**EXECUTIVE MESSAGE**

Welcome to the NEPA Alliance Annual Report for the 2012-2013 fiscal year that ended June 30, 2013.

This past fiscal year was one of many challenges and successes. We successfully added and expanded programming in several areas despite the budget difficulties of the last several years.

- NEPA Business Development Programs successfully created or retained 1,254 jobs in our region.

- NEPA’s Business Finance Center loaned over $1.1 million, leveraging another $2,445,000.

- The NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corporation, our affiliate nonprofit corporation, is up and running as a Certified Development Company (CDC) by the Small Business Administration (SBA).

- The newly formed NEPA Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) started in March 2013, serving Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill Counties with transportation planning.

- NEPA manages the NEPA PREP Partnership (Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance), a collaboration of fourteen (14) economic development agencies within our region which receives state funding of over $1.2 million.

- The Nonprofit Community Assistance Center (NCAC) provided training or assistance to 523 nonprofit entities within our region.

- NEPA continues to manage the Blue Ribbon Task Force supporting Tobyhanna Army Depot, and NEPA also continues to own land adjacent to the Depot for expansion purposes.

- The NEPA International Business Development Program completed the year at 123% of its goal established by the Commonwealth Office of International Business Development.

- NEPA’s government contracting program (PTAC) supported over 788 jobs and approximately $145 million in Total Government Sales.

- NEPA is upgrading all of its websites to a fresh, user friendly format.

These are a few of NEPA’s successes for this past Fiscal Year 2012-2013. The pages that follow chronicle the services that we provide to Business, Community and Government in the counties of Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne.

We thank all of our volunteer Board Members and Committee Members for their service and dedication to making Northeastern Pennsylvania a great place to live, work and play.

We will continue to be an Alliance committed to community and economic development into the new fiscal year and beyond.

**Matt Connell**  
Board Chairperson  
2012 - 2014

**Jeffrey Box**  
President & CEO
NEPA ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FYE 2012-13

DIVISIONS
Executive Leadership
Jeffrey Box - President & CEO
Donna Romiski - Manager of Operations

Administrative Services
Wendi Holena - Vice President
Judith Doblix - Accounting Manager
Kevin Kwiatek - Accounting Specialist

Community Services
Kurt Bauman - Division Manager; Executive Director, NCAC
Deborah Phillips - Community Services Specialist
Steve Zaricki - Research & Information Manager

Government Services
Alan Baranski - Vice President
Kate McMahon - Government Services Specialist
Daniel Yelito - Government Services Specialist
Lee Ann Chamberlain - Administrative Assistant

Enterprise Development
Tom Pellegrini - Vice President
Paul Macknosky - Business Finance Specialist
Frank Migneco - Government Procurement Specialist
David Nat - Business Finance Manager
Michael Horvath - International Business Development Manager
Karen Ostroskie - Procurement Technical Assistance Center Manager
Paula Terpak - Government Procurement & Enterprise Development Specialist
Donna Brdaric - Administrative Assistant

Operations
Donna Romiski - Manager
Michael Skowronsni - Information Technology Manager
Louise Tracy - Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

CARBON COUNTY
Judy Borger
Stanley Costello
Dawn Ferrante
Commissioner Wayne Nothstein
Joseph Sebelin

LACKAWANNA COUNTY
Lou Abitabilo
Philip Condon
Tom Donohue
John McNulty
Vincent Riggi
Commissioner Corey O'Brien

LUZERNE COUNTY
Stephen Barrouk
County Council Tim McGinley
Paul Maher
Kevin O'Donnell
Mike Pacyna
Donna Palermo

MONROE COUNTY
Paul Canevari
John Casella
Matt Connell
Chuck Leonard
Commissioner John Moyer

PIKE COUNTY
Dave Farrington
William Kerstetter
Commissioner Matthew Osterberg
Fred Sulic
Peter Wulfhorst

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
Robert Carl
John DeBalco
Bud Quandel

WAYNE COUNTY
Commissioner Jonathan Fritz
Mark Grazadiol
Donna Labar
Craig Rickard
Mary Beth Wood

EX-OFFICIO
Charles Barber, NCAC Board Chair
Jeffrey Box
John Cognetti, PNE Board Chair

EMERITUS
Phyllis Brandwene
David Donlin

OFFICERS
Seated from Left: Mary Beth Wood, 1st Vice-Board Chairperson
Matt Connell, Board Chairperson
Judy Borger, Secretary

