

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FREE WORKSHOP WILL INTRODUCE WIND ENERGY SUPPLY CHAIN OPPORTUNITIES TO REGIONAL MANUFACTURERS**

**(PITTSBURGH – November 10, 2009)** The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA), along with other Greater Pittsburgh region partner organizations, will offer a free half-day workshop for small- to mid-sized manufacturers wanting to explore the business opportunities related to the regional wind energy supply chain.

The December 16, 2009 workshop will be held at the Sewall Center on the Robert Morris University campus in Moon Township and begins at 8:30 a.m. It will conclude by noon. The workshop is presented by the Great Lakes WIND Network and funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Participants will learn about the structure of the wind energy supply chain and the components that are most in demand globally, what original equipment manufacturers in the wind energy industry look for in their suppliers and how capable regional manufacturers from targeted sectors can take advantage of growing supply chain prosperity in this alternative energy sector. Sectors targeted as potential matches for the wind energy supply chain include metal fabricators and foundries, machine shops and manufacturers of bearings, plastics, coatings, controls and electrical equipment and components (including turbines, generators, motors and fans). A case study from an existing regional manufacturer already involved in the wind energy supply chain will also be presented.

The Great Lakes WIND Network is a non-profit, industry-led organization of manufacturers and suppliers aiming to increase the domestic content of North America's wind turbines.

“The Greater Pittsburgh region has long been recognized for its manufacturing know-how. For centuries we manufactured the parts that made the world’s machines run,” said PRA President Dewitt Peart. “We’ve never lost sight of that expertise. Manufacturing is still a big part of the regional economy, but today it’s advanced and efficient. Regional manufacturers can continue our legacy, making – in this century – the parts and components that enable windmills all over the world to capture the wind’s power. The capabilities that exist among a variety of manufacturers in Greater Pittsburgh can position the region to be a wind energy supply chain leader. It’s a win-win: good for the environment and good for the regional economy.”

Organizations in partnership or collaboration with the PRA to present the workshop include the Manufacturing Assistance Center, University of Pittsburgh, Catalyst Connection, 3 Rivers Clean Energy, The Tech Belt Initiative and West Virginia Manufacturers Association.

Those wishing to register for the free workshop should contact Mickey Denner at [mdenner@pittsburghregion.org](mailto:mdenner@pittsburghregion.org) or by phone at 412-392-4555, ext. 3103. The registration deadline is December 9, 2009. Additional information is available at [www.pittsburghwindworks.com](http://www.pittsburghwindworks.com)

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The **Pittsburgh Regional Alliance**, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, markets the benefits of conducting business in southwestern Pennsylvania to companies all over the world that are growing, relocating or expanding. For more information, visit [www.pittsburghregion.org](http://www.pittsburghregion.org). More information about opportunities in Pittsburgh's energy economy is available [here](#).

The **Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates** – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. For more information, visit [www.alleghenyconference.org](http://www.alleghenyconference.org).