



Mountain West Coal Communities in Transition Update, September 2023 – Volume 1

Mountain West Coal Communities Transition Update, September 2023

❖ **Congratulations to our friends in Carbon County and Price City, Utah!**

Back in June, a team from the [Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments](#), Utah State University - Eastern, and Carbon County, Utah, secured an **Assistance to Coal Communities** grant of \$1,381,500, matched by \$507,500 from USU - Eastern, to support the building of an aircraft maintenance technician campus training facility and hangar in Carbon County. Together, Carbon County and USU - Eastern are working to establish the Aviation Campus Workforce Development program, which will support the transition of displaced coal workers into other high-paying occupations. The idea is to build on the skills that workers already have working with power plant turbines and apply them to working with jet engines. Congratulations to **Jade Powell**, Deputy Director at SEUALG, **Dr. Doug Miller**, Associate Vice President and **Greg Dart**, Previous AVP from USU - Eastern, and **Carbon County Commissioner Casey Hopes** for developing this grant, securing the matching funds, and building the partnership to make it happen!

[Assistance to Coal Communities](#) and other EDA grants continue to be a core source of support for our energy communities. Tell us how things are going with your community and EDA representative! Contact Pam Eaton at pam.eaton@greenweststrategies.com or 303-601-5431.

❖ **Community News: New non-profit gallery opens in Page, Arizona:** We just loved this story about the community of Page rallying together to form the Grand Circle Arts Alliance and open a new art gallery in town. The Navajo Generating Station located just down the road from Page closed in 2019, and the community continues to work hard to recover from the impact and maintain its indomitable spirit. <https://lakepowellchronicle.com/article/grand-circle-arts-alliance-holds-grand-opening-for-new-gallery-in-page>.

❖ **Meet Carolyn Bryan**, Regional Planner, US Environmental Protection Agency. Wearing one of her many hats as the IWG Rapid Response Coordinator for Wyoming, Carolyn was part of the team that helped Wyoming's Senators John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis and Governor Mark Gordon pull together the [Wyoming Federal Funding Summit](#). Held at Sheridan College in June, the event had two parts: 1) an intensive federal grant writing and management seminar that offered a certificate upon completion; and 2) a two-day Federal Funding Summit that brought local community leaders together with state and federal elected officials, federal agencies, state agencies, and technical assistance providers to explore funding needs, opportunities, and partnerships. Listen [here](#) to Carolyn's presentation about the value of Federal Technical Assistance and all of day two of the summit.

❖ **Mark Your Calendar: Shuttered Coal Plant Virtual Summit, THURSDAY OCTOBER 5TH, 1 - 3 PM MT**

Our friends at [ReImagine Appalachia](#) have put together a virtual event that focuses on the potential and the challenges in creating sustainable development at the sites of former coal

plants and how communities can have a strong voice in redevelopment planning. You can view the [nearly final agenda here](#).

This two-hour virtual summit will cover:

- Opportunities and investment incentives
- Challenges and barriers to sustainable redevelopment
- The role of community stakeholders at the table: Community Benefit Planning
- Redevelopment work already underway in Appalachia
- Models of sustainable development from around the nation and the world

[Register for the Event here](#)

❖ **Montana, Utah, and Wyoming Communities – Consider Applying for NACO’s BRECC Action Challenge Round 2!**

To learn why, talk to your counterparts in San Juan County, NM; Counties of Apache, Navajo, Coconino, AZ; and Northwest Colorado Development Council, CO, who all are participating in Round 1. Learn more about the Action Challenge on October 4 from 1-2 p.m. MT **by registering [here](#)** and **apply for the program [here](#)** by November 10.

❖ **A Resource You Can Use: Coal Plant Redevelopment Toolkit from DOE**

<https://energycommunities.gov/coal-power-plant-redevelopment-visualization-tool/>

DOE has developed a tool aimed at helping communities, states, local economic development orgs, project developers, and power plant owners identify opportunities for redevelopment and community reinvestment. It has 181 coal plants, including 19 in the West: **2 in Arizona, 6 in Colorado, 3 in Montana, 2 in Nevada, 2 in New Mexico, 3 in Utah, and 1 in Wyoming.** Of these, 14 are already retired and 5 are planned to retire by 2030.

Using this tool, you can find coal power plants and infrastructure features like transmission lines and substations, and EPA brownfield sites that may be ready for redevelopment. The tool provides links to brownfield reports for the plant sites when available. What can you find?

Coal Power Plant Redevelopment Visualization Tool - Beta

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

MAP LEGEND
Coal Plants with Retirements between 2015-2030

6 Coal Power Plants
4 Retired
2 with planned retirements

Plant Record Details:
Cherokee Plant, Adams County, CO

Field	Value
Plant Name	Cherokee
Total Plant Capacity (MW)	421
Plant Sector	Electric Utility
First Coal Generator Retirement Date	September 30, 2011
Last Coal Generator Retirement Date	July 31, 2015
Brownfield ID	ACRES120210
Brownfield Name	RIVERSIDE CEMETERY
Distance to Closest Brownfield (miles)	1
Brownfield Report URL	View
Control Area	PSCO
Closest Power Plant Name	Metro Wastewater Reclamation District
Distance to Closest Power Plant (miles)	1
Electric Transmission Line (ETL) Manager	PUBLIC SERVICE CO OF COLORADO