Standing: Stephen Barrouk, Past Board Chairperson
Bud Quandel, 2nd Vice-Board Chairperson
Phillip Condon, Treasurer
Dave Farrington, Assistant Treasurer
Jeffrey Box, NEPA President & CEO

CARBON COUNTY
Judy Borger
Stanley Costello
Dawn Ferrante
Commissioner Wayne Nothstein
Joseph Sebelin

LACKAWANNA COUNTY
Lou Abitabilo
Philip Condon
Tom Donohue
John McNulty
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SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
Robert Carl
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WAYNE COUNTY
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Mary Beth Wood

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Charles Barber, NCAC Board Chair
Jeffrey Box
John Cognetti, PNE Board Chair

EMERITUS
Phyllis Brandwene
David Donlin
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

NEPA serves as the regional development district for the programs and services of the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Economic Development Administration.

These federal agencies have provided significant grant assistance in Northeastern Pennsylvania for a myriad of projects that have led to job creation, private investment and community infrastructure improvements.

NEPA’s Enterprise Development staff provides technical assistance to organizations seeking funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and other State and Federal agencies.

ARC GRANT ASSISTANCE

As the local development district for both the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) & Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, NEPA staff provides technical and proposed development assistance to organizations seeking ARC grant assistance.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE (PREP)

The NEPA Regional PREP initiative concluded its second year of operations. As its core objective, the regional PREP delivers integrated services to businesses that ensures all available resources are being provided in an effective and efficient manner. The aggregation of regional economic development programs and services into a new delivery paradigm is the basis for enhanced service delivery that is customer focused and results oriented.

The NEPA PREP partners have joined together to develop a strategic plan that promotes an integrated regional economic development service system. This plan will help encourage regional cooperation in outreach to area companies, provide shared delivery of services, and improve economic development outcomes for the entire region. By developing new systems and partnerships across agencies, the partners will benefit from better tools to track and assess performance, expanded service options for local businesses, and enhanced access to other resources from local, regional, state, and federal partners. Work will continue in the upcoming year to deepen and broaden these collaborations. The NEPA PREP partners will begin to introduce a shared customer relationship management system.

Originated and funded by the PA DCED, PREP is designed to streamline the state’s portfolio of economic development programs and also encourage the development of new regional approaches to program management and delivery.

The NEPA PREP consists of 14 organizations in Northeastern Pennsylvania. NEPA serves as the project manager and fiscal coordinator for the regional PREP.

PREP Regional Partners are:

- Berwick Industrial Development Association
- CANDO, Inc.
- Carbon County Economic Development Corporation
- Manufacturers Resource Center
- Monroe County Industrial Development Authority
- Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance
- Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center
- Pike County Economic Development Corporation
- Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Company
- Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation
- Small Business Development Center, Wilkes University
- The University of Scranton Small Business Development Center
- Wayne Economic Development Corporation
- Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry
On May 6, 2013 the Defense Logistics Agency awarded NEPA’s PTAC the “Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement Application” (SCAA) contract for a second option year in the amount of $225,000 (an 18.4% increase from SCAA option year one). With matching funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the PTAC received a total program award of $450,000.00. This award will allow the PTAC to continue one-on-one services to the small business community.

The PTAC held the Government Contracting Showcase on April 4, 2013 with a keynote address from US Congressman Lou Barletta of the 11th Congressional District, welcome from State Representative Tarah Toohil from the 116th Legislative District, and luncheon speaker Sheri L. Phillips, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of General Services. The focus of the event was to increase awareness of the government marketplace as a viable opportunity for regional businesses to sell their products or services. There were a total of seven educational sessions and twenty exhibitors, which attracted over one hundred attendees. Secretary Phillips commented, “NEPA’s dedication and perseverance should be recognized for the good work they have done in the region.” She also remarked on changes in the Commonwealth’s procurement programs and practices to further assist small businesses.

Two PTAC clients were recognized for their success in obtaining government contracts. The PTAC provided support and assistance to Industrial Hose & Supply, Inc. of Shohola and Lake Region Micro Electronics of Hawley. Both are certified Woman Business Enterprises. The Lake Region Micro Electronics represented a successful collaboration in service to the business community by two PA DCED PREP Partners, NEPA Alliance and The University of Scranton’s SBDC, as part of the Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance Program. The Industrial Hose & Supply, Inc. success story was highlighted on the Defense Logistics Agency’s website on June 27, 2013.

