

PLANNING FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S FUTURE

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT

Pennsylvania has a unique opportunity to creating an equitable, inclusive, and innovative investment mechanism through Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative revenue that can both directly assist communities and workers impacted by the accelerating energy sector transformation and prioritize investment in communities that have been impacted by long-standing pollution.

OUR WORK AND SCOPE

Communities throughout the country are dealing with vacancy and environmental stressors from displaced and departed industry, which limit investment and degrade economic health as well as quality of life. This reality disproportionately hits communities of color and rural areas, especially those reliant on the fossil fuel industry.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks to create investment mechanisms through Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) revenue to support communities who are impacted by the ongoing energy sector transformation from coal, while prioritizing investment in communities that have been impacted by long-standing environmental pollution.

Authentic and transparent engagement is needed to get input and feedback from environmental justice advocates, coal plant and other fossil fuel communities impacted by energy transition, as well as residents. Their engagement is essential to help prioritize RGGI investment that will rid communities of long-standing environmental pollution issues, instigate economic diversification in Pennsylvania, and support all Pennsylvania residents. The project will focus on all areas of Pennsylvania, with a focus on those areas that have been hit hard—or will be hit hard—from coal plant and related infrastructure closures, such as Indiana County and the broader Southwest region of the Commonwealth.

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Delta Institute will create the *Guiding Principles for Economic Diversification in Pennsylvania* to help the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection guide investment opportunities from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), providing communities with increased and diversified opportunities.

SOLVE

Delta Institute (Delta) has an extensive history of helping agencies, community groups, and coalitions transition from planning to implementation by providing consistent guidance and thought partnership. Delta will collaborate with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, private funding partners, the private sector, unions, and—most importantly—numerous community groups, residents, and advocates to create a comprehensive strategy to engage local communities and stakeholders to develop a holistic, community-based economic diversification and environmental justice engagement strategy and investment plan.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our long-term goals (and related deliverables) are to develop a solidified investment vision and plan, called the **Guiding Principles for Economic Diversification in Pennsylvania**, that has:

- Necessary community and stakeholder support and buy-in;
- Meets Pennsylvania's long-term objectives and aligns with regulatory rulemaking process and timeline;
- Achieves measurable positive impact on environment justice, energy sector transformation, and affected PA citizens;
- Leverages local, regional, and state assets for potential investment opportunities; and,
- Provides future generations of Pennsylvanians with communities that are thriving.

The overall objectives of this project are to create an outreach, education, and engagement process with communities and stakeholders impacted by energy sector transition as well as citizens directly impacted by environmental injustice. Through this approach, Delta will glean authentic and honest feedback about the priorities of these stakeholders. That information will then be utilized to create a set of priorities and guiding principles that will help inform and strengthen the investment plan.

Delta has extensive relevant experience working with communities throughout the Midwest and beyond on brownfields and reuse strategies, including our [Coal Plant Redevelopment Roadmap](#). These tools have helped numerous communities, such as the communities surrounding the closed [Shenango Coke Plant outside of Pittsburgh](#), navigate the transition away from coal into other productive endeavors by adapting lessons learned from other communities to their specific circumstances. We continue to build and share tools as our knowledge base in this subject area continues to grow.

Our goal-focused tasks include:

- Community, Stakeholder, and Current Conditions Assessment
- Policy and Program Research from other States and Regions
- Facilitation, Education, and Engagement
- Collation of Feedback and Creation of Guiding Principles and Priorities
- Final Report and Communications Strategy

Interested in partnering to provide a more economically diverse and stable future for all Pennsylvanians?

Contact us

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