



# The BRECC National Network

connecting coal communities

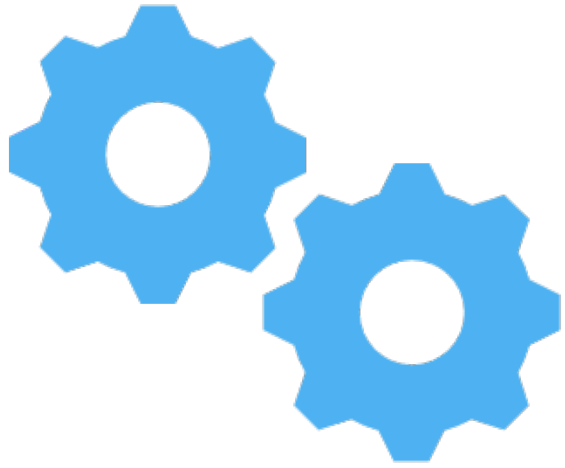
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**BUILDING RESILIENT  
ECONOMIES *in*  
COAL COMMUNITIES**

# The BRECC National Network

connecting coal communities



## Today's Agenda



**Framework for  
Economic Transition**



**Office of Surface Mining  
Reclamation and  
Enforcement (OSMRE)**



**Q&A**

## Framework for an Economic Transition



**Rachael Young**  
*Director of  
Grantmaking  
Just Transition Fund*



**Heidi Binko**  
*Executive Director  
& Co-Founder  
Just Transition Fund*

An aerial photograph of a town, likely in West Virginia, featuring a river, a bridge, and various buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter. In the top left corner, the text 'JUST TRANSITION FUND' is displayed in white, with a green L-shaped graphic element to its right.

JUST  
TRANSITION  
FUND

# FRAMEWORK FOR JUST ECONOMIC TRANSITION

Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities (BRECC)

*May 25, 2023*



# About the Just Transition Fund

We created the Just Transition Fund, a national philanthropic hybrid, to help communities overcome the economic challenges brought about by the decline of the coal industry.

## Experts in the Just Transition Field

- Worked on the ground with coal communities for almost 10 years
- Long track record of helping coal communities access federal funding
- Advocated for the historic federal funding levels we're seeing today, via our National Economic Transition Initiative

## What We've Heard Communities Need

### Access

- **Federal Access Center:** Grants and technical assistance to help communities access federal funds

### Advocate

- National Economic Transition Initiative
- State and federal policy grantmaking

### Convene

- Annual convenings and peer-to-peer learning exchanges

# Key Starting Points

- 1 Effective solutions require investment in economic diversification, workforce development, and infrastructure. Partial solutions don't work.
- 2 There's no silver bullet. Economically-resilient communities need investment in a range of sectors.
- 3 Plan for the long-term and engage the next generation. We can't plan for what we want to see in two years.
- 4 Community-driven processes, with local leaders engaged and involved in developing solutions, are critical. Communities are not monoliths.
- 5 Early action produces the best results.
- 6 We are in the early stages. There hasn't been enough investment to scale, but we have promising strategies. "Ensuring a just transition will be long, hard, and expensive."



# What works? How do we strengthen local economies?

## To start...

- PLAN! Identify and build on local assets and strengths.
- Build the capacity of local leaders.
- Address infrastructure challenges, like broadband.

## And then...

- Support entrepreneurs and stimulate small business development.
- Make places attractive for people to visit and stay.

## To scale...

- Build and train the workforce for in-demand jobs.
- Think bigger and regionally!
- Connect communities to public and private sources of funding.





# Framework for Economic Transition

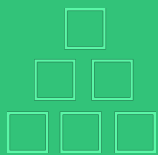
The most sustainable economic development projects build from the assets of a place and are created by local leaders. Communities need the right mix of economic development strategies, workforce programs, and infrastructure investments—which collectively build local capacity to catalyze change.



**Community  
Economic  
Development**



**Workforce  
Development**



**Infrastructure  
(Broadband)**

The most effective strategies for building equitable, local wealth are creating an export economy (providing goods, knowledge, or an experience) or encouraging people to spend more money locally.

Workforce programs providing targeted “wraparound” services (such as pay, education, childcare, counseling, etc.) ensure trainees have what they need to successfully complete these programs and can link to in-demand, high-quality jobs.