The PTAC Performance Measurement - July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PTAC Initial Counseling Sessions</th>
<th>117</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTAC Follow-up Counseling Sessions</td>
<td>902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Contract Awards</td>
<td>$93,106,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcontract Awards</td>
<td>$16,684,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of all Awards</td>
<td>$109,791,580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lake Region Micro Electronics Corporation was recognized on June 27, 2013 as a start-up business success story.

“‘Our company continues to build on our past performance from small contract awards with various DOD agencies as a direct result of the PTAC support staff, their bid matching program, and contacts I have made through the PTAC program opportunities.”

- LAKE REGION MICRO ELECTRONICS CORPORATION
BUSINESS FINANCE CENTER

Highlights of the NEPA’s Business Finance Programs are:

- NEPA’s Business Finance Center held 274 counseling sessions with businesses.
- Thirteen loan approvals were made.
- Eleven loans were closed for a total of $1,130,000.
- NEPA’s business loan funds leveraged an additional $2,445,000 in private/public financing.
- A projected 153 jobs were retained/created due to this program.
- Reduced interest rates on several of its Revolving Loan Fund Programs.
- Participated in numerous seminars/workshops to promote these programs.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 504 LOAN PROGRAM

NEPA has entered into an agreement with NEPA Alliance Business Finance Corporation to market, process, and service SBA 504 loans. An SBA 504 Loan provides eligible businesses with long term, fixed rate financing. Proceeds can be used to purchase fixed assets such as machinery, equipment, land, or buildings.

SBA 504 benefits include:

- Financing up to 90% of project costs
- 10 and 20 year terms
- Fixed rate for the life of the loan
- Cash-Flow enhancements

"NEPA Alliance was an integral part in the successful opening of our new store in Brodheadsville, PA. The staff was effective and professional, and they actively communicated with us throughout the loan process."

- DUNKELBERGER SPORTS OUTFITTERS

NEPA Alliance presents USDA Rural Development and Economic Development Administration (EDA) small business loan funds to Antler Ridge Winery, Inc.

NEPA Alliance presents USDA Rural Development and Economic Development Administration (EDA) small business loan funds to Bellemarque LLC.
DCED-ON-THE-ROAD
The International Business Development Program had an instrumental role in arranging the schedule for the Department of Community and Economic Development’s DCED-On-The-Road held March 25-27, 2013.

During the three days, various DCED staff visited Gentex Corporation in Simpson, PA; King’s College in Wilkes-Barre, PA; Cornell Iron Works in Mountaintop, PA; ABF USA in Conyngham, PA and DBI Services in Hazleton, PA to have facility tours and discuss how they use the International Program to help them increase their international sales.

GOVERNORS IMPACT AWARD
The International Program assisted the Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) with the first annual Governors Impact Awards program. The International Program secured company nominations for the Export other award categories. The Program aided the PREP committee in selecting the five nominations submitted to DCED. Congratulations to Cornell Iron Works in Mountaintop, PA for receiving the 2013 Governor’s Export Impact Award.

NEPA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 – 2013 Outcomes (Performance Metrics)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Companies Assisted</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Orders Entered</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Clients Reporting Sales</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Goal Achieved</td>
<td>122%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Clients</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Actions Reported</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export Sales Reported</td>
<td>$45,996,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs Supported</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PENNSYLVANIA TRADE ADVISORS MEETINGS
The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance’s International Program hosted Pennsylvania’s Trade Advisors 14th annual visit to the region on September 21, 2012. The event was held at the Woodlands Inn & Resort in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The 21 Trade Advisors met with 38 companies from Northeastern Pennsylvania, which generated 194 one-on-one meetings. These companies explained to the Trade Advisors the assistance needed to develop new international markets or expand their existing markets in order to increase sales. A number of companies reported new sales that specifically resulted from the NEPA International Trade Program and their meetings with these Trade Advisors.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance’s International Program organized the 2013 spring visit of the Pennsylvania Trade Advisors to the region on May 7, 2013 at the East Mountain Inn in Plains Township, PA. Twelve Northeastern Pennsylvania companies registered to meet with the six Trade Advisors in the group. These twelve companies generated numerous one-on-one meetings during the one-day visit.

