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## sync<sup>®</sup> NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



### Governor Cooper Announces 384 New Jobs as Furniture Manufacturer Selects Person County

POLYWOOD, a manufacturer of outdoor furniture made from recycled plastics, will create 384 jobs over five years in Person County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 16. The company will invest \$35.3 million to open a manufacturing and distribution center in Roxboro.

"Bringing good jobs to rural communities like Person County is essential to helping all of North Carolina thrive," said **Governor Cooper**. "Innovative companies like POLYWOOD show how North Carolina's furniture industry can continue to adapt and succeed, thanks to our strong workforce."

POLYWOOD manufactures low-maintenance, recyclable lumber from plastics and is a premier wood alternative in outdoor furniture. The company developed state-of-the-art technology and lean manufacturing processes that minimize waste and ensure products are built to order with next day shipping. POLYWOOD was founded by Doug Rassi and Mark Phillabaum in 1990 with the idea of taking milk jugs and recycling them into plastic lumber furniture. The company is headquartered in Syracuse, Indiana.

"We are excited about opening our new full scale production campus in North Carolina," said **POLYWOOD Chief Executive Officer Doug Rassi**. "The skilled manufacturing workforce, high level of information technology and growth potential in the state make it an excellent choice for our expansion. We look forward to building long term relationships in both the local community of Roxboro and the state."

### Auto Manufacturing Supplier Selects Stanly County for Expansion

Enforge, LLC, a manufacturer of steel-formed suspension and steering assemblies for automotive companies, is expanding in Stanly County, creating 44 new jobs and investing \$4 million, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 18. The company will bring a major steering linkage project involving steel forging, machining and assembly to Albemarle.

"Enforge's decision to expand in Stanly County reinforces North Carolina as a smart location for manufacturers in the automotive industry," said **N.C. Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "North Carolinians have experienced automotive manufacturing professionals with advanced training programs available to expand skills, and they are ready to get to work."

Enforge is a supplier of safety-critical suspension, steering, structural components and assemblies for automotive industry. Enforge is a subsidiary of Angstrom Automotive Group, LLC located in Michigan. Major products include control arms, suspension links, track bars, steering links, tow hooks, brace rods and other structural components and assemblies for Automotive OEMs. Angstrom customers include FCA, GM, Ford, Honda, GE, Bosch, American Axle and Manufacturing, and more. This project will bring a new capability to Enforge's Albemarle facility, hot forging.

"Enforge is excited to expand its current business in Albemarle," said **Angstrom Vice President of Finance Rajneesh Banga**. "As Angstrom is experiencing significant growth, we selected Albemarle as our first preference to launch this business due to availability of stable skilled workforce and pro-business environment which North Carolina offers."

"By expanding its capabilities, Enforge is strengthening the automotive manufacturing pipeline in our state," said continued



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center for outdoor furniture. The site will also house a reclamation center for all types of recycled plastics. These materials will be processed and reused in on-site manufacturing and sold to others using recycled plastics.

Salaries of the additional jobs will vary by position. Once all positions are filled, the total payroll impact is expected to be \$14.2 million, and average salaries will be above the Person County average of \$38,875.

"Manufacturers continue to choose North Carolina because of our experienced workforce, strong infrastructure and favorable business climate," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland. "POLYWOOD is a welcome addition to Person County and to North Carolina's furniture manufacturing industry."

POLYWOOD's project in Person County will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). The project will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$439 million over the course of the company's 12 year grant. Using a formula that considers the new tax revenues generated by the new jobs, the company could receive payments of up to \$3.33 million, if its job creation and investment targets are met.

Partnering with N.C. Commerce and the EDPNC on this project were the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Community College System and Person County.



*Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland discusses business issues with Bill Pannhoff, president of B&B Catering*

## Secretary Copeland Visits Cumberland County

Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland and Commerce Chief of Staff George Sherrill traveled to Cumberland County on October 17 to attend the region's State of the Community event. After hearing from various mayors and community leaders about the impact of Hurricane Florence, recent activities and exciting developments, Secretary Copeland talked about hurricane relief efforts. Copeland included information on recent legislative

Enforce's expansion in Stanly County and look forward to working together to keep up the success they've found here."