Broadband access is linked to increased job and population growth, higher rates of new business formation, and lower unemployment. The absence of broadband impedes local economic development while adding to a host of other challenges.



## Case Study: Appalachian Climate Technology (ACT) Now Coalition

- Building a new economy for Southern West Virginia, the most economically distressed coal impacted area in the country
- Secured \$62.8M from the EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge
- Led by JTF partners Coalfield Development Corporation, Generation West Virginia, and the West Virginia Community Development Hub
- Focused on economic investments and job creation through a cluster of green tech initiatives, including the solar industry, technology businesses, brownfield and industrial redevelopment for 21st century manufacturing, and reclamation of abandoned minelands
- Will create an estimated 20,000 jobs and 125 new businesses



# Case Study: Economic Development on the Navajo Nation

Plant closures have resulted in a significant impact on tribal governments, losing 25% to 85% of revenue. Entrepreneurial efforts to build a diversified economy and provide alternative employment opportunities are critical.

## Tribe Awaken

- Advances Native-led economic diversification strategies and projects
- Focused on grocery stores and other retail that source locally and prevent “leakage”

## Native Renewables

- Provides off-grid solar installations to power homes; 15,000 families lack access to electricity
- Trains a local workforce with the skills to install and maintain these systems
- Now also expanding broadband access; similar skills needed for broadband and solar installation

# Case Study: Town of Tonawanda, NY Planning for Closure

## Background

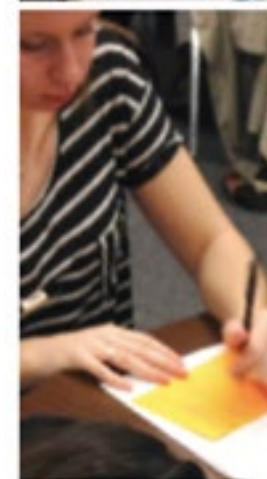
History of legacy environmental issues, closure of coal plant impacting numerous stakeholders

## Needs

Planning, collaboration among groups with disparate views

## Outcomes

Created successful economic development plan in politically charged setting, as well as the country's first tax -base replacement legislation.



# Federal Access Center

## Application-Ready Support



**Grants of up to \$100,000** to support costs associated with developing federal applications, including grant writers and match.



**Technical assistance** from experts who can review proposals before submission, provide guidance on program requirements, and more.

## Early-Stage Support

### *Coal Communities Get Ready! Challenge*



**Grants of up to \$150,000** for early-stage project development, with the long-term goal of accessing federal funds.

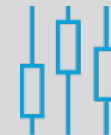


**Deep technical assistance** to help communities get ready to apply for federal funds. Provide specialized technical assistance for CEWD and broadband.

## Informing and Coordinating with Federal Agencies



Share lessons learned back with agencies about barriers for communities applying for federal funds.



Work with IWG and their Rapid Response Teams where there is geographic alignment.

# Application-Ready Support

## Eligibility

- ❑ 501c3 or local government\* located in coal-impacted community
- ❑ Economic development, workforce, or broadband infrastructure project
- ❑ Plan to apply for federal funds in the next 6 months

\*new this year!

## Process

*(Rapid-response, rolling-basis, with ability for us to fast track as needed)*

- 1 Submit Inquiry**  
Fill out 1 minute form with basic project information. Within 2 business days, they get an email to schedule an intro call with Natalie.
- 2 Introductory Call**  
We'll schedule a 30-minute call within a few weeks. On this call, we'll determine eligibility to apply for specific JTF services.
- 3 Submit Application**  
If eligible to apply, we'll send a 1 page application for a grant, technical assistance, or both.
- 4 Receive Decision**  
We'll provide feedback within a few weeks of receiving application.

# Early-Stage Support: Coal Communities Get Ready! Challenge

## Eligibility

- ❑ 501c3 or local government\* located in coal-impacted community
- ❑ Deeply rooted in coal-affected areas and have demonstrated ability to partner with wide range of transition stakeholders
- ❑ Model projects that are generalizable and replicable
- ❑ Little to no federal grant experience but want to be ready to apply for federal funds in the next year

\*new this year!

