



RESOURCE GUIDE

JUST AND EQUITABLE TRANSITION STATE POLICY FRAMEWORK

 UNITED STATES
CLIMATE ALLIANCE



BLUEGREEN
ALLIANCE

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The United States Climate Alliance (USCA) commissioned BlueGreen Alliance to produce the Just and Equitable Transition State Policy Framework and its accompanying Resource Guide. These documents were prepared with guidance and significant contributions from the USCA Just Transition & Equity Working Group, which includes staff from various state government agencies and offices. Not all states in the Alliance participated in this process. These documents are not meant to represent a policy plan for the Alliance or any Alliance states, but are designed to serve as reference for states as they contemplate policies to support workers and communities through energy transitions.

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We are grateful to the organizations who shared their expertise to this work, including USCA Just Transition & Equity Working Group members and multiple staff from state government agencies and offices across the nation.

We also acknowledge and thank the entire BlueGreen Alliance team and many BlueGreen Alliance coalition partners who researched, documented, and compiled the extensive list of policies, best practices, and examples in these documents.

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The BlueGreen Alliance unites labor unions and environmental organizations to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a clean, thriving, and equitable economy.

We are guided by the principle that we can no longer choose between good jobs and a clean environment—that the actions we take to create quality jobs and to protect working people and the environment must go hand-in-hand, and that together, we will build clean, thriving and fair economy.

Our efforts center on the immediate need to develop commonsense solutions that protect the environment and create and maintain quality, family-sustaining jobs across the economy. Our staff and supporters:

- design public policies, perform research, and run public education and advocacy campaigns to advocate for practical solutions;
- facilitate dialogue between environmentalists, union members and other stakeholders;
- and educate America's labor union members and environmentalists about the economic and environmental impacts of climate change and the job-creating opportunities of environmental protections.

UNITED STATES CLIMATE ALLIANCE

The United States Climate Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of governors committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Smart, coordinated state action can ensure that the United States continues to contribute to the global effort to address climate change. Each member state commits to:

- Reducing collective net GHG emissions at least 26-28 percent by 2025 and 50-52 percent by 2030, both below 2005 levels, and collectively achieving overall net-zero GHG emissions as soon as practicable, and no later than 2050.
- Accelerating new and existing policies to reduce GHG pollution, building resilience to the impacts of climate change, and promoting clean energy deployment at the state and federal level.
- Centering equity, environmental justice, and a just economic transition in their efforts to achieve their climate goals and create high-quality jobs.
- Tracking and reporting progress to the global community in appropriate settings, including when the world convenes to take stock of the Paris Agreement.

RESOURCE GUIDE

JUST AND EQUITABLE TRANSITION STATE POLICY FRAMEWORK

This guide is meant to complement the *Just and Equitable Transition State Policy Framework* by compiling all of the resources, curating the policies referenced in the toolkit document, and profiling extra research or reports that may be salient to or inform the development of just transition policies. Some resources or examples may be listed in multiple sections, as applicable.

The resource guide has three parts:

1. A section of “**frequently asked questions**” that the toolkit may have sparked with resources to reference for answers and/or information on that topic, starting on page 2;
2. A curated list of the **key policies examples** from each toolkit section (including just transition case studies), starting on page 12; and
3. A list of all of the **sources referenced** in the toolkit in order and organized by section, starting on page 24.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Developing just transition policies inspires a variety of different questions. This part of the guide outlines a variety of resources (reports, white pages, academic research, etc.) to provide some answers.

Principle One: Policies that support transition to a clean energy future and regenerative economy

How can policies that encourage renewable energy be constructed with equity in mind?

Union of Concerned Scientists, *How to Ensure Energy Storage Policies are Equitable*, November 2019.

Available online: <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/equitable-energy-storage>

This policy brief advocates for the development of large battery storage as a means of addressing environmental justice issues created by peaker plants currently sited near underserved communities. Battery storage of power created by renewable sources is key to closing coal plants and preventing the expansion of nuclear and natural gas energy. The report also calls for the development of cobalt-free batteries to make battery storage truly sustainable and justice-based. The brief concludes with policy recommendations for legislators and regulators.

State of Oregon, *Climate Equity Blueprint*, 2020.

Available online: https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/CL/Documents/2021_Jan_Climate-Equity-Blueprint.pdf

The blueprint provides a set of best practices to guide government decisions and tools for programmatic staff

to apply an “equity lens” as they design state agency policies, processes, and programs to address climate change. The blueprint was developed as part of the 2020 Climate Change Adaptation Framework (CCAF) update and can also serve as a stand-alone document to support agency staff in applying climate equity tools in their everyday work.

Initiative for Energy Justice, *Justice in 100 Scorecard*, January 2021.

Available online: <https://iejusa.org/justice-in-100-scorecard/>

This policy tool proposes rigorous evaluation for policymakers to perform before passing renewable portfolio standards (RPS) to ensure that equity is centered in policy development. The group highlights the importance of assessing the degree to which marginalized communities have participated in the policymaking process and whether the energy policy includes means to make energy more accessible and affordable for marginalized communities.

California Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), *CalEnviroScreen*.

Available online: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>

The mapping tool was developed by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and the state’s Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to allow state policy makers to identify communities that experience higher pollution burdens, environmental degradation, economic marginalization, and/or other vulnerabilities. The tool combines environmental, health, and socioeconomic information and uses that to assign a numerical score to different census tracts around the state.

**Washington State Department of Health,
Washington Tracking Network.**

Available online: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNIBL/>

Introduced early in 2021 by the Department of Health, the interactive mapping tool combines data on the environmental, health, social vulnerability, and climate risks facing a community, assigning them a score out of ten. The Environmental Health Disparities Map aims to help utilities center environmental health equity and advance environmental justice priorities as the state transitions to cleaner energy generation in accordance with the Clean Energy Transformation Act (2019).

National Wildlife Federation, *Environmental Justice Mapping Tools Use and Potential in Policy Making to Address Climate Change*, 2020.

Available online: <https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Environmental-Threats/Environmental-Justice-Mapping-Tools.ashx?la=en&hash=347578719433ACCF5C50F1FE56C98AFFD17981>

This report reviews the impetus behind and reasons for developing the interactive mapping tools employed by a handful of states in an attempt to quantify environmental justice factors. The authors focus their analysis on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) EJSCREEN, CalEnviroScreen, and Maryland EJSCREEN to compile best practices when developing this type of mapping tool as well as the policy implications of their use.

Evergreen Collaborative, *Designing a New National Equity Mapping Program*, October 2020.

Available online: <https://collaborative.evergreenaction.com/policy-hub/EquityMapping.pdf>

The report gives an overview of why looking at environmental justice as a cumulative impact of many factors informs the equity screen tools, making them effective policy tools. Limitations and best practices of the current state and federal mapping tools available are reviewed and policy recommendations for executing a better federal tool are given (and could be adapted for state use).

