

Odessa Public Development Authority

Description

A group of concerned community leaders partnered with the Lincoln County Economic Development Council, to form the Odessa Public Development Authority (OPDA) which has been successful in bringing new businesses and jobs to the rural eastern Washington farming community of Odessa, population 980.

With the assistance of a Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) grant/loan, the OPDA constructed the first phase of the Odessa PDA Industrial Park to house its first building, which became the home of the North Basin Seed Company in 2000. Two more businesses constructed facilities with the help of CERB loans and grants in 2001 (Seed-Rite, a seed marketing company and SemBioSys which processes locally grown safflower for pharmaceutical purposes). In 2005, the OPDA, partnered with Inland Empire Oilseeds to also construct a large-scale oilseed crushing and bio-diesel processing plant, currently in operation.

The Barr Regional Bio Industrial Park, the OPDA's current project, is under construction and its first business, Barr-Tech, will be operational in November 2009. The Barr Regional Bio-Industrial Park is dedicated to sustainable, renewable energy businesses. A second business, Blue Marble Energy, is now in the preliminary engineering stage and should be operational in the fall of 2010.



Results

Five new businesses and 40 family-wage jobs were created—with as many as 80 more on the way. One new business to a community as small as Odessa has a ripple effect throughout the community. If that business hires just one employee who chooses to relocate to Odessa from outside the community, it can bring more students to the school system, more patients to the hospital, additional taxes for governments and more spending in local businesses.



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