## Coal Communities Get Ready! Challenge

### *Timeline and Process*

- 1 Submit Inquiry by May 31, 2023**  
Fill out 1 minute inquiry form with basic information. Within a week, you'll get an email to schedule an intro call with JTF team member.
- 2 Introductory Call**  
We'll schedule a 30-minute intro call within a few weeks. On this call, we'll determine eligibility for the Get Ready! Challenge and answer any questions.
- 3 Submit Application by June 30, 2023**  
We'll invite applications from eligible organizations. Applications are due 3-4 weeks of receiving the invitation and no later than June 30, 2023.
- 4 Cohort Selection in September**  
We will announce 8-10 cohort members in September. Cohort members will be invited and encouraged to attend the JTF Convening in late October.

# Get Started

## Is your organization interested in applying for federal funds?

Fill out our 1 minute interest form to schedule an intro call! We'll put the link in the chat or you can scan this QR code:



[justtransitionfund.org/fac-interest-form](https://justtransitionfund.org/fac-interest-form)

## Do you know organizations who may be interested in applying for federal funds?

If so, please help us spread the word! PDF one-pager available at the link below or you can scan this QR code:



[justtransitionfund.org/fac-outreach](https://justtransitionfund.org/fac-outreach)



# Contact Information

**Heidi Binko**

*Co-Founder and Executive Director*

**[hbinko@justtransitionfund.org](mailto:hbinko@justtransitionfund.org)**

**Rachael Young**

*Director of Grantmaking*

**[ryoung@justtransitionfund.org](mailto:ryoung@justtransitionfund.org)**





# Questions?

Please share them in the chat.

## OSMRE Funding Opportunities



### **Yolande Norman-Moore**

*Chief, Abandoned Mine Land Program Division  
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and  
Enforcement (OSMRE)*

# Overview of OSMRE Funding Opportunities

May 25, 2023

*Presented by:*

**Yolande Norman-Moore**

Chief, Division of Reclamation Support

Project Management Officer, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act



# OSMRE Funding Opportunities

\$1-2M	<b>Not-for-Profit Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Reclamation</b>	<i>Funding provided directly to not-for-profit organizations, specifically small local watershed organizations, to complete local AMD reclamation projects (also known as the Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program -WCAP)</i>
\$126.5M	<b>Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Fee-based Reclamation</b>	<i>Annual grants to States and Tribes funded in part by fees collected from active coal mining operations that address the reclamation of AML problems and water supply restoration</i>
\$135M	<b>Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER)</b>	<i>Grants to 6 Appalachian State and 3 Tribal AML programs to accelerate economic/community development projects with a nexus to AML reclamation</i>
\$724.9M	<b>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* (BIL) AML Reclamation</b>	<i>Annual grants to States and Tribes to reclaim the coal AML problems, water supply restoration, emergencies &amp; to deposit up to 30% into a long-term reclamation fund to address mine fires, subsidence and AMD</i>

\* Also known as the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act



# Differences Between the OSMRE Programs

Fund Uses	AMLER	BIL AML	AML Fee-based
Direct funding for Economic and Community Development projects with a nexus to AML	Yes	No	No
Non-coal projects	No	No	✓
Coal reclamation projects	✓*	✓	✓
Stand-alone Priority 3 AML problems not in conjunction with a Priority 1 or Priority 2 AML problems	✓*	✓	No
Coal AML Emergencies	✓*	✓	✓
Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) treatment projects that are not part of a Qualified Hydrologic Unit	✓*	✓	No
AMD treatment projects that are part of a Qualified Hydrologic Unit	✓*	✓	✓
NEPA review and analysis	✓	✓	✓
Authorization to Proceed (ATP) request	✓	✓	✓
State/Tribe long-term reclamation funds (up to 30% of grant amount)	No	AMD, Coal Mine Fires, Subsidence	AMD
5-year period of performance	Varied	✓	Varied
Application of Davis-Bacon Act provisions	No	✓	✓
Application of Build America Buy America Act	✓	✓	✓