What logistics and economic factors are considered in just transition?

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), *State Renewable Portfolio Standards and Goals*, April 2021.

Available online: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/renewable-portfolio-standards.aspx#ca>

The website provides a list of the current RPSs in the United States along with their establishment date, link to statutes, and percentage requirement set.

Union of Concerned Scientists, *The Flexible Demand Opportunity*, January 2020.

Available online: <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/flexible-demand-opportunity>

Policy brief that advocates for transitioning energy grid management from one that responds to energy demands exclusively to one that is based on flexible demand. SMART grids and flexible demand grids can improve energy efficiency and are more reliable than traditional, fossil-fuel based grids.

Just Transition Fund, *New and Emerging Sources of State Funds to Support Coal Dependent Communities*, June 2021.

Available online: <https://www.justtransitionfund.org/blueprint/policy/state-transition-funds>

The Just Transition Fund offers a *Blueprint for Just Transition* to help states build a plan, leverage policy solutions, and see the policies in action. The *State Transition Funds* article that previews the report gives an overview of state just transition funds. The additional report *New and Emerging Sources of State Funds to Support Coal Dependent Communities*, highlights four potential sources of funding for communities in transition including (1) securitization financing, (2) carbon pricing programs, (3) public benefit funds, and (4) reallocating fees and subsidies from fossil fuel extraction and also includes case studies and examples from states currently implementing related state transition fund policy.

Energy Innovation, *New Tools to Manage Financial Transition from Uneconomic Coal to Cheap, Clean Power*, December 2018.

Available online: <https://energyinnovation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Managing-The-Utility-Financial-Transition-From-Coal-To-Clean.pdf>

The article series highlights ways for policy makers to help utilities transition to renewable energy sources without stranding assets. The economic strategies include identifying the existing generating plants that cost more to run than to take offline, investing in wind/solar energy to offset removal costs, using depreciation accounting to determine the remaining value of retiring plants, and replacing some of the equity of a power plant with corporate debt. A case study of Colorado's experience with transitioning from coal to clean energy is also offered.

Hatlestad, et al., *Rural Electrification 2.0: The Transition to a Clean Energy Economy*, June 2019.

Available online: https://weown.it/sites/default/files/story_resource/files/Rural%20Electrification%20%20report%20v5.pdf

The report reviews past and present challenges facing rural renewable energy development. It goes on to offer policy recommendations for alleviating the debt of rural electrical co-op to allow for an easier transition to renewable energy sources.

Utility Dive, “Generation and Transformation: Bringing Cooperative G&Ts into the Clean Energy Future” May 2021.

Available online: <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/generation-and-transformation-bringing-cooperative-gts-into-the-clean-ene/600073/>

The article provides an overview of the obstacles facing rural electrical co-ops preventing them from decommissioning their coal-fired power plants and switching to renewable energy sources. The author also suggests policy action from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a strategy for relieving co-ops of their debt burden from coal plants and encouraging their transition to renewable energy.

New York Times, “How Does Your State Make Electricity?” October 20, 2020.

Available online: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/10/28/climate/how-electricity-generation-changed-in-your-state-election.html>

With the help of interactive graphics, the article breaks down the energy mix of each state by charting any changes from 2001 to 2019.

Principle Two: Policies that Enable and Elevate Worker and Community Voices

How can states and communities work toward a Just Transition?

Task Force on Just Transition for Canadian Coal Power Workers and Community, *A Just and Fair Transition for Canadian Coal Power Workers and Community*, 2018.

Available online: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/task-force-just-transition/final-report.html>

This government report—prepared by the Task Force on Just Transition for Canadian Coal Communities—gives recommendations on how to start transitioning communities based on interviews conducted in Canadian coal communities and the state of coal, energy, and climate change. The document outlines governmental action at the foundational, worker, and community support level with easy to digest bullet-point lists of possible steps to take. The report balances normative goals for just transition communities with tangible steps that leadership can take before, after, and during transition.

Delta Institute, *Coal Plant Redevelopment Roadmap*, May 2018.

Available online: <https://delta-institute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Coal-Redevelopment-Roadmap-5-2-18.pdf>

The document functions as a step by step guide for communities. It describes best practices for fostering a just transition at the local level by building up local leadership and leveraging the resources available to their community.

BlueGreen Alliance, *BlueGreen Alliance National Energy Transition Policy Framework*, May 2021.

Available online: <https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/resources/bluegreen-alliance-national-energy-transition-policy-framework0/>

The platform outlines seven key “pillars” or components of a just transition (overarching structural recommendations, local leadership and support, interagency grant program, economic development, workforce, reclamation, and bankruptcy) to guide policy creation along with key steps to take to move that policy area forward and relevant legislation to reference.

National Center for Biotechnology Information, *Just Transitions: Histories and futures in a post-COVID world*, June 2020.

Available online: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7351418/>

This academic paper examines the scope of just transition in terms of historical precedent, global response, and current obstacles to implementation in the United States. Specifically, the article highlights the additional stress the pandemic put on job loss and energy use, both of which impact a community’s ability to transition.

Energy Policy, *Coal Communities and the US Energy Transition: A Policy Corridors Assessment*, February 2021.

Available online: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0301421520308235?dgcid=rss_sd_all

This scholarly article assesses the success of current just transition policy initiatives in the west. Main problems identified include: policies not addressing the needs of remote/isolated communities; policies lacking in funding for communities trying to preempt closures; and that existing policy support is not sufficient or is too inconsistent. The authors combine content analysis of policies in place with interviews from transition communities.

How can communities gain agency over their own transition?

Headwaters Economics, *Replacing Coal Revenue and Investing in Economic Transition: Solutions for Coal-Dependent Communities*, September 2019.

Available online: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/energy/coal/solutions-for-coal-communities>

Using data from a “Coal Transition Solutions Forum,” the white paper describes a series of obstacles preventing communities—and especially rural communities—from transitioning, what a success transition can look like for communities, and fiscal-based solutions for communities to evaluate and/or employ. The document focuses on creating autonomous communities acting independently from coal companies and advocating for their own financial security.

Just Transition Fund, *Build Your Local Just Transition Plan*, June 2021,

Available online: <https://www.justtransitionfund.org/blueprint>

The document describes the steps a community could take to plan for a site closure, emphasizing early and inclusive planning meetings. Also featured are sections describing how to build a just transition planning team and foster inclusive conversations with community members which could also inform governmental action.

How can governments include just transition communities in decision-making?

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, *Understanding Community Power Structures*, May 2005.

Available online: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045565.pdf

This handout details the importance of leveraging shared, community power and gives advice on understanding the power structures that might be at play to best connect people with power.

