

Supporting the Energy Transition/Transformation: Linking Coal & Nuclear Communities

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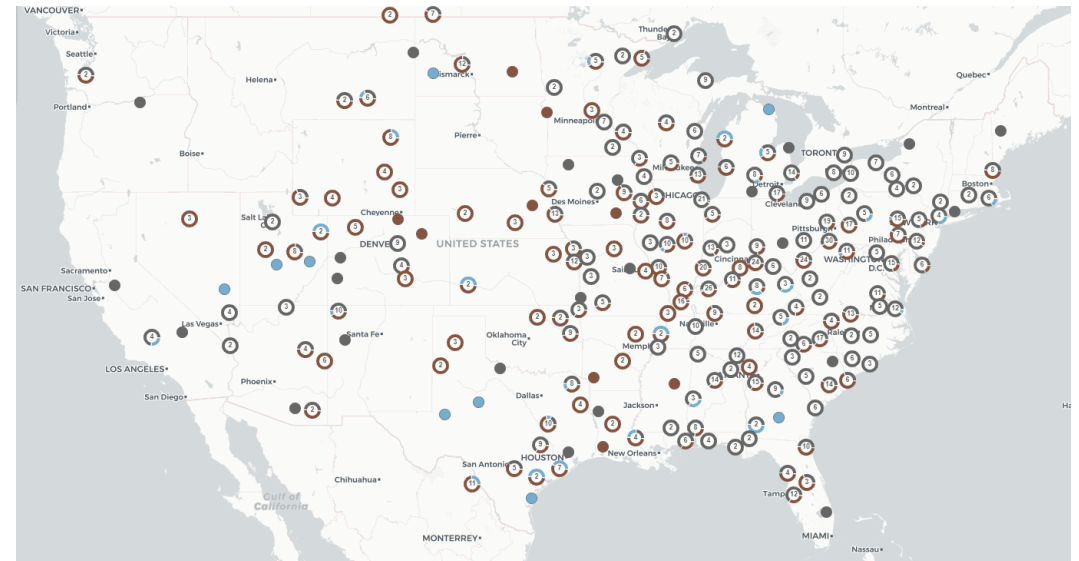
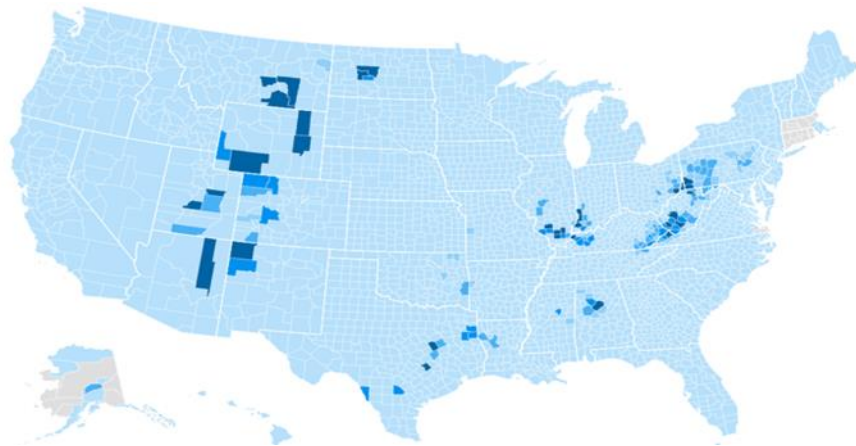
Today's Talk

- Introduction to Coal Communities of Practice
 - ARC/EDA (2015-2019)
 - BRECC (2022-2025)
- What Have We Learned So Far?
- Discussion: Learning from Nuclear Communities

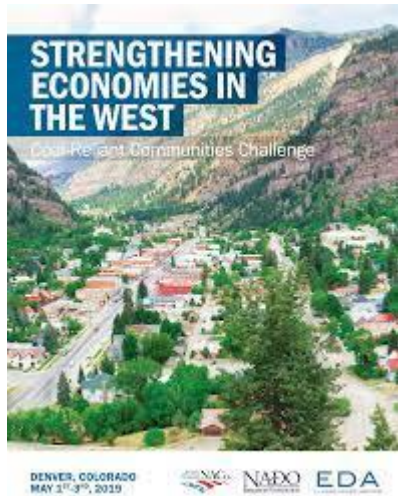
A Big Challenge (and Opportunity) Ahead

330+ counties with at least one coal fired power plant

150+ counties have some level of coal production



Some Brief History



2015: Coal-Reliant Communities Innovation Challenge

2017: Strengthening Economies in the West Coal-Reliant Communities Challenge

2022: Building Resilient Economies in Coal-Reliant Communities

- 1 of 9 EDA-Backed Communities of Practice



BRECC National Network

- All coal community stakeholders
- Resource platform + learning series
- Learn best practices + build connections

Action Challenge

- Cross-sector community teams
- Technical assistance + coaching support
- Develop an economic diversification strategy

Commitment Coalition

- Local coal community leaders
- Peer exchanges + site visits
- Strengthen local capacity + advance projects for economic resilience

Storytelling

- Highlight community success stories
- Interviews, blogs and podcasts
- Share challenges and solutions with a national audience



- Workforce Retention + Retraining
- Attracting + Establishing New Industries
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Local businesses + Entrepreneurs
- Housing
- Infrastructure + Broadband
- Revenue Streams
- Regional Collaboration
- Project Implementation + Funding

Local Economic Diversification Strategies



Community Responses: What Works for Revitalization?

- **Short-Term: Limited options beyond marketing and promotion**
 - **Big infrastructure projects can help**
- **Medium-Term: Help firms start, innovate and diversify**
 - **Worker training and technical assistance to business**
- **Long-Term: Build and attract talent**
 - **Develop world-class infrastructure**

Lessons Learned



Lessons Learned

Short-Term: *Can economic shocks be avoided?*

- Can't avoid shocks—no region is able to avoid economic shocks
- Economic development Programs have little short-term impact on avoiding crisis or in quick recovery

Long Term: *How to help?*

Resilient regions are:

- More talent rich
- Have diverse export sectors
- Home to perceived “business-friendly” climate, including right to work laws

ED programs have large long-term effects

- Build talent
- Develop amenities
- Improve competitiveness

Places that successfully diversify their economy tend to:

Do their *research*

- Assess their strengths and weaknesses
- Understand external opportunities and threats
- Learn from other places

Make planning an *ongoing process*

- Allows for intentionality
- Builds regional consensus
- Integrates new leaders
- Provides accountability

Places that successfully diversify their economy tend to:

Leverage state, federal, private resources

- Not Just \$\$
- Continuously seek resources to close gaps

Maintain and Build Local Capacity

- Among staff and community leaders

Incorporate a broad array of perspectives

- Think regionally
- Look and work beyond their own silos

Final Thoughts: Lessons For Revitalization

Do It Yourself!

- While Federal and state governments may provide resources, the **future of the region belongs to its residents.**

Regionalism Works

- Economic activity does not respect political boundaries – neither should economic adjustment activity.

Thinks Assets, Not Gaps

- Assess full range of local assets and build strategies to catalyze them.

No Secrets!

- **Communications and transparency are vital** to create community trust and attract investment.

Execute in short-term/Plan for long-term

- Effective short-term plans to “stop the bleeding” build local trust and buy-in for longer term efforts. Early wins help!

Hit for Singles, Not Home Runs

- Immediately serving affected workers is necessary. But, the goal must be to **diversify local/regional economies.**

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