\*requires an economic and or community development



# Funding Distribution Amount = \$985M

States and Tribes	FY 2023 AML Fee-based	FY 2023 AMLER	FY 2022 BIL AML*
Alabama	\$2,829,000	\$11,739,333	\$20,450,847
Alaska	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$1,333,333
Arkansas	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$1,700,314
Colorado	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$9,966,699
Illinois	\$7,790,105	N/A	\$75,763,148
Indiana	\$3,386,346	N/A	\$24,666,108
Iowa	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$5,988,480
Kansas	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$4,854,623
Kentucky	\$7,525,253	\$29,347,333	\$74,252,680
Louisiana	\$11,505	N/A	----
Maryland	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$4,811,551
Mississippi	\$91,848	N/A	----
Missouri	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$5,861,629
Montana	\$2,376,269	N/A	\$4,601,049
New Mexico	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$2,423,032
North Dakota	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$3,101,700
Ohio	\$3,924,880	\$11,739,334	\$46,443,789
Pennsylvania	\$21,850,173	\$29,347,334	\$244,904,081
Tennessee	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$8,578,273
Texas	\$511,455	N/A	\$986,367
Utah	\$2,829,000	N/A	\$5,768,996
Virginia	\$2,829,000	\$11,739,333	\$22,790,474
West Virginia	\$15,601,223	\$29,347,333	\$140,751,469
Wyoming	\$25,900,397	N/A	\$9,697,442
Crow Tribe	\$226,533	\$3,913,333	----
Hopi Tribe	-----	\$3,913,333	----
Navajo Nation	\$536,224	\$3,913,334	\$1,661,953

**\*FY2023 BIL AML grants totalling 724.9M will be announced in upcoming weeks**



# Public Engagement for Projects

When developing eligible projects, State and Tribal AML Programs are encouraged to:

- ✓ Ensure public engagement at the local level through engagement with the community
- ✓ Use existing best practices for public engagement
- ✓ Regularly developing and improving processes for public outreach and communication to meet the needs of their communities

“**The Public**” refers to stakeholders such as:

- citizens in impacted communities
- industry
- Federal, State, Tribal, or local agencies
- Tribal Nations
- unions and worker organizations
- non-governmental organizations
- Community colleges
- workforce boards
- community-based groups
- environmental groups





# OSMRE Project Example

Problems



Projects



Useable Land



**Huling Branch AML Reclamation Project**  
*(Clinton County, PA)*

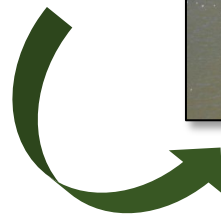


**Pre-Reclamation:**  
**Aerial Shot**

**Reclamation Process:**  
**Early Reforestation**



**Post-Reclamation: Outdoor**  
**Recreation Site**



OSMRE

# Resources

AMLER Program: [www.osmre.gov/programs/reclaiming-abandoned-mine-lands/amler](http://www.osmre.gov/programs/reclaiming-abandoned-mine-lands/amler)

AML Fee-based Reclamation Program: <https://www.osmre.gov/programs/reclaiming-abandoned-mine-lands>

BIL AML Program: [www.osmre.gov/bil](http://www.osmre.gov/bil)

Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program: <https://www.osmre.gov/programs/watersheds>

National AML Inventory (e-AMLIS): <https://www.osmre.gov/programs/e-amlis>

CEQ's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool at: [Explore the tool - Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(geoplatform.gov\)](#)

US EPA's EJSCREEN tool at <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/ejscreen-map-descriptions#category-demographics>.

*\*To inquire about AML Fee-based, AMLER, or BIL AML funding contact your respective State or Tribal AML Programs for more information: <https://www.osmre.gov/contact-us/state-tribal-contacts>*

## Questions?

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement | [OSMRE.GOV](http://OSMRE.GOV)