“We have benefited greatly with our dealings with NEPA’s International program and the Pennsylvania’s trade advisors over the past two years. They have provided superb support and were extremely instrumental in Acton Technologies, Inc. establishing a distributor in Europe for our products while also contributing directly to gaining two new accounts that have already generated sales.”

- ACTON TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

The Community Services Division was created in 2012 to highlight NEPA’s emphasis on community development, nonprofit assistance, research, telecommunications and energy conservation and efficiency initiatives. The division includes the operation of the Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center and the Research & Information Center that provide valuable services to nonprofits, local governments and businesses.

NONPROFIT & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER (NCAC)

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center (NCAC) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 affiliate agency of NEPA providing assistance to nonprofit organizations and communities within the NEPA region. NCAC’s mission is to strengthen and support Northeastern Pennsylvania’s nonprofit organizations and grantmakers in their service to our region. NCAC develops and offers resources, facilitates partnerships and collaborations and assists in the identification and implementation of governance and management best practices to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of organizations and the services and programs they offer.

NCAC staff have recently been certified as Standards for Excellence Consultants through the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO). NCAC is a Cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center and houses the Foundation Directory Online Premium Edition and Guidestar Premium.

NEPA GRANTMAKERS INITIATIVE

In collaboration with the Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Foundation, the McGowan Charitable Trust, The Luzerne Foundation, the Scranton Area Foundation and the Margaret Briggs Foundation, NCAC launched the NEPA Grantmakers initiative. The NEPA Grantmakers initiative is designed to bring grantmaking organizations and agencies together to more efficiently and effectively address the grantmaking needs of the communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The consortium allows for open discussion on grantmaking activities and best practices, local service deficiencies, peer collaborations, investment insight and legal challenges. It is our hope that this initiative will lead to systemic improvements in grantmaking activities throughout the region that will provide greater efficiencies and impacts to both the funders and grant recipients.

NCAC COMMUNITY AWARDS

The 2012 NCAC Community Awards Program was held Thursday, August 30, 2012 at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, Scranton, PA. Laura Ducceschi, President & CEO of the Scranton Area Foundation, served as the keynote speaker. In total, award recipients received over $4,000 in donations, memberships, plaques and complimentary seats. Awards, presented in seven categories, marked the inaugural year of the NCAC Program of the Year. The 2012 first place award winners were:

- **NCAC Program of the Year**
  - Misericordia University – Ruth Matthews Bourger, Women with Children Program
- **Theodore “Ted” G. Daniels Community Development**
  - EOTC – Seventh Avenue Center
- **Arts & Culture**
  - Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area – Heritage Valley Roundtable
- **Children & Youth**
  - Children’s Service Center – Juvenile Fire Setters Program
- **Education**
  - Misericordia University – Ruth Matthews Bourger, Women with Children Program
- **Environmental Action & Animal Welfare**
  - Pennsylvania Environmental Council – Community Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program
- **Health & Human Services**
  - University of Scranton – The University of Scranton’s Edward R. Leahy Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured

NCAC Program Totals 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit Counseling Sessions</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Center Visitors</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Attendees</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customized Funding Searches</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Proposal Reviews</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Applications Completed/Funded</td>
<td>1/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit Start-Up</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographic &amp; Statistic Assistance</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assistance Provided</strong></td>
<td><strong>523</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PENNSYLVANIA ENERGY PARTNERSHIP (PEP)

NEPA, in conjunction with the Local Development District (LDD) Network, has initiated Pennsylvania’s Energy Partnership (PEP). The program is designed to assist local governments, nonprofits and businesses reduce their energy consumption and costs through education, training, energy assessments and demand reduction.

Through the PEP program, NEPA staff performs energy assessments and utility bill analyses to identify and prioritize energy conservation measures. NEPA further assists clients with the development of funding packages (loans, rebates, tax credits) and grant writing assistance to increase the likelihood of project implementation.

PEP Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessments Completed</th>
<th>4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshops &amp; Seminars</td>
<td>8 / 260 attendees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Lifecycle Energy Savings</td>
<td>$343,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants/Loans/Rebates Leveraged</td>
<td>$398,994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESEARCH & INFORMATION

NEPA’s Research & Information Center provides research and economic impact modeling services to businesses, nonprofits and government agencies. Whether it’s the population of a municipality, the unemployment rate of a county or the number of businesses for a particular industry in the region, NEPA will provide the most current statistical and demographic information that meets our client’s needs.

