



© NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

# Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities

## Community of Practice Initiative **BRECC**

**November 3, 2022**

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.



# About NACo

***Serves*** 40,000 county elected officials

***Strengthens*** communities by  
advocating county priorities in federal  
policymaking

***Convenes*** stakeholders, promoting  
exemplary policies, practices, and  
leadership

# Agenda

## Welcome

Matthew Chase, CEO and Executive Director, National Association of Counties

## Federal Resources for Coal Communities

Hon. Alejandra Y. Castillo, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development

Brian Anderson, Ph.D., Executive Director, Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization

## Introduction of BRECC Team

## Overview of BRECC Program

## County Experiences

Hon. Greg Puckett, Commissioner, Mercer County, W. Va.

Hon. Lena Fowler, Supervisor, Coconino County, Ariz.

## Next Steps



**With EDA, we are  
creating the  
Building Resilient  
Economies in Coal  
Communities  
(BRECC)  
Community of  
Practice.**





© NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

# **Hon. Alejandra Y. Castillo**

**Assistant Secretary of  
Commerce for Economic  
Development**







© NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

# **Brian Anderson, Ph.D.**

**Executive Director, The Interagency  
Working Group on Coal and Power  
Plant Communities and Economic  
Revitalization**

**Director, National Energy  
Technology Laboratory**



An aerial photograph of a town, likely in the Appalachian region, showing a mix of residential and commercial buildings, a river, and surrounding hills. The image is used as a background for the text.