City of Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, *Blueprint for Equitable Engagement*, April 2016.

Available online: <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/media/content-assets/www2-documents/departments/Read-the-City-of-Minneapolis-Blueprint-for-Equitable-Engagement.pdf>

The city established citywide goals and expectations for equitable community engagement guided by seven core principles—right to be involved; contribution will be thoughtfully considered; recognize the needs of all; seek out involvement; participants design participation; adequate information provided to participate in a meaningful way; and participants know their impact in outcomes/decision making. The blueprint resulted from conversations with Minneapolis residents about the city’s engagement process and the improvement they wanted to see. The document offers five strategies for improving the community-government engagement relationship and outlines steps to employ those strategies effectively.

International Association for Public Participation (IAPP).

Available online: <https://www.iap2.org/page/IAP2-DEI-English>

The IAPP is a source of resources, information, and training on stakeholder engagement.

University of Arizona, *State-Level Renewable Energy Policy Implementation: How and Why Do Stakeholders Participate?*, February 2018.

Available online: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcomm.2018.00006/full>

This scholarly article offers advice on increasing meaningful stakeholder participation in policy decisions using the framework of engagement over state renewable energy policies. The authors note that “despite the legal requirements to allow stakeholder comments, there is no mandate that stakeholders’ participation be meaningful” or inform decision making. The study reviews interviews with stakeholders relating to the process surrounding RPS adoption, modification, and implementation process. Their literature review also sheds light on some of the issues surrounding traditional community engagement strategies deployed by government structures.

Principle Three: Policies that ensure an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable workforce including access to high-quality jobs and support for impacted workers

How can state governments provide public benefits to support workers in transition?

Resources for the Future (RFF) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), *The Role of Public Benefits in Supporting Workers and Communities Affected by Energy Transition*, October 2020.

Available online: <https://www.rff.org/publications/reports/public-benefits-supporting-workers-and-communities-affected-energy-transition/>

The report reviews current federal level public benefits, both industry specific funds and benefits, as well as public safety net programs (policies listed on page 6). Most of these programs are not specific to the fossil fuel industry, but can be referenced to develop state programs or to encourage industry to pay into programs lacking funds depending on the state.

Aspen Institute, *Designing Portable Benefits: A Resource Guide for Policymakers*, June 2019.

Available online: https://www.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Designing-Portable-Benefits_June-2019_Aspen-Institute-Future-of-Work-Initiative.pdf

The report reviews some of the challenges facing workers today relating to benefits with the increase in misclassification and non-traditional work. With the loss of a union job, workers face a gap in benefits and a possibility of losing the reliable benefits packages altogether. The report advocates for the use of state-sponsored portable benefits—which have the potential to bridge that gap between employers—or benefits packages as more of the workforce faces an uncertain future.

How can labor standards and best value employment metrics be included in energy transition?

Overviews of labor policies:

University of California, Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, *Putting California on the High Road: A Jobs and Climate Action Plan for 2030*, June 2020.

Available online: <https://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/putting-california-on-the-high-road-a-jobs-and-climate-action-plan-for-2030/>

This is a key report to inform just transition policy action, especially relating to the role that labor standards can play in energy policy. The report details the state's current efforts to make the state more "green" in the energy, transportation, industry, waste, water, and land job sectors with corresponding sections relating to the labor challenges facing workers in these sectors. Sections addressing demand-side policy tools, supply-side policy tools, and just transition policies with current progress and room for expansion of the policies are also provided.

Resources for the Future (RFF) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), *Labor Policies to Enable Fairness for Workers and Communities in Transition*, March 2021.

Available online: <https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/documents/Labor%20Policies%20to%20Enable%20Fairness%20for%20Workers%20and%20Communities%20in%20Transition.pdf>

This is an extensive report that reviews and assesses the current scope of labor supporting policies from unemployment insurance to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) (complete list of policies reviewed on pg 5-11) and how these federal programs can be leveraged for use by workers displaced by coal closure. The report underscores the need to include labor policy in creating new jobs and new communities, especially the important role that unions play in guaranteeing these benefits.

Cuny School of Labor and Urban Studies, *No Worker Left Behind: Protecting Workers and Communities in the Green New Deal*, 2020.

Available online: <https://newlaborforum.cuny.edu/2020/05/15/no-worker-left-behind-protecting-workers-and-communities-in-the-green-new-deal>

This academic report outlines the main elements of worker protection required for effective Green New Deal policy creation and provides references to current legislation or policy plans that include certain worker protections.

First Source Hiring Policies:

Pittsburgh Regional Housing Legal Services, *Local Hiring and First Source Hiring Policies A National Review of Policies and Identification of Best Practices*, October 2013.

Available online: <https://rhls.org/wp-content/uploads/First-Source-Hiring-Overview-RHLS.pdf>

The report provides definitions of critical labor terms and then dives into a review of first source and/or local hiring policies in San Francisco, Washington, D.C., East Palo Alto, and Los Angeles. The document also discusses possible legal issues and gives recommendations for developing labor policies.

Misclassification:

National Employment Law Project, Change to Win Strategic Organizing Center, Los Angeles Alliance for New Economy, *The Big Rig Overhaul: Restoring Middle-Class Jobs at America's Ports Through Labor Law Enforcement*, February 2014.

Available online: <http://www.laane.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/BigRigOverhaul2014.pdf>

The report provides a deep dive into the "microcosm" of this key labor issue using the lens of the trucking industry. Some of the issues discussed include the loss of state revenue as a result of misclassification, how to enforce labor laws, and the importance of creating good, protected jobs to build the middle class.

How does labor view transition? How could their attitudes inform just transition policy?

Labor Network for Sustainability, *Workers and Communities in Transition: Report of the Just Transition Listening Project*, March 2021.

Available online: <https://www.labor4sustainability.org/jt1p-2021/jt1p-report/>

The report provides a variety of experiences and perspectives on just transition gathered from interviews with community members in the throes of transition. Based on these interviews, the authors then offer recommendations for forwarding just transition policies to policymakers as well as labor and movement organizers. The document underscores the importance of including labor in policy and discussions while highlighting some of the hesitancy to transition experienced by some unions and union members.

Colorado State University, *Labour Unions and Green Transitions in the U.S.: Contestations and Explanations*, May 2019.

Available online: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332974531_Labour_Unions_and_Green_Transitions_in_the_US_Contestations_and_Explanations

This scholarly work provides an overview of where U.S. labor unions stand in relationship to supporting different green energy transitions. The author also provides background into the overlap between issues facing labor and the environment that has inspired policies addressing blue-green issues.

National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and the Energy Futures Initiative (EFI), *2019 U.S. Energy Employment Report*, 2019.