Information Requests

| Public Service/Nonprofit Organizations | 26 |
| Businesses                            | 19 |
| Government                            | 15 |
| Media                                 | 1  |
| Academic/Research Institutions        | 3  |
| Private Citizens                      | 7  |
| Total                                 | 71 |

ECONOMIC IMPACT MODELING

NEPA utilizes an economic impact model, IMPLAN®, or Impact Analysis for Planning. The model estimates the economic impact of projects, which are based on the construction of buildings, a temporary impact, and the ongoing impacts that result from the operation of facilities and where applicable, tourism. During FYE 2012-13, NEPA conducted 10 economic impact analyses for clients within the region.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT - PPL LAKE WALLENPAUPACK

One of the clients was PPL Corporation, who requested an economic impact analysis of tourism activity at their preserve at Lake Wallenpaupack, a 5,700 acre lake located in Pike and Wayne counties. People come to the glistening lake and its captivating scenery to participate in boating, camping, fishing, hiking, biking, picnicking, studying nature and participating in environmental education programs. Based on traffic count information, along with percentages of non-local visitors and expenditure data from previous studies, the estimated impact on a region that consists of 34 contiguous zip codes in Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties when estimated by IMPLAN® is 126.4 jobs with a total estimated economic activity of $10.4 million. The total estimated federal tax impact was $770,000 and the total estimated state and local tax impact was $822,000.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Online Broadband & Technology Training (OBTT)

NEPA has also applied and has been approved by the state for an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) broadband project. NEPA is the lead agency in a statewide effort to provide an online training library for businesses, local governments and nonprofits. The courses will focus on broadband related technologies:

- to promote and encourage broadband usage;
- to increase the competitive advantage of PA based firms and organizations;
- to generate new e-commerce opportunities for businesses; and,
- to increase the effective use of online technologies for services and programs for local government and nonprofits.

“NCAC’s services are a necessity in the nonprofit sector at a time when budget cuts are prevalent. Through their assistance, we have been awarded five new foundation grants allowing us to both maintain existing services and launch new initiatives.”

- JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF SCRANTON
The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance previously operated as the Rural Planning Organization (RPO), providing transportation planning and programming services for Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne Counties. Following the 2010 Census, an urbanized area of over 50,000 was identified in Monroe County, and as required by federal law, all urbanized areas must be represented by a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), prompting the change from an RPO to an MPO. Four of the RPO counties (Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill) have elected to continue the regional transportation program collaboration under the designation of the NEPA MPO. The NEPA Alliance convenes an MPO committee to review the four-county regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which is the primary funding source for the counties’ highway and bridge projects, transit system improvements and other transportation programs. The NEPA MPO 2013-2016 TIP totals over $523 million over four years.

**LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

NEPA staff initiated a Request for Qualifications and Experience (RFQ) process for the development of a multi-modal Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the four-county MPO region. The Long Range Transportation Plan will identify the major transportation projects, programs and policies needed for the next twenty-five years and will establish the vision and goals that will guide future decisions affecting transportation facilities, infrastructure and services in the region. McCormick Taylor was selected as the consultant for the LRTP and will work with the NEPA and the MPO Committee over the next year to develop the plan.

**LOCAL ASSET INVENTORY**

NEPA has been engaged by PennDOT to perform an inventory of local roadways and bridges less than 20 feet in five counties of our region including Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne Counties. NEPA staff began collecting the information in Pike and Wayne Counties in fall 2012. The data collection in Pike and Wayne Counties is estimated to be completed in late fall or early winter 2013, and NEPA will continue collecting data on these local assets in the remaining counties through 2014.

**JARC AND NEW FREEDOM PROGRAMS**

The Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordinating Committee or “NEPA MPO Transit Subcommittee” reviewed and evaluated Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Program and New Freedom Program funding applications for the four-county MPO region. Following approval by the full NEPA MPO Committee, the following projects were forwarded to PennDOT for consideration of funding:

**JARC Program Funding**

- Monroe County Transportation Authority #1: $150,000
- Monroe County Transportation Authority #2: $132,000
- Schuylkill County Transportation Authority: $69,000

**New Freedom Program Funding**

- Carbon County Community Transportation: $11,400
- Monroe County Transportation Authority: $126,500
- Schuylkill County Transportation Authority: $138,000

**LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LTAP)**

The PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) has been serving Pennsylvania’s municipalities with maintenance and safety training since 1983. Services available through LTAP include workshop training, on-site technical assistance, updates on latest technologies and innovations, field demonstrations and newsletters. These services are available to all municipalities in the state and are provided at little or no cost to the user.

