



4747 W. 48th St. · Ste. 108 · Fremont, MI 49412

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NEWAYGO COUNTY

PROFILE



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Thank you for your interest in Newaygo County. We are well aware that communities across Michigan and across the country are vying for your company's expansion or relocation. We know that you can go anywhere. We also know that you'll be very happy here, in Newaygo.

Newaygo County offers the infrastructure and resources necessary for a growing enterprise, but we also offer a warm and welcoming community that sees you not just as a business entity, but a neighbor.

We hope this document will give you a brief overview of Newaygo County and entice you to learn more.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Andy Lofgren, Executive Director



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The mission of the Newaygo County Economic Development Office (NCEDO) is to create a dynamic environment of economic opportunities for the Newaygo County community. We are a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. As such, we depend on local businesses and community organizations to support our mission by contributing time, resources, and financial support.

A mission statement is important, but it doesn't always convey what your organization does on a daily basis. At NCEDO, we pride ourselves in facilitating, educating, and advocating based on the following principles.

By facilitating, we bring people, organizations, and resources together to work on community issues or to assist local employers. For example, we are a corporate partner with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and also act as a liaison to other federal, state, regional, and local organizations. NCEDO helps to bring these groups and their programs to Newaygo County.

Education is also an important part of what we do. This means hosting Economic Forums, or seminars on issues facing the community. In addition, NCEDO is a satellite office of the Small

Business and Technology Development Center, and we arrange for training and one-on-one counseling for Newaygo citizens interested in starting or expanding a small business.

Finally, we are an advocate organization promoting Newaygo County to those inside and outside our borders. This is accomplished through our business retention and attraction program, our support for key areas of our economy such as agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism and by carrying our message to Lansing and Washington, DC, as necessary.



STRONG SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS

Newaygo County business leaders affirm that the area is a great place to do business and offers a high overall quality of life. While Newaygo County still maintains the charm, friendliness, and safety that come with small-town living, access to the latest technologies and business support services are readily available.

Infrastructure

Newaygo County's abundance of rolling farmland and expansive forests belie its strong resources for business and manufacturing, including solid technology and communications, three industrial parks, rail, road, and air transportation, and access to a Great Lakes shipping port just minutes away.

Technology

Newaygo County is one of the most technologically advanced rural areas in the country! A fiber optic cable telecommunication network exists that supports data, video, and voice communication



capabilities that are available to all county residents. The network connects schools, municipal buildings, libraries, the hospital, private nonprofit agencies, and area businesses making accessible universal Internet connectivity, technology labs, two-way interactive video classrooms, and telecommunications services. Broadband internet service, including wireless, cable, and DSL, is available throughout the county.

Technology Partnerships: The tremendous technology resources available in Newaygo County are due, in part, to a collaborative effort of the following agencies: The Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency, through its technology consortium NCATS (Newaygo County Advanced Technology Service), provides training and technical support and maintains the fiber optic network. The Fremont Area Community Foundation, which is on a per-capita basis one of the largest community foundations in the nation, provided funding for the construction of the fiber optic network, while the Gerber Foundation, a local private foundation, provided support for the video distance learning component of the network.

Education and Training

Newaygo County is committed to providing a skilled and well-trained work force. This commitment is reflected in our Career and Community Development services and our Career Tech Center. It's shown in programs that provide youth and dislocated workers with on-the-job and classroom training, an online database matching employer job openings with job seeker resumes, and in Baker College offering 90 master, bachelor, associate, and certificate programs with many classes offered online. The Business and Corporate Services program offers customized training in both technical and "soft skill" areas. We even offer a comprehensive leadership series designed to develop leaders locally to continually improve community quality of life for participants from the public and private sectors.

Incentives

NCEDO works with state and local agencies to provide an aggressive approach for tax, financial, and technology assistance to the individuals and employees investing in Newaygo County.



LIVE HERE AND LIVE WELL

Communities

While less than an hour from busy metropolitan areas, Newaygo County boasts the charm of small town-living with exceptional school systems, churches, and businesses that practice old-fashioned customer service. We have a proud heritage of culturally diverse citizens.

The communities of Newaygo County provide an extensive network of public services to their residents, including municipally owned water supply systems, storm sewer systems, street maintenance and snow plowing, refuse and recycling programs, municipal airports, industrial parks, and economic development services.

