



TRANSITION FROM COAL-BASED ELECTRICAL ENERGY ECONOMY ACT (HB 19-1314):

LESSONS FROM THE FIRST YEAR

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- HB 19-1314 – Just Transition Office
  - Establishes Transition Advisory Committee
  - Identify timing and location of facility closures
  - Provide administrative, logistical, research and policy support
  - Draft plan due by Aug 1, 2020
  - Final plan with policy and legislation suggestions due Dec 31, 2020

## COLORADO 2019 LEGISLATION

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- **Ex Officio Members**
  - Executive Director, Department of Labor
  - Director, Office of Economic Development
  - Director, Colorado Energy Office
  - Executive Director, Department of Local Affairs
  - Representative of Office of the Governor
  - Member of the Senate
  - Member of the House
- **Appointed by Director**
  - Three representatives of coal workers
  - Three representatives from coal communities
  - Two representatives with economic development or workforce retraining
  - Two representatives from disproportionately impacted communities
  - Two representatives of utilities

## 19-MEMBER TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEES



Worker Programs &  
Benefits



Community & Economic  
Development



Finance



Disproportionately  
Affected Communities

# COLORADO'S COAL TRANSITION PLAN ELEMENTS

## Support for Workers

Individual  
Transition Plans

Training

Wage & Health  
Differential /  
Replacement  
Benefit

Entrepreneurship  
Support

# COLORADO'S COAL TRANSITION PLAN ELEMENTS

## Support for Communities

### Community Transition Plans

- Invest in Local Leadership
- Establish Early/Mid/Long-Term Goals
- Local Resources
- Tax Backfill

### Economic Development

- Business Expansion
- Entrepreneurialism
- State Priority
- High-Road Industry

### Infrastructure

- Social: MUSH
- Industry Cleanup

### Financing

- Regional Investment Entity
- Dedicated Capital
- Tax Policy Changes

## THE COLORADO PLAN:

### KEY TAKE-AWAYS FOR OTHER STATES

1. Excellent committee and subcommittee makeup and participation
  - Local / Labor / Disproportionately Affected
  - Ex-officio State leaders with the power to take action
  - Utilities / Economic Development experts
2. Hired a highly respected, politically savvy Director
3. First action: visit coal communities and listen
4. Defined “community” – recognizing transitions are regional



## THE COLORADO PLAN:

### KEY TAKE-AWAYS FOR OTHER STATES

5. Recognizes that transition is being brought about by market conditions, and advance warning is an advantage
6. Contemplates primary industry upstream and downstream impacts
  - Coal mines / power plants / railroads / supply chain industry
7. Emphasis that transition must be driven locally, and the State should provide long-term resources
8. Recommends systemic ways the State can support workers and communities
9. “Rural Development Hubs” – see Aspen Institute research





## LOCAL WORK:

## KEY TAKE-AWAYS FOR OTHER STATES

- A. Economic Impact Analysis produced by Colorado Mesa University for Assoc Governments of NW Colorado
  - Quantifies the potential loss
  - Allows establishment of firm goals
- B. “Moffat County Vision 2025 Transition Plan”
  - Local follow-up to statewide plan
  - Empowers regional leaders to advocate for needed resources

Focus Areas, Key Priorities and Goals			
Focus Area	Focus Area Goals	Priority Area	Priorit
Tourism	Bring more visitors to the area who stop, stay, and spend money	Destination Marketing	1. Further devel economic imp 2. Event develop
		Paleo Museum	1. Actively prom 2. Establish a pl repository
		Outdoor Rec Opportunities	1. Attract more
New & Existing Industry	Support existing industry to grow and expand  Attract new industry by leveraging existing resources and assets	Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC)	1. Encourage an 2. Help plan and housing 3. Maximize par colleges
		Agriculture	1. Leverage and ranching
		Solar Farm	1. Leverage the transmission
		Coal to Products	1. Find viable all the region 2. Focus on prod new business
		Aerospace	1. Explore optio promoting Nc
Infrastructure and Planning	Improve quality of life for locals while attracting more visitors and residents through improved infrastructure and planning  Attract new business and development with improved infrastructure and planning	Outdoor Rec Infrastructure	1. Continue to b paths 2. Further partn 3. Improve river 4. Support effor
		Transportation	1. Expand and p focusing on ir
		Housing	1. Develop work needs 2. Develop more
		Urban Renewal	1. Beautify main
		Broadband	1. Complete the
		Public Services	1. Ensure critica maintained a welfare, for e 2. Expand servic

# 2020 CHALLENGES

- COVID-19 abruptly ended planned visits to coal transition communities
- Uncertain post-COVID-19 state financial picture
- Complexity and restrictive nature of TABOR tax law



## WORK REMAINING

- CDLE and DOLA staff review / revision
- Staff financial recommendations
- Inter-agency coordination strategies
- Legislative policy needs
- Consideration of precedent and potential for other economic transitions
- Transition is a long-term process and commitment

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO JOIN UPCOMING MEETINGS:

<https://cdle.colorado.gov/the-office-of-just-transition>



# THANK YOU

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ALLIANCE