Available online: <https://www.usenergyjobs.org/>

This report documents trends and data from the energy sector including labor statistics that could inform the understanding of employees involved in coal power generation (Figure 52. “Coal Electric Power Generation—Employment by Industry” and Figure 53. “Coal Electric Power Generation Hiring Difficulty by Industry” may be of particular interest).

How might workers be impacted by transition?

Aspen Institute, *Automation and a Changing Economy: the Case for Action*, April 2019.

Available online: <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/publications/automation-and-a-changing-economy-the-case-for-action/>

Aspen Institute, *Automation and a Changing Economy: Politics for Shared Prosperity*, April 2019.

Available online: <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/publications/automation-and-a-changing-economy-policies-for-shared-prosperity/>

These reports relate to workers transitioning as a result of automation with the first part highlighting the challenges and the second part relaying policy recommendations to support workers. The issues facing workers in transition due to shifts in energy policy are similar to those described in the reports. Key sections include “Recent Challenges Highlight Consequences of Limited Supports for Vulnerable Workers” in part one and a series of tables with challenges and policy recommendations in the beginning of part two.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), *Transforming the Nation's Electricity Sector: The Second Installment of the QER*, January 2017.

Available online: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/02/f34/Quadrennial%20Energy%20Review--Second%20Installment%20%28Full%20Report%29.pdf>

This chapter of a larger government report presents some of the unique challenges facing the energy sector from aging workers without adequate pensions to lack of uniformed training programs creating more workplace safety problems and how transition may exacerbate these issues.

Principle Four: Policies to achieve community health, longevity, and resilience

What challenges do transition communities face?

Economic:

Bureau of Business and Economic Research, West Virginia University College of Business and Economics, *The Economic Impact of Coal in West Virginia, 2018.*

Available online: <http://busecon.wvu.edu/bber/pdfs/Econ-Impact-Coal-2018.pdf>

*updated data on the West Virginia economy available online: https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/bureau_be/

This academic report details the large role that coal plays in the economy of West Virginia and therefore what the state stands to lose in incomes, export costs, production value, and more, during transition.

Colorado Mesa University, *Economic Transition in Northwest Colorado, 2020.*

Available online: <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/energy/documents/economic-impact-of-coal-solar-gas-nw-co.pdf>

This academic report assesses the economic contribution—the total economic activity of an existing event or industry, and its contribution to regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—of coal in Northwest Colorado using four different closure scenarios.

University of Massachusetts Political Economy Research Institute, *The Economics of Just Transition: A Framework for Supporting Fossil Fuel-Dependent Workers and Communities in the United States, 2019.*

Available online: <https://peri.umass.edu/publication/item/762-the-economics-of-just-transition-a-framework-for-supporting-fossil-fuel-dependent-workers-and-communities-in-the-united-states>

This academic working paper assesses the economic impact of transition from money currently earned

from coal and fossil fuels and the estimated costs needed to achieve just transition through “(1) income, retraining, and relocation support for workers facing retrenchments; (2) guaranteeing the pensions for workers in the affected industries; and (3) mounting effective transition programs for what are now fossil fuel-dependent communities.” The authors also conduct a cost analysis to propose that the federal government spend \$600 million per year to achieve those three goals in transition communities.

Third Way, *Promoting Rural Entrepreneurship and Rural Economic Development, January 2020.*

Available online: <https://www.thirdway.org/report/promoting-rural-entrepreneurship-and-rural-economic-development>

After presenting some challenges to creating economic growth in rural communities, the report goes on to provide policy recommendations for encouraging entrepreneurship and investment in rural business.

Local leadership:

Aspen Institute, *Rural Development Hubs Report, November 2019.*

Available online: <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/rural-development-hubs-report/>
Executive summary available online: <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/rural-development-hubs-report/>

This report gives background into rural areas including a brief history of rural development policy before offering “rural development hubs” as a policy solution. It then reviews the effectiveness of rural development hubs based on data from interviews with rural communities and work done by “intermediaries” (“place-based organizations that work to improve prosperity and well-being by harnessing local and outside resources to design and deliver services and products to people, firms and organizations in their region.”) to revitalize areas. The report also offers routes to improving the economic environment to create space for stronger intermediaries to form in more areas.

Public Health:

New York Times, “Who Killed the Knapp Family”

Jan. 9, 2020.

Available online: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/09/opinion/sunday/deaths-despair-poverty.html>

This opinion article from the New York Times details the corrosive effects of devaluing labor that has resulted in poverty, drug use, and rural community decline. The article reinforces the need to provide training programs, health care, and mental health services to low income communities.

Remediation/environmental degradation:

RFF and EDF, *Environmental Remediation and Infrastructure Policies Supporting Workers and Communities in Transition*, September 2020.

Available online: <https://www.rff.org/publications/reports/environment-infrastructure-fairness-workers-communities/>

This report is part of a series that looks at the challenges and current policy tools associated with transition away from fossil fuels. This segment reviews and assesses the current federal remediation and infrastructure funding programs available for use in just transition communities. It also discusses the possibilities for transition and the community benefits of remediation and infrastructure investments.

Northern Plains Resource Council and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Local 1638), *Doing it Right: Colstrip’s Bright Future with Cleanup*, 2018.

Available online: https://northernplains.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/DoingItRight_FullStudy_FNL_WEB.pdf

Northern Plains Resource Council, *Doing it Right II: Job Creation through Colstrip Cleanup*, April 2019.

Available online: <https://northernplains.org/colstrip-jobs-study-2/>

The first report outlines the steps needed to remediate a coal ash pond including case studies from other plants and ways to incorporate the current operating workforce into remediation jobs. The second follows up on the 2018 report to confirm with numbers that remediation via the “high and dry” tactic deployed by Colstrip community workers is the best long term solution for the

community’s economic and public health. It then details the benefits of their proposed high and dry strategy over a less safe mitigation solution (capping the ponds in place) and one less beneficial to the community (half as many jobs would be created) proposed by the Talen Industries coal company.

How can state governments support the diversification of economies in just transition communities?

Appalachian Regional Commission, *Evaluation of the Appalachian Regional Commission’s Leadership and Community Capacity Projects FY 2008–FY 2015*, March 2019.

Available online: <https://www.arc.gov/report/evaluation-of-the-appalachian-regional-commissions-leadership-and-community-capacity-projects-fy-2008-fy-2015/>

The report reviews the impact of grants given to coal communities in Appalachia via the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The authors gathered data using surveys, interviews, content review of project databases and documents, and a literature review and then offered policy recommendations. Specifically, the report provides insights into the struggles of building social capital to alleviate challenges facing economically struggling rural, transition communities.

Appalachian Regional Commission, *POWER Award Summaries by State*, October 2019.

