

## Polyair announces plans to expand Bardstown plant Will bring 19 jobs to area with more expected in 2011

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By STEPHANIE HORNBACK

About 19 new jobs will come to Bardstown in the next two months with the expansion of Polyair Corporation, 300 Spencer Mattingly Lane. The corporation is closing its Youngstown, Ohio, facility and transitioning all manufacturing activity to the Bardstown location before May 1, according to Gary Tessitore, Polyair CEO.

Polyair produces polyethylene packaging for auto, electronics and furniture industries, said Rick Potter, the Bardstown plant manager.

“We feel it’s a positive move for the company to consolidate our manufacturing efforts,” Potter said. “It’s good news for Bardstown and Nelson County.”

Some of the 41 Youngstown employees were offered jobs in Bardstown, he said.

The local expansion will come in two phases, with the second expansion anticipated in 2011, Tessitore said. The second phase will add eight more jobs.

“The move will optimize foam production capacity in the near term while building a more cost-effective model for the long term,” he said. “The Bardstown facility, which was acquired by Polyair in 1998, has been a key site of polyethylene foam production for the company over the past 11 years.”

Gov. Steve Beshear and Cabinet for Economic Development Secretary Larry Hayes announced the expansion Tuesday. In addition to the jobs, the expansion will bring a capital investment of more than \$5.6 million, according to a state press release.

The press release also stated the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority preliminarily approved Polyair Corporation for up to \$750,000 under Kentucky’s new incentive program, the Kentucky Business Investment (KBI) Program. The incentive can be earned throughout a 10-year period through corporate income tax credits and wage assessments.

Kim Huston, Nelson County Economic Development Agency president, said Polyair is a solid company with good management and hard-working employees.

“We are so glad that they had the confidence in Bardstown to choose it as the location to consolidate its facilities, and we look forward to Polyair having many more successful years in Nelson County,” she said.

According to *Plastics News*, with the closing of the Youngstown facility, Polyair will have seven plants: Atlanta, Ga.; Bardstown; Carlstadt, N.J.; Chicago, Ill.; Corona, Calif.; Carrollton, Texas; and Sacramento, Calif.