# OSMRE

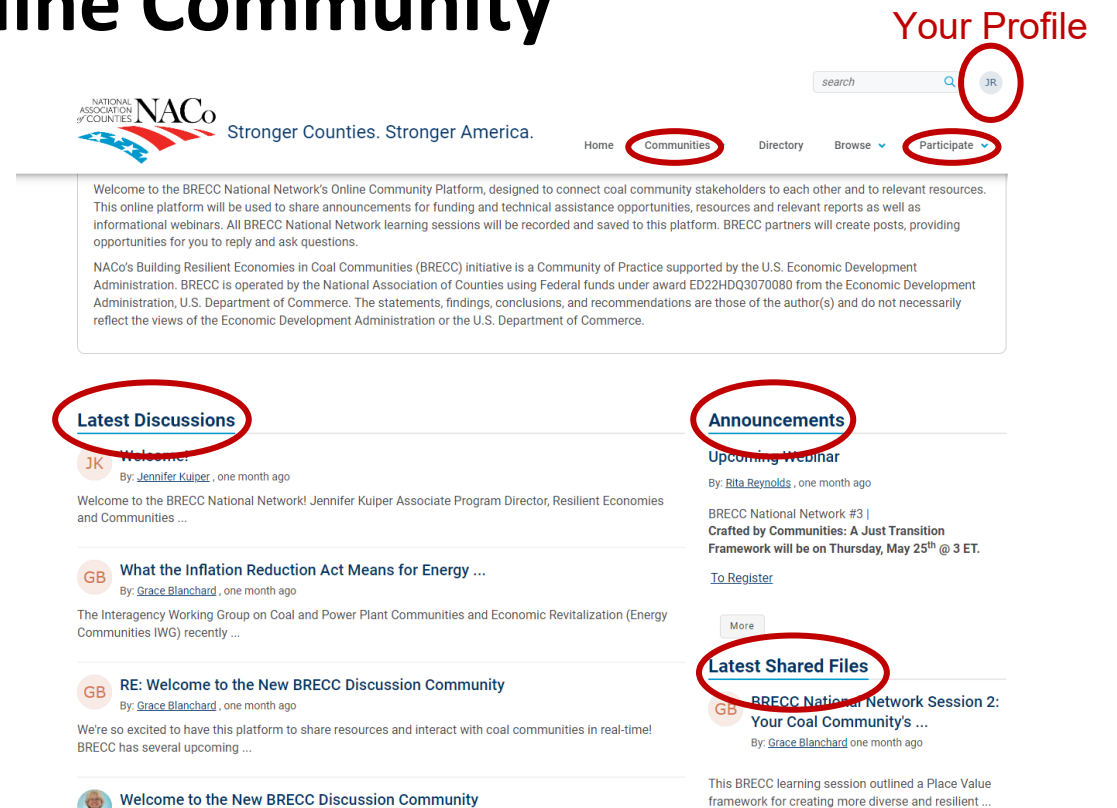
## BRECC National Network Online Community

### NACo's Online BRECC Community Platform:

- Digital hub for members of the BRECC National Network
- Offers a wealth of resources, events, and opportunities
- Facilitates networking, knowledge sharing, and engagement among members

### To get started:

1. Send a request to join the community @ [tinyurl.com/yckk54bt](https://tinyurl.com/yckk54bt)
2. Follow the instructions in a follow up email to login to the site, add profile information, adjust email and privacy preferences, and start engaging with the community!



**Your Profile**

search  JR

Home **Communities** Directory Browse **Participate**

Welcome to the BRECC National Network's Online Community Platform, designed to connect coal community stakeholders to each other and to relevant resources. This online platform will be used to share announcements for funding and technical assistance opportunities, resources and relevant reports as well as informational webinars. All BRECC National Network learning sessions will be recorded and saved to this platform. BRECC partners will create posts, providing opportunities for you to reply and ask questions.

NACo's Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities (BRECC) Initiative is a Community of Practice supported by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. BRECC is operated by the National Association of Counties using Federal funds under award ED22HDQ3070080 from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Economic Development Administration or the U.S. Department of Commerce.

### Latest Discussions

**JK** **Welcome!**  
By: [Jennifer Kuiper](#), one month ago  
Welcome to the BRECC National Network! Jennifer Kuiper Associate Program Director, Resilient Economies and Communities ...

### Announcements

**Upcoming Webinar**  
By: [Bita Reynolds](#), one month ago  
BRECC National Network #3 |  
Crafted by Communities: A Just Transition Framework will be on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> @ 3 ET.  
[To Register](#)

[More](#)

### Latest Shared Files

**GB** **BRECC National Network Session 2: Your Coal Community's ...**  
By: [Grace Blanchard](#) one month ago  
This BRECC learning session outlined a Place Value framework for creating more diverse and resilient ...

**GB** **Welcome to the New BRECC Discussion Community**



## Don't miss opportunities

**International Economic Development Council (IEDC): Economic Recovery Corps (ERC) Fellows Program - Apply to be a Host Community!**

*Deadline: June 30, 2023*

**Economic Development Administration (EDA): Tech Hubs Program**

*Phase 1 Deadline: August 15, 2023*

**U.S. Department of Energy: Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA)**

*Deadline: June 30, 2023 | **NEW** Fixed Award Grant Program Due: July 13, 2023*

**Thank you for joining!**

**The next BRECC National Network session:**

***Exploring the Outdoor Recreation Ecosystem as a  
Component of Economic Diversification***

**Thursday, July 27, 2023.**