**LTAP Training**

- LTAP Courses Held: 16
- Individuals Trained: 376

Participants at the May 6, 2013 Chainsaw Safety Class in Schuylkill County.
FOCUS 81 COMMITTEE

The Focus 81 Committee was formed by NEPA and consists of a broad coalition of business, community and government leaders who have joined together to develop and enact measures which will enhance safety and reduce congestion within a targeted corridor of Interstate 81 in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. This fiscal year, the group:

- continued to work with PennDOT to utilize project funding to improve the I-81 corridor;
- revamped the Focus 81 website to provide commuters and travelers with the most up-to-date information about the I-81 corridor in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

PennDOT and elected officials participate in the groundbreaking for the Airport Interchange Project on I-81. The $42 million project includes widening of Interstate 81, rehabilitation of two existing bridges, replacement of an existing pedestrian bridge, new exit and entrance ramps, three new roundabouts, construction of two new bridges, and the construction of a new roadway.

SAFE 80 TASKFORCE

The Safe 80 Taskforce is a broad coalition of business, community and government leaders who have joined together to address emerging public safety needs within the I-80 corridor in Monroe County. NEPA successfully secured funding through PennDOT to assist with the management of the taskforce. Over the past year, the group has:

- worked to develop a website to inform commuters and travelers along the I-80 corridor;
- engaged PennDOT, the Pennsylvania State Police and local law enforcement agencies and representatives from similar agencies in New Jersey to ensure appropriate communication occurs when there are traffic incidents along the I-80 corridor;
- successfully worked with PennDOT to designate a Highway Safety Corridor on the I-80 corridor.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

NEPA provides a number of specialized services designed to assist local governments including: project funding searches, grant writing, meeting facilitation/administration, operational assessments, project consultation, etc. The following highlight assistance provided by NEPA during this past fiscal year.

- Back Mountain Community Partnership (BMCP): NEPA continued in its role as the administrator of this group consisting of the following communities in Luzerne County: Franklin, Jackson, Kingston, Lehman, and Dallas Townships and Dallas Borough. This group formed in 2009 and is working to address issues affecting their communities through this multi-municipal cooperative group.
  - In 2013, NEPA prepared a Local Share Account (Gaming Funds) grant application which was subsequently awarded to the BMCP for $200,000 to purchase shared Public Safety Equipment and Supplies. NEPA will assist the BMCP with the administration of this project.
  - NEPA also continued to assist the BMCP with the administration of the $975,000 Local Share Account grant awarded in 2012 for the Back Mountain Emergency Management Building and Supplies.
- Pittston City Government Study Commission: On January 16, 2012, NEPA was formally engaged by the Pittston City Government Study Commission to provide them with professional consulting services toward their review of the city’s current form of government and decision as to whether or not to pursue the development of a home rule charter. After a Public Hearing on April 9, 2012, the GSC decided to pursue a Home Rule Charter. During the fiscal year, NEPA guided the GSC through the drafting process and the Charter. The Charter question appeared on November 6, 2012 general election ballot for their consideration and was approved.
- Plymouth Township Financial Recovery Plan: The Township of Plymouth (Luzerne County) was declared a financially distressed community under Act 47 (Distressed Communities Act) in July, 2004. NEPA has provided Recovery Plan Coordinator services since 2005. In accordance with a Recovery Plan Update, a home rule charter was prepared for and adopted by the Township to improve the structure of the township’s governance and operations. Still recovering after 2011 flooding events, the Township is progressing well with disaster recovery activities. NEPA staff is also assisting the Township with a strategy to address sewer system improvements. A Sewage Facilities Plan Update is expected to soon be initiated. This past year, the Township again ended its fiscal year with a modest fund balance and continues to strengthen its fiscal position for an exit of the Distressed Municipalities Program in 2014.
OUR MISSION

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA) is a regional multi-county economic development agency providing leadership, planning, expertise and services to regional and local governments, businesses, institutions and individuals through innovative and beneficial collaborations and partnerships to enhance the economic development and quality of life of the area.