



Stakeholder Engagement Initiative February 2024

The Pennsylvania Industrial Hemp Engine (PAIHE) is a U.S. National Science Foundation sponsored Regional Innovation Engine, established to develop a robust industrial hemp ecosystem centered in Pennsylvania's I-81 Corridor, built upon self-sustaining collaborative research and demonstration programs addressing plant genetics, bioengineering, crop production and processing, consumer and industrial product development, manufacturing, distribution, and reclamation.

More than 40 stakeholder organizations are currently engaged with the PAIHE, including local, state, and federal government, investors, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, and private industry. More than one-half of the current stakeholders are private industry organizations, ranging from global manufacturing giants to technology-based start-ups.

To expand and deepen stakeholder engagement, the PAIHE is now convening regular stakeholder engagement meetings. The aims of the stakeholder meetings are to:

- Inform stakeholders about the activities of the PAIHE within areas of interest
- Obtain input and direction from stakeholders about PAIHE directions and priorities
- Expand the number of stakeholders participating in the PAIHE

Stakeholder engagement meetings will be held regularly from 11:00 - 1:00 on Tuesdays and will be held via zoom to promote participation. Separate monthly meetings will focus on each of the primary PAIHE activity areas as follow:

- Production and Processing Stakeholder Meetings, addressing industrial hemp plant genetics, seed production, growing, harvesting, and processing challenges. Spring 2024 meeting dates are **March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 4.**
- Consumer and Industrial Product Development Stakeholder Meetings, exploring applications in building materials, textiles, paper, plastics, absorbents, packaging, automotive, and other sectors. **Dates are March 12, April 9, May 14, and June 11.**
- Economic Development and Public Policy Stakeholder Meetings, identifying how legal issues, financial markets, workforce skills, regional development, and diversity can strengthen PAIHE impacts. **Dates are March 19, April 16, May 21, and June 18.**

All meetings will be separately announced, and agendas will be provided in advance. Meetings are open to all and will be recorded. Attendance is free. To register for a meeting and obtain the zoom link, please visit paihe.org or send an email message to Ariel Matz at amatz@vpsresearch.org.