Housing

You will feel at home in Newaygo County, no matter where you choose to make your home. Residents are fortunate to enjoy big-city advantages without the typical hassles of living in a large metropolitan area. Home buyers will appreciate the variety and affordability of real estate. Many housing and neighborhood styles are available, including a variety of condominiums and apartments. The county's various senior complexes provide an affordable alternative for elderly citizens.



Schools

Newaygo County's many districts provide exemplary K-12 schooling including "hands-on" learning experiences through area tech centers and international study programs. High school students may earn college credits by participating in advance placement courses, and nearby Baker College offers an innovative satellite location for higher-education opportunities.

Recreation

Newaygo County has over 100,000 acres of forest that offer an abundance of active recreational opportunities. Sportsmen will enjoy 356 miles of rivers and streams and over 230 lakes for fishing and the variety of wild game found here. The same rivers, streams, and lakes provide a paradise for boating and canoeing. Newaygo County is a hiker's paradise, including a section of the 4,600-mile North Country National Scenic Trail, which stretches from the Vermont-New York border to the heart of North Dakota.

Culture

Newaygo County is fortunate to host the Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts, which welcomes local, regional, national, and international artists. Throughout the year, Newaygo County offers more than a half-dozen community festivals each year. Our local historical museum keeps our lumberjack and pioneer history vibrant and alive, and an active arts community enhances the cultural climate of the area.

Health Care

Gerber Memorial Health Services provides residents and visitors with a complete range of medical and nursing services that are often found only at large urban facilities.



BY THE NUMBERS

Newaygo County is located in the western part of Michigan's lower peninsula and is the 17th-largest county in the state at 864 square miles. The county is situated at the northern end of the Greater Grand Rapids and Muskegon metropolitan areas and is a short distance to several regional economic hubs:

Chicago	220 miles	353 km
Cleveland	310 miles	498 km
Detroit	190 miles	305 km
Indianapolis	280 miles	450 km
Lansing	110 miles	176 km

Companies in Newaygo County have access to a vast transportation network including:

Highways:	M-37, M-82, M-120, M-20, US-31, US-131
Rail Lines	CSX Railroad
Airports	Gerald R. Ford International, Grand Rapids, Muskegon International, Fremont Municipal, White Cloud Municipal
Ports	Muskegon Great Lakes Port

Population

Newaygo County is one of the fastest-growing counties in the region, state, and nation. This strong growth is a clear testament to the benefits of working and living in Newaygo County.

	2000	1990	% Change
Newaygo County	47,874	38,206	25%
Fremont	4,224	3,875	9%
Grant	881	764	15%
Newaygo	1,670	1,336	25%
White Cloud	1,420	1,147	24%

Source: US Census Bureau

Population Projection

	2005	2010	2020	2030
Newaygo County	52,248	59,995	75,184	94,129

Source: West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission,
Based on US Census Bureau

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 & Over - Year 2000

	Newaygo County	Michigan US	
High School Diploma	40.4%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College, No Degree	20.9%	23.3%	21.0%
Associates Degree	6.1%	7.0%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	7.7%	13.7%	15.5%
Graduate or Professional Degree	3.7%	8.1%	8.9%

Source: US Census Bureau

Median Household Income

	2000	1990
Newaygo County	\$37,130	\$23,468
State of Michigan	\$44,667	\$31,020
United States	\$41,994	\$30,056

Source: US Census Bureau

Median Housing Value

	2000	1990
Newaygo County	\$88,700	\$44,300
State of Michigan	\$115,600	\$60,600
United States	\$119,600	\$79,100

Source: US Census Bureau

Per Capita Income

	2000	1990
Newaygo County	\$18,849	\$13,547
State of Michigan	\$29,127	\$19,020
United States	\$29,469	\$19,572

Source: US Census Bureau

Major Employers

Newaygo County has a strong and diverse economic base. We have dozens of companies that employ thousands of people in industries ranging from manufacturing to education to healthcare. These strong, vibrant companies are distributed across our county, from Fremont to Newaygo, to White Cloud, to Grant. We are also home to many small businesses that add to the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of the community. When you locate your business in Newaygo County, you'll be in good company.

What Next

For confidential information regarding development opportunities in Newaygo County, or to support our mission, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Andy Lofgren, Executive Director

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