Strengthening Economies in Our Nation’s Coal-Reliant Communities

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New Partners for Smart Growth
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Maps Courtesy of the National Association of Counties

Coal Producing Counties

Coal Power Plant Counties

Maps Courtesy of the National Association of Counties
Coal’s Decline Leads to Economic and Social Challenges

- Loss of high-paying jobs
- Loss of indirect jobs
- Declining tax base
- Poverty and health outcomes
- Challenge to community identity
- Sense of loss and grief
Counties and Regions Seek to Diversify their Economies
“We need to be prepared for the future, because we don’t know what the future holds for the coal industry.”

Rich Fink, former coal miner and retired Armstrong County, PA Commissioner
Snapshots of Economic Diversification in Coal Country
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Southwest Virginia)
Mine Reclamation (Eastern Kentucky)
Broadband Infrastructure (Southwest Colorado)
Key Actions to Support Economic Diversification

Cooperate
Observe
Adapt
Leverage
Resources from the NADO Research Foundation and the National Association of Counties

GROWING STRONGER ECONOMIES IN OUR NATION’S COAL COMMUNITIES

STRONGER ECONOMIES IN COAL-RELIANT PLACES
A SNAPSHOT OF NACo AND NADO’S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN APPALACHIA

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIES IN THE WEST: A REGIONAL FORUM FOR COAL-RELIANT COMMUNITIES

RESOURCES FOR TRANSITIONING ECONOMIES
www.diversifyeconomies.org
“It’s amazing what you can do as a community if you don’t worry about who gets credit for it.”

Matt Wender, Fayette County, West Virginia Commissioner