Innovative program prepares shovel-ready sites for development

At ElectrCity, we’re trying new things about economic development strategies for our member communities. The Smart Sites program, also known as S2, aims to assist member communities in preparing shovel-ready sites for development. In today’s competitive marketplace, it’s rare for a company to locate to an undeveloped, unimproved property. The majority of new and expanding companies expect existing buildings or a prepared, shovel-ready site to shave costs and save time needed for construction. Yet communities often struggle to garner the capital needed to develop attractive economic development programs.

‘Smart Sites’ is our shovel-ready site qualification program,” says Brenda Daniels, Manager of Economic Development at ElectrCity. “We’ve taken a thorough and rigorous engineering review on a piece of property before certifying it as a ‘Smart Site.’ Smart Sites are shovel ready for potential new tenants, which saves the company a lot of time and money.”

Pictured above: A SMART SITES ROAD SIGN IS INSTALLED FOR THE WAKE FOREST SMART SITE. SMART SITES INCREASE REACH

Our Dashboard

We’re always looking for opportunities to partner with our member cities to provide customized assistance with all aspects of economic development. At ElectrCity, our comprehensive approach begins at the start of a project and continues through the site selection and building processes. The Economic Development team is with you every step of the way. Here’s a look at some of our recent highlights. Our stats are up!

While we constantly monitor the status of events due to COVID-19, we are always conducting virtual meetings. To see what services we have to offer right now, contact Brenda Daniels to schedule a virtual meeting.

Southern Pines-Rockingham Marketing Tour March 12, 2021 | Myrtle Beach, SC significantly

National Economic Association March 1-3, 2021 | Las Vegas, NV

Gastonia Economic Development Conference March 9-10, 2021 | Mebane, NC

NC Airports Association Annual Meeting March 9-10, 2021 | Greensboro, NC

NC Main Street Conference March 8-10, 2021 | Virtual Conference

North Carolina Manufacture Conference March 9-11, 2021 | Greensboro, NC

RAI Spring National Key Accounts Workshop March 23-24, 2021 | Fort Worth, TX

Lynchburg Hotel Investment Conference March 8-11, 2021 | Virtual Conference

Indoor Retail Development March 8-11, 2021 | Virtual Conference

The following is a partial list of the Economic Development Conference sites in 2021: ALEX180, OC Restaurant, Light Street, Charlotte, NC; and the State of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC. For more information, contact Brenda Daniels at bdaniels@electrcity.com or phone 919-833-6880.

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**Great NEWS**

**CLAYTON**
Golden Thyme Company is growing. The restaurant business company is investing $3 million in five new locations. The expansion includes a new location on Broad Street. The company is growing at a rapid pace in the region. It has been growing at a pace of 3% per year. The company is planning to open five new locations by the end of the year.

**NEWTON**
GNT, a company that manufactures food products, is planning to invest $30 million in a new manufacturing facility in Newton. The company has a long history of manufacturing food products, and this investment will help it expand its operations. The new facility will be located in the town of Newton, and it is expected to create 100 new jobs. The company is also planning to invest in new technology to improve its production processes.

**FARMVILLE**
Southern Vinyl is expanding its facility by purchasing a nearby property. The company, headquartered in Tarboro since 2002, won the 2019 TRIP award for the best transportation project. The new facility will be located in Farmville, and it is expected to create 30 new jobs. The company is also planning to invest in new technology to improve its production processes.

**GREENVILLE**
World Cat, a manufacturer of power catamarans, is planning to invest $5 million in a new manufacturing facility in Greenville. The company, headquartered in Tarboro since 2002, won the 2019 TRIP award for the best transportation project. The new facility will be located in Greenville, and it is expected to create 30 new jobs. The company is also planning to invest in new technology to improve its production processes.

**WASHINGTON**
Beauumont Urgent Care is opening a new location in Washington. The company, headquartered in Tarboro since 2002, won the 2019 TRIP award for the best transportation project. The new facility will be located in Washington, and it is expected to create 20 new jobs. The company is also planning to invest in new technology to improve its production processes.

**KINSTON**
Southern Vinyl is expanding its facility by purchasing a nearby property. The company, headquartered in Tarboro since 2002, won the 2019 TRIP award for the best transportation project. The new facility will be located in Kinston, and it is expected to create 30 new jobs. The company is also planning to invest in new technology to improve its production processes.

**LEXINGTON**
Virginia Air Quality Division support to improve infrastructure development at the SkyCor Center in Lexington. The V.

**AROUND THE REGION**

**WASHINGTON**
Wal-Mart has begun testing drone delivery in Fayetteville. The company is testing drone delivery in the area to see if it is feasible. The company plans to expand the program if it is successful. The company is also planning to invest in new technology to improve its production processes.

**CLARKE COUNTY**
Walmart’s new branch will be located in Fayetteville. The company is planning to invest $70 million in the new branch. The company is also planning to invest in new technology to improve its production processes.