



News Release

For Immediate Release

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R1 Seeks Public Input on Emerging Industry Clusters Analysis

ROCKFORD, IL – Region 1 Planning Council (R1) seeks public comment on the final draft of an Emerging Industry Cluster Analysis and Action Plan for Winnebago, Boone and McHenry Counties. The study identifies the workforce and economic development assets that the three-county region should create or amplify to propel four emerging industries: innovative agriculture, electric vehicle production and maintenance, renewable energy jobs, and innovative information technology.

R1, serving as the federally-designated Economic Development District for Winnebago, Boone and McHenry Counties, obtained a Research in Illinois to Spur Economic Recovery (RISE) grant through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to complete the study. The Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce, Growth Dimensions, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, The Workforce Connection and Rock Valley College partnered with R1 to shape the analysis with the assistance of a third-party consultant. The analysis consists of three sections: key findings and summary, recommended strategies, and appendices with regional data and industry cluster profiles.

Visit <https://engager1.mysocialpinpoint.com/emerging-industry-cluster-analysis> to view the study and provide feedback. You can also view the plan [here](#), under Economic Development Studies, and provide feedback by emailing Isaac Guerrero at iguerrero@region1planning.org. R1 will be accepting public comments through 3 p.m. Friday, January 19.

ABOUT R1 - Region 1 Planning Council (R1) is a special-purpose, regional government agency. Regional councils are public organizations comprised of local elected officials that promote collaboration among local governments, working across the jurisdictional silos of states, counties, and municipalities.

For more information, visit www.r1planning.org