



Supporting Responsible Growth of Large-Load Employers & Utility Customers

A Community-First Framework for the Evansville Region

A Note to The Community




The Evansville Region is seeing increased interest from large employers, data centers, advanced manufacturers, and other major investment projects. These opportunities can represent a generational chance to attract private capital, strengthen the tax base, and expand career pathways for residents. They also require a full network of regional assets including utilities, water, wastewater, fiber connectivity, transportation, workforce, and site readiness to support growth responsibly.

Our responsibility is to pursue that growth in a way that protects affordability, reliability, and the character of our communities.

The Opportunity: Large-Load Growth Can Strengthen the Region

“Large load” often refers to projects with significant electricity demand, but their impact extends beyond the grid. Major employers also depend on water, broadband, transportation, land availability, workforce capacity, and local public infrastructure. When planned responsibly, these projects can bring new capital investment, strengthen local revenues that support public services, and create opportunities for local contractors, suppliers, and workers.

A Proven Regional Legacy: Meeting Big Moments

-  **Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana (Princeton):** A transformational project that required infrastructure, workforce readiness, and long-term planning to become a cornerstone of our regional economy.
-  **Bally's Evansville Casino & Hotel:** A major development that helped strengthen tourism, local revenue, and downtown momentum.
-  **World War II shipbuilding in Evansville:** A historic example of our community scaling workforce and capability to meet a national need under pressure.

Each of these moments brought questions and warranted scrutiny. They also showed what the Evansville Region can achieve when we plan carefully, communicate clearly, and align growth with community benefit.

The Challenges We Must Address

- **Local fit:** Land use, infrastructure corridors, resource consumption, and neighborhood impacts must be evaluated carefully and transparently.
- **Affordability and fairness:** Growth must not shift costs onto existing households and small businesses.
- **Reliability and timing:** New generation, transmission, and substation upgrades take time and must be planned ahead of new demand.

Our Commitment: Responsible Growth, Community First

Cost Responsibility

Large-load customers should fund the upgrades and infrastructure costs they require through fair contracts and rate structures that protect existing customers.

Transparency & Early Engagement

We will prioritize clear communication, timely information-sharing, and opportunities for community input as projects are evaluated

Land Use Compatibility

Projects should be sited near existing infrastructure or industrial areas to reduce disruption and improve efficiency.

Infrastructure Alignment

New large-load demand must be matched with new energy supply and grid investment, so reliability is maintained for everyone.

Environmental Stewardship

Projects should use efficient technologies and responsible practices that minimize impacts to air, water, and land.

Workforce & Local Economic Impact

We will pursue projects that create local contracting opportunities, support workforce training, and strengthen our supplier ecosystem.

Long-Term Accountability

Agreements should address performance expectations, community benefit, and end-of-life plans so projects remain assets over time.

Grid Innovation & Flexibility

Projects should use proven tools such as load management, demand response, and storage where feasible to reduce strain during peak conditions.

What This Means for Residents

- **Protecting bills:** We support approaches that prevent cost-shifts to households and small businesses.
- **Protecting reliability:** We support planning that aligns grid upgrades and new supply before major new demand comes online.
- **Protecting community priorities:** We support best-use siting, clear standards, and transparent review of local impacts.

Answering The Opportunity

The Evansville Region cannot afford to stand still while other communities move ahead. With thoughtful planning, strong local leadership, and the courage to embrace opportunity responsibly, we can protect what makes this region special while building a stronger future for generations to come.