Available online: <https://www.arc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/POWER-Award-Summaries-by-State-as-of-October-2020-UPDATED-1.13.2021.pdf>

A list of all the grants awarded to Appalachian communities with the goal of diversifying their economies.

Aspen Institute Economic Strategy Group, *Bringing Jobs to People: Improving Local Economic Development Policies*, August 2020.

Available online: <https://www.economicstrategygroup.org/publication/bringing-jobs-to-people/>

In this memo from the Aspen Institute’s Economic Strategy Group, the author argues for a jobs-to-people strategy to increase jobs in rural areas to encourage the

maintenance of communities. Specifically, the memo provides evidence for helping communities transition and thrive economically instead of only offering workers jobs in other communities or requiring a significant change in skillset.

Brookings Institute, *Growing Cities that Work for All*, May 2019.

Available online: <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/GrowingCitiesThatWorkforAll-FINALforWeb.pdf>

This economic report highlights ways in which cities—especially smaller cities—can increase economic complexity to ameliorate middle class job loss. The authors provide steps like growing local economies, helping workers adapt to changing market demands, and enabling local systems and institutions to support the workforce in changing. The case study about South Bend, IN remains particularly salient to coal communities.

RFF and EDF, *Economic Development Policies to Enable Fairness for Workers and Communities in Transition*, August 2020.

Available online: <https://www.rff.org/publications/reports/economic-development-fairness-workers-communities/>

This report is part of a series that looks at the challenges and current policy tools associated with transition away from fossil fuels. Examining the different economic development policies currently in place to support transition communities, the report reviews a variety of coal specific or coal industry related programs including POWER, the Just Transition Act in Colorado, the Energy Transition Act in New Mexico, and the Economic Development Administration. The report focuses on using economic development programs as a policy tool to support communities in transition.

International City/County Management Association (ICMA), *Seven Steps to Developing an Economic Gardening Implementation Strategy*, September 2010.

Available online: <https://icma.org/articles/article/seven-steps-developing-economic-gardening-implementation-strategy>

See also National Center for Economic Gardening: <https://economicgardening.org/>

The article identifies the basic strategies for building an economic gardening program—“Economic gardening seeks to focus on growing and nurturing local businesses rather than hunting for ‘big game’ outside the area”—including questions to begin brainstorming a plan to implement into communities.

KEY POLICY EXAMPLES FROM THE TOOLKIT

The following tables outline the key policies examples curated from the longer list of examples in the toolkit. Topics explored in the tables include:

- Comprehensive Just Transition Legislation as of 2021
- Principle One: Policies that support transition to a clean energy future and regenerative economy
- Principle Two : Policies that enable and elevate worker and community voices
- Principle Three: Policies that ensure an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable workforce, including access to high-quality jobs and support for impacted workers
- Principle Four: Policies to achieve community health, longevity, & resilience
- Multistate Policies
- Federal Support for State and Local Policies
- Just Transition Case Studies

Comprehensive Just Transition Strategies as of 2021

POLICY ACTION	STATUS	INFORMATION
CO HB 19-1314	Passed 2019, the Statewide Just Transition plan was published in December 2020	Created and provided initial funding for an Office of Just Transition; formed a Just Transition Advisory Committee composed of various experts, representatives of labor, representatives from affected communities, representatives from electric utilities, and representatives from State agencies; initiated the drafting of a Just Transition Plan including a cash fund to collect revenue; and established a requirement for draft workforce transition plans for any coal-fired power plant that will be closed.
MN 2021 Omnibus Funding Bill--Sections [116J.5491-116J.5493]	Signed by Governor Walz in 2021	Establishes an Energy Transition Office in the Department of Employment and Economic Development to assist communities and workers experiencing economic dislocation as a result of the retirement of an electric generating plant as well as an advisory committee to develop a statewide energy transition plan.

CA Governor's Executive Order N-79-20	Signed by Governor Newsom in 2020	<p>Directs the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to partner with the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency to develop a Just Transition Roadmap with five foundational elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diversifying the economy and creating or retaining high-quality jobs; 2. Creating or expanding education and training pathways into those jobs; 3. Planning the transition of specific industries (e.g., phased restructuring and redeployment); 4. Creating and enhancing safety net programs for workers and communities; and 5. Creating or expanding inclusive and diverse stakeholder processes to implement all of the above.
NM SB 112	Passed 2021	<p>Establishes a Sustainable Economy Advisory Council in the state's economic development department with representation from disproportionately impacted communities, business groups, tribal governments, employees of public entities, and others. The council must prepare a strategic plan for transitioning the economy away from natural resource extraction and implementing recommendations from the "New Mexico Clean Energy Workforce Development Study" (2020).</p>
NM SB 489, "Energy Transition Act"	Passed 2019	<p>Establishes new renewable and zero carbon emission portfolio standards for both regulated utilities and rural electric cooperatives and authorizes an alternative mechanism for financing the retirement of coal-fired power plants. The bill also includes just transition action such as the creation of three funds to be managed by the Indian Affairs Department, Economic Development Department and the Department of Workforce Solutions and used to assist communities affected by abandoned coal plants and displaced workers.</p>
NY S6599, The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act,	Signed in 2019	<p>Set forth zero-emissions and greenhouse gas emission standards with requirements for sustainable energy investments in disadvantaged and low-to-moderate income communities. The bill also created a Just Transition Working Group and six advisory panels tasked with making recommendations to the State's Climate Action Council; drafting a scoping plan to transform New York's economy, create new jobs, and stimulate industry and innovation; and preparing the workforce for transition.</p>
NJ Executive Order 221	Issued in 2021	<p>Establish a state Office of Climate Action and the Green Economy, tasked with designing a green economy strategy that accelerates a just and equitable transition in the state, and the New Jersey Council on the Green Economy, composed of representatives across the state administration, labor, manufacturing, environmental organizations, green business, a Chamber of Commerce representing a historically underserved group, academia, utilities, and a small business workforce training entity.</p>

Principle One: Policies that support transition to a clean energy future and regenerative economy

POLICY ACTION	STATUS	INFORMATION
Renewable Energy Standards/ Renewable Portfolio Standards		Thirty states, Washington, D.C., and three territories have established some level of RPS with California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands having established requirements of 50% or greater.
Delaware SB 12 Vehicle to Grid Technology	Signed by the governor on 5/29/2019 as an amendment to Title 26 of the Delaware code relating to electric generating systems	The act facilitates electric vehicle and grid-integrated electric vehicle interconnection by establishing industrial safety requirements for electric vehicles that provide power from their batteries back to the electric grid.
California More than Smart Initiative SB17	Approved by governor 10/11/2009	Directs the Public Utilities Commission to develop and implement a smart grid deployment plan.
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	Signed by President Obama 2/17/2009	Required the DOE to provide funding for modernizing the energy grid. Initiatives encouraged state smart grid development projects through investment grants, workforce training, and renewable and distributed systems integration.

