

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, June 6, 2016

Regular Meeting

Item Public Inp3

Council to consider approval of the Target Industries One-Pager.

Staff Contact: Nathan Johnson, City Manager

Scotts Bluff County Regional Snapshot



Population
36,835 (2014)



Median Home Cost
\$91,800
28% Lower than the state



Housing Cost Index
58
50% Lower than Nat'l Avg



Utility Cost
8.4 cents per kWh
16% Lower than Nat'l Avg



Livability Score
74



Commute Time
13 Minutes (Average)
50% Lower than Nat'l Avg



Violent Crime
31.4



Health Cost Index
96



Workforce Quality

Our region is committed to the development of both technical and soft skills in response to the needs of business and industry. Our career readiness training is focused on delivering qualified workers with the soft skills and work ethic our businesses need to be successful.



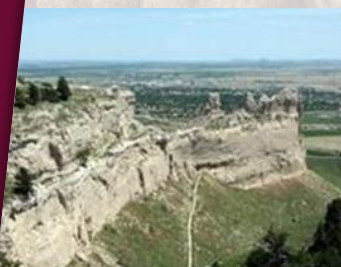
Technical Skills Training

Western Nebraska Community College and its Harms Advanced Technology Center offer resources to help talent develop technology-based skills focused on innovation. Resources include business and entrepreneurship courses, computer and technical instruction, health and human services training, worker training grants, and more.



Career Academies

The Scotts Bluff K-12 school systems have established Career Academies specially focused on work-based learning opportunities and partnerships with the business community. Apprenticeships and internships, and industry advisory councils work hand-in-hand to develop better employee skills.



Quality of Life

Workers in our region enjoy some great benefits to living here, too:

- The cost of living here is surprisingly low given the high quality of life. Our cost of living is 18% lower than the national average and 12% lower than the state of Nebraska.
- Our workers enjoy housing costs that are more than 42% lower than the national average. Employees can buy more house for their money
- Our great wide open spaces provide an abundance of outdoor recreational activities
- Our commute times are less than 50% that of the national average allowing, with virtually no congestion. Employees enjoy more personal and family time
- Our region is a peaceful place, where children can walk to school. The violent crime rate is more than 16% lower than the nation and 14% lower than the state.
- Healthcare costs in the region are 4% lower than the national average.



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FOR WESTERN NEBRASKA**

1620 Broadway, Scottsbluff, NE 69361 308.632.2833 www.tcdne.org www.wehavejobs.net

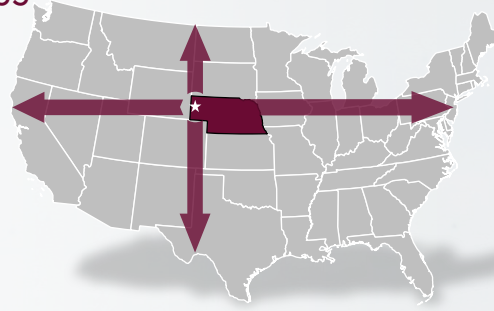
Sources: *BestPlaces.net* data, *Areavibes.com*, and *Hoovers Inc.*

Scotts Bluff County

Regional Snapshot

Nebraska Ranks High for Business

- #2 Unemployment Insurance Tax Rank (Tax Foundation)
- #3 Regulatory Environment Rank (2015 Forbes)
- #3 Overall Best States for Business (Forbes)
- #5 Business Friendliness Rank (2015 CNBC)
- #7 Quality of Life (Forbes)
- #8 Cost of Living (CNBC)
- #9 Business Costs Rank (2015 Forbes)
- #11 Workforce (2015 CNBC)
- #14 Lowest Price per Kilowatt hour



Other great reasons to consider Western Nebraska



Right to Work

Nebraska's right to work statute provides a long-standing foundation for a business-friendly environment. Less litigation and a pro-business environment.



Public Infrastructure:

Our region sits above one of the largest aquifers in the nation. We have quality water and plenty of it!



Broadband:

Multiple long haul, redundant fiber optic networks extend throughout the Scotts Bluff region, operated by Zayo, Charter, Great Plains Communications and CenturyLink. These networks provide low latency, direct paths to network access points in Denver and Omaha along with national research networks. There are also many last mile choices using fiber, wireline and wireless, with Gigabit capacity connections available virtually anywhere in Scotts Bluff County.



Transportation:

Centrally located with 4-lane highway access. Cost-effective distribution means a day's drive to nearly 50 million customers. We also have a state-of-the-art airport and two railroads that run through the region.



Incentives

A combination of state and local incentives are customized to meet the needs of each business. Over 30 programs are available, ranging from grants, low interest rate loans, tax breaks, workforce training programs, intern programs, and angel investment funds. We work hard to match the appropriate funding to each businesses unique needs. Some of the programs available are:

- Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act (LB840)
- (Local) Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- (State) Nebraska Advantage Act (LB 312) and Super Advantage Tier (LB 895)
- (State) Talent & Innovation Initiative:
 - Business Innovation Act
 - InternNE Grant Program
 - Angel Investment Tax Credit
 - Site & Building Development

Workforce Training Incentives:

- Based on job creation and wage

Utility Incentives:

- Nebraska Public Power District Wholesale Economic Development Incentive Rate (3.7-5.0 cents per kilowatt hour after 5 years of service)



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