

Capacity Building for Energy Assets

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management
Virtual Workshop
November 14, 2024
12 Noon to 5 PM EDT

Objectives:

- 1) **Illustrate challenges and opportunities available to energy communities** to retain/create jobs and economic prosperity by repurposing existing energy assets including mines for new purposes to identify promising technology replacements for energy producers to decarbonize. Illustrative examples include data centers and/or clean energy manufacturing on abandoned mine lands, energy storage facilities on sites of former coal power plants and storing hydrogen in abandoned oil & gas wells. Workforce/coursework development is also an essential part of community building and will be a focus of this workshop.
- 2) **Amplify funding available through the annual appropriations, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding**, particularly through U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and other federal agencies for these purposes.
- 3) Engage community and technology leaders to discuss **energy asset transition and workforce challenges** for communities that have retired or soon-to-be-retired energy assets, including mines. The discussions will explore capacity building through new alternatives such as (but not limited to) **data centers, nuclear power, and critical mineral processing** to maintain jobs and the tax base while decarbonizing the economy, while also highlighting the workforce development challenges and needs. The workshop will spotlight **funding opportunities** through various government agencies for these purposes. **Breakout discussions** will help gather information for prioritizing any potential future funding that the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) could receive for community needs, including Pre-Front End Engineering and Design (Pre-FEED), and for addressing workforce challenges that include coursework development.

November 14, 2024

12:00 - 12:45 PM

Welcome and Opening Remarks – Bhima Sastri, Director, Energy Asset Transformation Program, FECM, DOE

- **Brad Crabtree, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, DOE**
- **Dr. Brian Anderson, Director, Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization**
- **Neva Espinoza, Vice President, Energy Supply and Low-Carbon Resources, Electric Power Research Institute**
- **Mark W. Menezes, President and Chief Executive Officer, United States Energy Association**

12:45 - 2:30 PM

Regions/Communities, Transition Cases and Workforce Development – Activities, Challenges, Opportunities

Moderator: Kate Ringness, Senior Advisor to Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, DOE

Transition Options

Natalia Saraeva, Lead, Community & Stakeholder Engagement, Office of Communications and Engagement, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy – Nuclear Energy at DOE

Sharon Fain, Principal of EnergyComm Consulting – discuss experiences with TerraPower project in WY.

Eric Murray, Data Center Development Manager, Google – discuss Widow’s Creek data center in AL.

Will Payne, Managing Partner of Coalfield Strategies LLC - discuss data center conversions in VA.

Steven Christensen, Team Lead for Commercialization, Xcel Energy - Capacity to change: Transitioning from coal capacity

Critical Minerals – Nortey Yeboah, Principal Engineer - Southern Company – discuss Southern Company’s experience with critical minerals development.

Workforce Development

Missy Henriksen, Executive Director, Center for Energy Workforce Development, Workforce Development Program for Coal Communities.

November 14, 2024

2:30 – 2:35 PM	BREAK
2:35 - 2:45 PM	Daniel Raimi, Fellow, Resources for the Future , Beta version of a tool for understanding the skill gaps and matches of the fossil fuel workforce
2:45 - 3:30 PM	<u>Breakout Session – Part 1 (45 min):</u> Capacity Building – What is needed in the pre-FEED to develop energy assets and move them to being Nuclear, Data Centers, Critical Minerals, Energy Storage, and any other important technologies. What are the challenges and opportunities.
3:30 - 4:30 PM	<u>Federal Panel – Supporting Energy Asset Transition</u> Moderator – Briggs White Jon Grosshans , Environmental Protection Agency Dan Cross-Call , DOE Loan Programs Office Davie Nguyen , DOE Office of Policy Zack Valdez , DOE Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains Tiffany Mayville , DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations Sara Cawley, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management , Department of the Interior Peter Gallagher, Senior Advisor, Orphan Wells , Department of the Interior
4:30 – 4:45 PM	<u>Breakout Session – Part 2 (15 min):</u> Workforce development – What is needed for the workforce development so that the transition is smooth for any of these energy assets to move to a sustainable future.
4:45 - 5:00 PM	Summary of Workshop Summary of Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity Building• Workforce development Summary and Adjourn – Bhima Sastri