Principle Two: Policies that enable and elevate worker and community voices

POLICY ACTION	STATUS	INFORMATION
Colorado HB21-1266 Concerning efforts to redress the effects of environmental injustice on disproportionately impacted communities, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.	Signed 7/2/21	Creates the Environmental Justice Action Task Force and a Community Impact Cash Fund to provide grants for environmental mitigation projects in "disproportionately impacted communities" as defined in the act.
Washington State SB 5116 100% Clean Energy Bill	Signed 5/7/2019	Establishes an energy strategy advisory committee to help the state review its energy plan. Besides representatives from utilities, commercial, and industrial players, the committee must include members from tribal communities, environmental and civic organizations, and labor unions.
Virginia House Bill 1042 Environmental Justice, Virginia Council on; established.	Approved by governor 3/3/20	Established a Council on Environmental Justice to advise the governor and provide recommendations intended to protect vulnerable communities from disproportionate impacts of pollution and provide such communities meaningful involvement in the decision-making process.
Pennsylvania Equity Principles to Guide Investments in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposed the guiding equity principles	The RGGI Equity Principles include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusively gathering and considering input from the public, especially environmental justice communities, related to decisions made under RGGI; • Protecting public health and welfare, mitigating any adverse impacts on human health, especially in environmental justice communities, and seeking to ensure environmental and structural racism are not replicated in the engagement process; and • Working equitably and with intentional consideration to distribute environmental and economic benefits of the proceeds of allowance auctions.
New York A.8429/S.6599 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)	Signed on 7/18/19	The bill contains a variety of equity components including a requirement that agencies invest at least 35% of their clean energy program resources towards disadvantaged and/or environmental justice communities and the appointment of members to the Climate Justice Working Group tasked with ensuring that environmental justice provisions are created and enforced.
Vermont Climate Council, Guiding Principles for a Just Transition	Vermont Climate Council Just Transitions Subcommittee submitted guiding principles in September, 2021	The Just Transitions Subcommittee of Vermont's Climate Council developed guiding principles and an equity scoring rubric to frame the policy actions considered in the state's 2021 climate action plan. The guidance includes key definitions, indicators, and questions.

Principle Three: Policies that ensure an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable workforce including access to high-quality jobs and support for impacted workers

POLICY ACTION	STATUS	INFORMATION
West Virginia SB 603 Brownfields Assistance Centers	Approved by governor 5/4/2005	In an effort to provide more comprehensive assistance to communities, the West Virginia Legislature created two centers—one at Marshall University and the other at West Virginia University—to promote and coordinate the development of brownfield properties including connecting communities to available funding to assist with locally-driven remediation projects.
S.2334 21st Century Energy Workforce Act	Introduced 7/30/19 and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, then was placed on Senate Legislative Calendar on 10/24/19	Proposes the establishment of a “21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board” within the DOE to encourage the expansion of a skilled energy workforce through two main initiatives: providing workforce training and development program information to potential employees and improving energy and manufacturing related training programs with the help of secondary schools, institutions of higher education—including community colleges and minority-serving institutions—and workforce development, labor management, and industry organizations.
Colorado HB21-1149 Energy Sector Career Pathway In Higher Education	Signed 6/16/2021	Creates the Strengthening Photovoltaic and Renewable Careers (SPARC) workforce development program within the Department of Labor and Employment to increase and improve training, apprenticeship, and education programs with pathways to jobs in the energy sector.
H.R.1315 Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act	Introduced 2/22/19 and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor and to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy where it was considered and marked up before being forwarded to the Committee on Energy and Commerce where it was amended.	Directs DOE to establish training and education programs for energy related fields with special attention paid to increasing the number of skilled workers from underrepresented groups. Also aims to provide grants to businesses to pay employees wages while they receive training for jobs relating to renewable energy, energy efficiency, or grid modernization.
“CareerOneStop”	Launched as a pilot program in 2014, expanded and relaunched in 2015	Maintained by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), this website is dedicated to compiling resources from job centers across the country to help dislocated workers search for jobs, find available training resources, and connect with toolkits relating to wages and industry insights.

S. 27 American Miners Act	Introduced to the Senate 1/3/19 and referred to the Committee on Finance	Amends the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan to provide increased funds for coal miner pensions and health benefits, especially those impacted by coal company bankruptcies.
S. 4306 Marshall Plan for Coal Country Act	Introduced to the Senate 7/23/19 and referred to the Committee on Finance	Includes two proposals to support coal country in transition: allocating Medicare benefits to individuals who lost their job at a coal mine or coal power plant and expanding the scope of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to include economic revitalization, diversification, and development as well as reclamation and restoration of natural resources impacted by coal mining.
Washington State House of Representatives: HB1601 The Universal Worker Protections Act	Introduced 1/25/19 and died in committee, reintroduced 1/13/20 without being passed	Outlines comprehensive labor protections including the establishment of the Employee Fair Classification Act to prevent misclassification as an independent contractor; worker boards to set industry specific labor standards such as a minimum pay rate; a portable benefits fund to provide health insurance, paid time off, and retirement benefits; and protections against retaliation of workers.
S.541 Portable Benefits for Independent Workers Pilot Program Act	Introduced in the Senate on 2/25/19 and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	Requires DOL to experiment with providing portable benefits by awarding grants to states, local governments, or nonprofit organizations and then evaluating the outcome of the awards.
Colorado SB 19-236 Public Utilities Commission Reauthorization Act	Signed 5/30/2019	The act added requirements to the scope of the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) authority relating to clean energy planning, energy impact bonds, and wholesale electric cooperative resource planning. Section 40-2-129 directs the PUC to evaluate proposals for new energy construction based on objective project employment metrics including the availability of training and apprenticeship programs, long-term career opportunities, industry standard wages, health care, and pension benefits as well as the employment of Colorado labor instead of the importation of out-of-state (most likely non-union) workers. Additionally, Section 7 changed criteria used by the PUC to evaluate new electricity generation permits or acquisitions to utilize best value employment metrics including the payment of industry standard wages. Utilities may opt to use a project labor agreement (PLA) in lieu of providing the required best value employment metrics.
Oregon 100% Clean Energy Bill	Signed 7/19/2021, effective date 9/25/2021	Within this clean energy bill are a series of climate change mitigation policies including the development of good-paying clean energy jobs, expanding solar power, improving energy efficiency, increasing affordable housing, and creating more green transportation options. Projects must include "strong labor standards" such as requirements that workers are paid the prevailing wage compared to similar types of jobs and provision of job training opportunities and comprehensive benefits. The bill also focuses on creating apprenticeship and workforce development opportunities for women, people of color, veterans, and people with disabilities.

