



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS  
OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

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**For Immediate Release**

**ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF NORTHWEST COLORADO (AGNC) TO PRESENT COAL INNOVATION  
PLAYBOOKS AND DATA INTENSIVE ECONOMIC REPORT (DIER)**

Rangely, CO – The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) is pleased to announce the completion and delivery of the Coal Innovation Playbooks and Data Intensive Economic Report (DIER). The Playbooks and DIER are the result of two and a half years of research funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and the Rural Policy and Public Lands Institute (RPPL). The documents will be presented to the AGNC Economic Development District (EDD) Board of Directors May 25, 2022, in Rangely, CO.

Since the mid-1800s, coal has been part of the culture and economy of northwestern Colorado and eastern Utah, providing fuel for electricity, industry, and transportation in the process. Beyond this, it has provided the region with well-paying jobs and economic stability for innumerable workers, families, and communities. However, changes in the coal economy have led to powerplant and mine closures. As this continues, the last remaining coal power stations and mines that supply them are threatened.

Despite this, coal is still a useful resource that can continue to play an economic role as the feedstock for many innovative products. Through these products, it also has the potential to help alleviate domestic supply chain constraints and make the country more self-reliant.

The playbooks and DIER are products of the Coal Communities Innovation Project conducted between September 2019 and March 2022. During this project, Grow Economy collaborated with RPPL, AGNC and Nathan Perry, PhD, to conduct in-depth economic analysis of six coal-impacted counties in northwestern Colorado and eastern Utah. The counties addressed were Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco Counties in Colorado and Emery, Carbon, and San Juan Counties in Utah. This effort resulted economic playbooks for the AGNC and eastern Utah regions, as well as a larger economic analysis known as the Data Intensive Economic Report (DIER).

The playbooks and DIER contain recommendations for establishing a local coal-to-products industry and other innovation initiatives in the AGNC region. This includes recommendations for projects that focus on specific innovation activities and supporting infrastructure projects. These documents are the product of in-depth research conducted by Grow Economy and Nathan Perry, PhD.

It is our hope that the information provided in these documents will help the region move forward as it adapts to changes in the coal industry. Moreover, that the efforts it encourages will provide the region with resources to create jobs, encourage industry, and diversify local economies in the process.

This important project was funded by a grant from EDA. Grow Economy and Rural Policy and Public Lands Institute (RPPL) in Utah were co-recipients of the grant award with AGNC. RPPL in Utah and DOLA in Colorado contributed matching funds for this project.

The authors of the report will be presenting their findings at the quarterly AGNC EDD board meeting to be held May 25, 2022 at 10:15am. The meeting will be held both virtually and in-person. All AGNC and AGNC EDD meetings are open to the public and free of charge. To attend the meeting in-person, registration is required. Please visit the AGNC website at [www.agnc.org](http://www.agnc.org) for more information and to register. The documents can be viewed online at <https://agnc.org/economic-development-district/coal-innovation/>.

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