**BRECC will empower  
local leaders to  
advance new ideas  
and develop fundable  
projects**



© NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

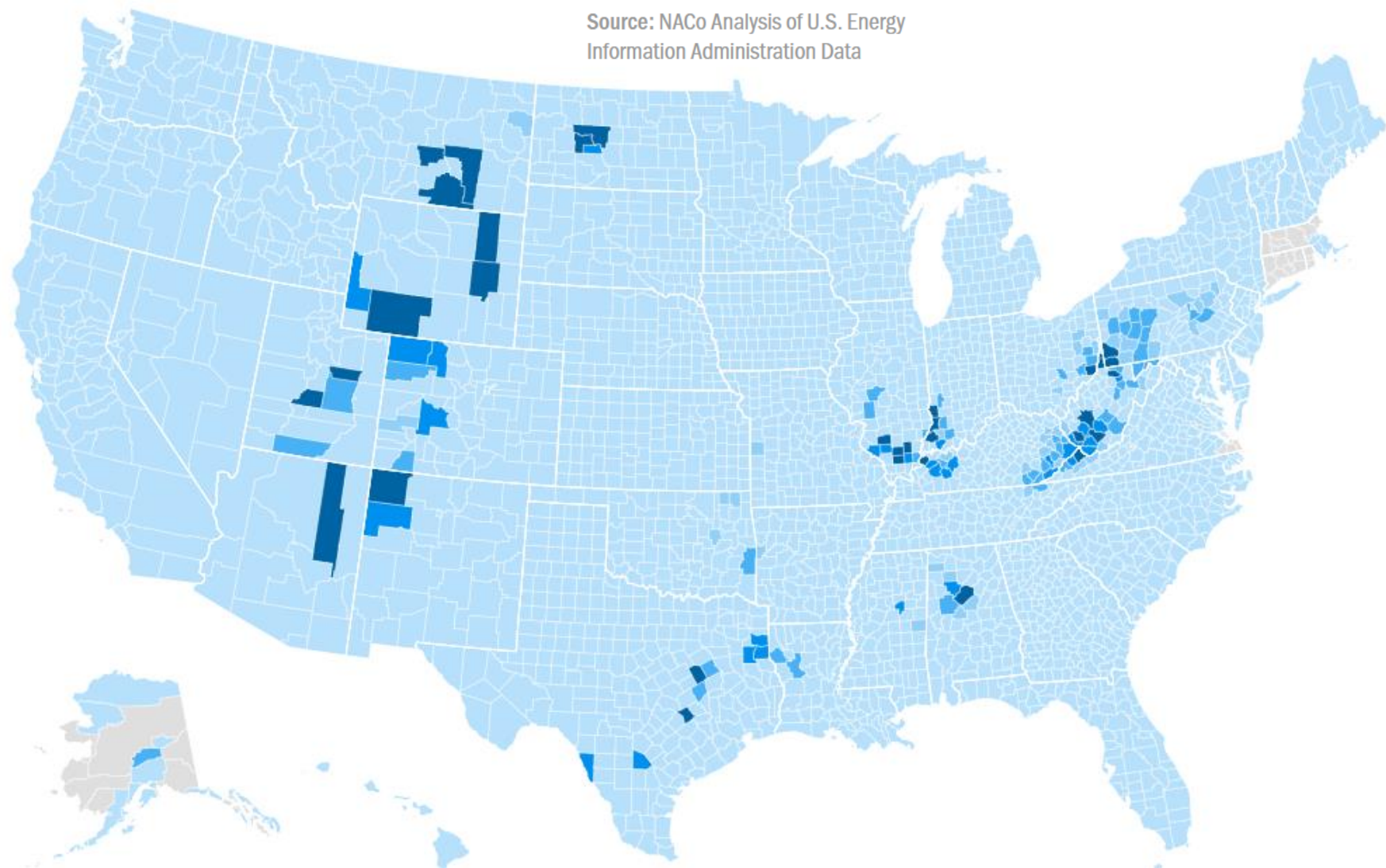


**330+ counties  
with at least one  
coal fired power  
plant**

**150+ counties  
have some level  
of coal  
production**

## 2017 COAL PRODUCTION - (SHORT TONS)

Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Energy  
Information Administration Data





# BRECC Activities

**BRECC will reach its goals through four key activities across coal mining and power plant communities**

1. BRECC National Network
2. Coal Communities  
Commitment *Coalition*
3. Action Challenge Cohorts
4. Storytelling

# BRECC Partners

Experts in community and economic development

Hold local knowledge in coal-reliant and rural communities

Emphasize an intentional approach to community coaching

Demonstrate a strong track record of moving communities from ideation to implementation



**community  
builders**





# **Advisory Council**

**A team of subject matter experts guiding BRECC priorities, content development and implementation approaches**

- **Gather input from leaders across government, academia, research and industry sectors**
- **Create innovative and actionable educational content**
- **Guide strategic approaches for providing technical assistance**
- **Support outreach to communities and stakeholders regarding BRECC opportunities**

# **BRECC National Network**

**An open forum  
and peer network for coal  
community stakeholders**

## **Participants**

All coal community stakeholders

## **Activities**

- Virtual learning and info sharing sessions
- Peer discussions and community experiences
- Workshops at NACo's national conferences
- In-person BRECC Summit

## **Goal**

To connect communities by creating a support network and platform for resource sharing and cross-sectoral collaboration among coal community stakeholders



# Coal Communities Commitment *Coalition*

A leadership  
and peer-learning network

## Participants

Up to 20 local leaders dedicated to advancing their coal community

## Activities

- Four in-person peer-exchanges visiting coal communities
- Virtual meetings
- Peer mentorship

## Goal

Strengthen leadership capacity and provide support to on-going, successful efforts within coal communities

# Action Challenge Cohorts

A technical assistance  
and capacity-building program

## Participants

Up to 15 under-resourced, coal communities; team-based applicants

## Activities

- In-depth, individual coaching
- Receive support for 12 months
- Create economic diversification and community revitalization plan
- In-person capstone event

## Goal

Create and advance fundable economic revitalization and diversification projects



# Storytelling

**A national campaign to capture educational and inspirational stories of coal communities**

- **Highlight community success stories**
- **Profile community leaders**
- **Share challenges and approaches**
- **Create web portal and landing page for resources**

# **Hon. Greg Puckett**

**Commissioner,  
Mercer County, W. Va.**



# **Hon. Lena Fowler**

**Supervisor,  
Coconino County, Ariz.**





# BRECC Activities

**BRECC will reach its goals through four key activities across coal mining and power plant communities**

1. BRECC National Network
2. Coal Communities  
Commitment *Coalition*
3. Action Challenge Cohorts
4. Storytelling

# Next Steps

Sign-up to join BRECC's National Network [here](#)

Register for webinar on BRECC *Coalition* and Challenge program applications on Nov. 29, from 2 – 3 pm ET [here](#)

Find today's presentation and a recording of the webinar on NACo's website after the event

Questions? Email [coal@naco.org](mailto:coal@naco.org)

# Thank you for joining!



© NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.

[coal@naco.org](mailto:coal@naco.org)