Maryland SB 516 Clean Energy Jobs Act	Enacted 5/25/2019	Utilizing funds from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund, the act creates a Clean Energy Workforce Account to award grants for workforce development programs (pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training) in the clean energy industry. In order to qualify for workforce training and development grants, clean energy projects must initiate a PLA. The bill also requires any approved clean energy projects to employ a community benefit agreement (CBA) which requires the inclusion of workplace safety, prevailing wages, and career training opportunities (targeted for local residents, veterans, women, and minorities), among other benefits for the community impacted by the project and its workers.
Colorado HB19-1314 Just Transition from Coal-based Electrical Energy Economy	Passed 2019, the Statewide Just Transition plan was published in December 2020	Created and provided initial funding for an Office of Just Transition; formed a Just Transition Advisory Committee composed of various experts, representatives of labor, representatives from affected communities, representatives from electric utilities, and representatives from State agencies; initiated the drafting of a Just Transition Plan including a cash fund to collect revenue; and established a requirement for draft workforce transition plans for any coal-fired power plant that will be closed.

Principle Four: Policies to achieve community health, longevity, & resilience

POLICY ACTION	STATUS	INFORMATION
S.1669 Environmental Cleanup Infrastructure Act	Introduced 7/27/2017, read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works	Provides funds for remediation action of the National Priority List, hazardous substances at abandoned coal mining sites, formerly used defense sites under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, sites under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, and those in the Diesel Emissions Reduction Program.
Maryland: EmPOWER Limited Income Energy Efficiency Program	Part of the Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008 which created energy efficiency standards managed by the MD PUC. The bill was updated in 2017 via the EmPOWER Bill which created a target of 2% savings until 2024, a target which utilities are making plans to meet.	This program provides energy efficiency services including energy audits and installation of materials and equipment for energy efficiency upgrades at no cost to eligible households. Eligibility for this program is determined through maximum household income thresholds varying with household size.

NetWork Kansas	Established through the Kansas Economic Growth Act of 2004	Through public/private partnership, the nonprofit serves as a network of business resources (“expertise, education, and economic”) available to support entrepreneurs and small business owners to grow successful businesses across the state. The program relies on local leaders in each community to make loans available to new businesses. Donors receive an income tax credit of 75% for their donation (a donation of \$1,000 results in a \$750 credit off a business’s state income tax liability).
Chattanooga, TN Gig Broadband–“The Gig”	Made possible as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, 2009 which provided funds to DOE to support smart grid expansion in states. The DOE awarded the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga \$111 million in funding for smart grid net metering and communications infrastructure which included “the Gig.”	A government owned fiber based internet available to the entire city (residents still have to pay for the service, but the network reaches all residents). Through this infrastructure development, the city was able to attract tech businesses–the creation of between 2,800 and 5,200 new jobs can be tied to the creation of the gig network. Cleaning up the river and expanding outdoor tourism was another key feature of the city’s transition.
Minnesota Community Energy Transition Grant	Established via section 216B.02 of the 2020 MN Statutes (Chapter 216B of Utilities) and managed by the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)	Provides grants for communities that host a coal, natural gas, or nuclear facility that is scheduled for decommissioning. The program assists communities in the transition away from economic dependence on these facilities by offering funding for direct assistance to displaced workers, boosting the local property tax base, and development of alternative economic development strategies.
S. 2569 Appalachia Opportunity Grants Act of 2018	Read 3/19/2018 and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	Authorizes the USDA to award grants to convene groups of public and private organizations in the Appalachian region for economic and community impact projects with the goal of job creation, expansion of post-secondary education, growth of tourism, improving public health, or upgrading infrastructure.
H.R.2156 - Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More (RECLAIM) Act of 2019	Introduced 4/9/2019, referred to and amended by the House Committee on Natural Resources, placed on the Union Calendar No. 176 10/4/2019	Proposed the expansion of Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to designate funds for economic revitalization, diversification, and development from reclamation and restoration of land and water resources impacted by coal mining.

Multistate Policies

POLICY ACTION	STATUS	INFORMATION
Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM)	Established in 1967	Association of air quality agencies representing eight states in the northeastern United States that addresses regional air quality, climate, and energy issues.
Pacific Coast Collaborative	Established in 2013 via the Pacific Coast Action Plan, the Pacific North America Climate Leadership Agreement (2016) currently guides the collaborative	Collaborative joining the states of Washington, Oregon, and California; the cities of Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles; and British Columbia, to forward a series of low carbon economy initiatives include increasing public transportation options, transitioning to clean energy, reducing food waste, making coastal communities and economies more resilient against climate change, decarbonizing buildings, creating a resilient and low-carbon economy, and expanding carbon pricing strategies.
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)	Established in 2009 to set a regional cap on the amount of CO2 emissions from power plants and issue limited numbers of tradable CO2 emissions allowances	Mandatory market-based greenhouse gas emissions reduction program joining 11 states in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic United States with Pennsylvania pending membership in 2022.
Arizona Public Service (APS) Just Transition Plan	APS filed a settlement plan in 2020 with the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to be funded partly by ratepayers and partly by shareholders; the rate case proceedings from 11/6/ 2020 determined the outcome of the funds; a proposed decision was issued on 8/2/2021 with the Navajo Nation receiving \$50 million, the Hopi Tribe receiving \$1.675 million, and Navajo County communities receiving \$5 million (see case studies for more information).	A \$144.45-\$127 million package of community transition and economic development assistance to the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Cholla community, and others who have been or will be impacted by the closures of the coal-fired Navajo, Four Corners, and Cholla Generating Stations.

<p>Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)</p>	<p>Formed in 1965, as a result of a request to form a commission to coordinate federal, state, and local action in the region by the Conference of Appalachian Governors, via the Appalachian Regional Development Act. ARC now receives funding from congressionally appropriated funds—\$180 million in 2021.</p>	<p>A federal-state economic development partnership agency whose membership includes 13 Appalachian states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The commission was formed in 1965 to address persistent economic disparities in the Appalachian region by investing in infrastructure, workforce development, and other economic development projects in 420 counties across the region.</p>
<p>Delta Regional Authority (DRA)</p>	<p>Founded in 2000 via the Delta Regional Authority Act and receives congressionally appropriated funds from the States' Economic Development Assistance Program and the Community Infrastructure Fund.</p>	<p>A federal-state partnership whose membership includes the eight states of the Mississippi Delta region prioritizing public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, business, and workforce development.</p>