A performance-based grant of \$90,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Enforce's expansion in North Carolina.

In addition to North Carolina Commerce and the Economic Partnership of North Carolina, other key partners in the project include the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Community College System, Stanly County and the City of Albemarle.

## BUCHI Kombucha Selects Madison County for Manufacturing Expansion

Asheville Kombucha Mamas, LLC, a locally owned natural beverage company more commonly known as BUCHI, is expanding in Madison County, creating 28 new jobs and currently investing \$2 million with plans to invest up to \$7 million over the next three years, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced today. The company will expand its existing facility in Marshall.

"Homegrown companies are the pride of their communities, and I join Madison County in celebrating BUCHI's expansion here," said **N.C. Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "North Carolina's smaller towns and rural communities have much to offer business owners, and we've found that manufactures are very successful here. I look forward to BUCHI's continued success and partnership in the community."

BUCHI's owners started brewing kombucha, a living probiotic, all-natural beverage, as a healthy alternative to other beverages. Since then, BUCHI has grown to produce 60,000 units per week and have expanded its product lines and customers. BUCHI now distributes across the east coast from Vermont down to Florida and as far west as Minnesota. To meet this growth, BUCHI plans to expand its facility and add more employees. BUCHI is community centered, minority established and operates as a triple bottom-line company. BUCHI currently has 17 employees.

"We deeply appreciate and are honored to be from an area where local and state assistance opportunities and advocacy are making a dramatic difference in our ability to offer good jobs," said **Co-CEOS of Buchi Kombucha, Zane Adams and Jeannine Buscher**. "Madison County and the Town of Marshall came together to support our



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The Secretary reminded business leaders of the importance of registering with FEMA at their local offices. Copeland and Sherrill also visited some businesses that suffered damage in the storm, including Green Biz, B&B Catering and The Fayetteville Observer. They discussed potential funding sources and programs that might assist companies with recovery efforts. You can review some of those [business recovery programs online here](#).

## Rural Communities Receive Nearly \$7 Million in Grants, Attracting 312 New Jobs

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved seven grant requests totaling \$6,935,250 at its October 18 board meeting. The requests include commitments to create a total of 616 jobs, 304 of which were previously announced. The public investment in these projects will attract more than \$594 million in private investment.

"Rural communities across North Carolina need support to make smart investments in infrastructure in order to boost economic development," said **N.C. Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "The new grants approved by the Rural Infrastructure Authority will lead to the creation of good jobs, greater prosperity and, in some cases, improved access to health care."

"Local governments will gain greater capacity to help businesses locate and expand in rural North Carolina, thanks to the projects approved today," said **Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Development Kenny Flowers**. "The Rural Economic Development Division at Commerce and the Rural Infrastructure Authority board are pleased to be able to partner with these communities to help them attract hundreds of new job opportunities."

Complete details on each of the [RIA awarded projects is available online](#).

their help and most concerning operators growing in Madison/Marshall. We are proud to call it home."

"We've found a niche for rural economic development among manufacturing projects," continued **Secretary Copeland**. "BUCHI start out in Asheville and has reached the level of success at which they could go anywhere. BUCHI chose to stay because of the community, the business climate and the talent that has helped the company get to this point."

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but will average \$43,472, which is more than the average wage of \$32,108 in Madison County.

A performance-based grant of \$50,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate BUCHI's expansion in North Carolina.

in addition to North Carolina Commerce and the Economic Partnership of North Carolina, other key partners in the project include the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Community College System, Madison County and the Town of Marshall.

## N.C. in the News

- [Grant Helps Secure ACC Coatings' Relocation to Elkin](#) (*The Tribune* - Elkin - October 22)
- [Albemarle Candidates Focus on Economic Development](#) (*Stanly News & Press* - October 20)
- [Building rehab brings expansion, new business to Spruce Pine](#) (*Mitchell News* - October 18)
- [Outdoor gear industry to expand in WNC](#) (*Smoky Mountain News* - October 17)

### About Us

*SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor](#).*



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