand manufacturing and energy careers. That education delivers a workforce ready for today and tomorrow's advanced manufacturing leaders.