Just Transition Case Studies

SOURCE	CASE STUDIES
<p>BlueGreen Alliance, <i>America's Energy Transition: A Case Study in the Past and Present of Southwestern Pennsylvania's Power Sector</i>, September 2015. Available online: https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/resources/americas-energy-transition-a-case-study-in-the-past-and-present-of-southwestern-pennsylvanias-power-sector/</p>	<p>Case studies from Hatfield's Ferry and Mitchell Power Stations shutdowns in southwestern Pennsylvania provide insights into the possible challenges and successes of a just transition.</p>
<p>University of North Carolina Center for Climate, Energy, Environment, and Economics, <i>Communities in Transition: State Responses to Energy-Sector Job Losses</i>, December 2019. Available online: https://law.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CommunitiesinTransition2019.pdf</p>	<p>The document explores various state responses to just transition policy development providing the pros and cons of each approach. The article includes examples of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Planning for Transition from CO and WA -Developing Fund-based Approaches from IL, MT, NM, and CO -Establishing Requirements for new resources from NM, IL, CO, WA, and OH -Protecting existing jobs from IL, NY, and OH
<p>Energy Transition Academy, <i>Community Resilience Solutions for Policymakers</i>, December 2020.</p>	<p>The article compiles information from talks with "state legislators, governors' advisors, tribal leaders, county commissioners, local leaders and community members, and public utility commission officials from coal-reliant communities in Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona" regarding just transition outcomes in these communities. The main takeaways from these conversations can provide guidance for developing policies and determining their performance.</p>
<p>Development Research Partners. <i>The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of the Craig Station in Craig, Colorado</i>, Spring 2015.</p>	<p>Details the economic impacts of coal on the town of Craig, including Craig Station as well as the Colowyo and Trapper mines. The report details the economic breakdown of the town with data on jobs and tax revenue while also providing data on education rates and population statistics. The report paints a clear picture of the impact of the community's dependency on coal and the economic prosperity that the community will need to address while in transition.</p>
<p>Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and Pace Energy and Climate Center, <i>Transition Support Mechanisms for Communities Facing Full or Partial Coal Power Plant Retirement in New York</i>, March 2017. Available online: https://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009&context=environmental</p>	<p>Transitioning communities in New York state are the focus of this report which provides a series of case studies from around the country, a review of the current just transition legislation working in New York, and possible sources of federal funding to facilitate transition across the state. The report ends with policy recommendations to aid communities in planning and executing a transition.</p>
<p>World Wildlife Foundation Germany, <i>Just Transition to climate neutrality: Doing right by the regions</i>, February 2020. Available online: https://regionsbeyondcoal.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/WWF_Just-Transition-to-Climate-Neutrality.pdf</p>	<p>Reviews the transitions of four regions in Europe (Western Macedonia in Greece, the Silesia region in Poland, the South West region of Bulgaria, and the Ruhr region in Germany) giving some of the challenges faced and policy recommendations for the region.</p>

<p>Washington State Department of Commerce, <i>Washington 2021 State Energy Strategy</i>, December 2020. Available online: https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/2021-state-energy-strategy/</p>	<p>Policy document that gives recommendations and data reflecting the state of renewable energy transition in Washington state including sections on Environmental Justice and Just Transition.</p>
<p>Bangor Daily News, "A tiny Maine town was once the 'toothpick capital of the world,'" May 2021. Available online: https://bangordailynews.com/2021/05/24/bangor-metro/a-tiny-maine-town-was-once-the-toothpick-capital-of-the-world/</p>	<p>The article tells the story of Strong, ME which underwent a transition away from timber for toothpick production with the last mill closing in 2003. The town has seen a transition in cultural identity and economic success that was not successfully addressed with just transition strategies.</p>
<p>Energy News Network, "Electric trucks alone won't deliver environmental justice, say neighbors of Chicago warehouse site," June 2021. Available online: https://energynews.us/2021/06/14/electric-trucks-wont-deliver-environmental-justice-say-neighbors-of-chicago-warehouse-site/</p>	<p>The Little Village neighborhood in Chicago used to be home to a coal plant. Even though the plant closed down in 2012, the neighborhood still experiences some of the worst pollution in the city from diesel truck traffic serving a variety of warehouses. As a result, the environmental justice concerns and economic needs of the neighborhood have not been taken into account as the city attempts to transition the neighborhood and provide new jobs by siting yet another warehouse in the vicinity.</p>
<p>Energy News Network, "A sustainable refocus helps a historic Chicago community rebuild," December 2020. Available online: https://energynews.us/2020/12/02/a-sustainable-refocus-helps-a-historic-chicago-community-rebuild/</p>	<p>The historic Pullman neighborhood located in Chicago's Far South Side has been in transition since the steel plants closed in 2006. A ten year plan with goals for housing, job growth, recreation, culture, transportation, and sustainable development has kept just transition on-track. Notably, the neighborhood now hosts a sustainable agriculture microgreens company and has seen sustained job growth, labor participation, and decreased crime rates. First source hiring agreements, community buy-in, and sustainability goals set by local organizations like Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives all contributed to the success of this neighborhood's just transition.</p>
<p>Utility Dive, "ASP's plan for closing coal plants could be a gamechanger, analysts say, but who will pay?," December 2020. Available online: https://www.utilitydive.com/news/apss-plan-for-closing-coal-plants-could-be-a-gamechanger-analysts-say-bu/591468/</p> <p>Arizona Corporation Commission, Docket Details. Available online: https://edocket.azcc.gov/search/docket-search/item-detail/23468</p> <p>Docket No. E-01345A-19-0236</p> <p>Sarah N. Harpring, Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge, "Recommended Opinion & Order from the Hearing Division" Available online: https://docket.images.azcc.gov/E000014911.pdf?i=1631044610731</p>	<p><i>Navajo Generating Station (Navajo land in northern Arizona), Four Corners Power Plant (Navajo land in northwestern New Mexico), and Cholla Power Plant (south of the Navajo Nation and Hopi reservation in northeastern Arizona)</i></p> <p>In late 2020 Arizona Public Service, an electric public utility, filed for a \$144.45 million settlement package of community transition and economic development assistance to benefit the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and their communities who have been or will be impacted by the closures of the coal-fired Navajo Generating Station (Navajo land in northern Arizona), Four Corners Power Plant (Navajo land in northwestern New Mexico), and Cholla Power Plant (south of the Navajo Nation and Hopi reservation in northeastern Arizona). The case was filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission (similar to a Public Utilities Commission) in December 2020. In August 2021, Sarah N. Harpring, Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge, issued a "Recommended Opinion & Order from the Hearing Division" which set the rates to be paid by utility ratepayers and the amounts to be awarded to the Navajo Nation and Hopi Reservation.</p>

SOURCES

The following section lists all of the sources cited in the toolkit. The numbers correspond with order prescribed by the footnotes in the toolkit document for easy reference.

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- 3 Energy Research & Social Science, *Advocating a just transition in Appalachia: Civil society and industrial change in a carbon-intensive region*, May 2021. Available online: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214629621000979#t0005>

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Additional Strategies for States to Consider

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