Workforce Wednesdays: Coal Transitions
National Energy Policy: Domestic, Cheap, Reliable Coal

Headwaters Economics analysis of Bureau of Economic Analysis data
Coordinated Regional Planning

“Big Buildup” of Coal Generation Capacity

States Define The Social License to Operate
Where Are We Today?
Lack of Policy Framework

Uncoordinated, contradictory planning environment

Outcome is dependent on local capacity

Misallocation of time and resources, planning fatigue

Lack of appropriate regional examples and peer to peer learning
Changing Economic Geography


CO’s Front Range
UT’s Washach Front
cities captured
50% of all new jobs since 2007

46% of Rural Counties
have Fewer Jobs in 2017

Headwaters Economics analysis of Bureau of Economic Analysis data
Geography Affects Workforce Opportunity

Isolated and “Double-Isolated” plants are more vulnerable to change.
Fiscal Policy Harms Communities and Slows Transition
Transition Risks in Fiscal Terms

County Government Dependence on Revenue from Coal
Property Tax, Severance Tax, and Mineral Royalty Share of Total Governmental Revenue

https://headwaterseconomics.org
# Assessing Coal Transition Policies

## Addressing lost revenue
- Revenue as key legacy (Haggerty and Haggerty 2015)
- Investment for competitive advantage (Ryser and Halseth, 2010)

## Understanding economic geography
- Identify competitive advantage (Beale, 2017)
- Recognize limits (MacKinnon et. al 2002)
- Reality of downsizing (Hollander et. al. 2009)

## Linking restoration and economic development
- Restoration economy as viable sector (BenDor et. al. 2014; Hibbard and Lurie 2013)
- Amenities key to growth (Deller et. al. 2001)
- Contamination as disadvantage (Goetz et. al. 2017)

## Transition outlook: willingness to change
- Bridging/bonding social capital (Putnam 2002; Kulig et. al. 2008)
- Acceptance of change is resilient (Boutilier 2018; Kinnear and Ogden 2014)
- Avoid cognitive lock-in (Hudson 2005)
Thank You