

# JUST TRANSITION FUND 2020

## Grant Summary Report

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The Just Transition Fund is on a mission to create equitable economic opportunity for the frontline communities and workers hardest hit by the transition away from coal. **In the places most economically disadvantaged by the energy transition, we work to build resilient communities by advancing solutions that are equitable, inclusive, and low-carbon.** Guided by a belief in the power of communities, the Fund leverages public and private resources, advances learning, and guides policy change to accelerate and scale a just transition—from the ground up.

Since our inception, we have leveraged more than \$120M in public funding and helped create over 2,000 family-sustaining jobs and 380 new businesses, train 6,500 low-income workers for jobs in sustainable sectors, and helped families save more than \$23M in energy costs.

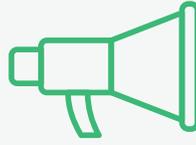
## In 2020, the Just Transition Fund committed \$2,167,500 in grants.

We prioritized support for community-based organizations that share our goals and are firmly rooted in our priority regions: Eastern Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, Southern West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, Arizona (Four Corners Region), Colorado (Western Slope), Montana (Colstrip), Central Minnesota, Ohio (Ohio River Valley), and Southern Illinois. Our grants supported the three below components of transition.



### Community economic and workforce development

We funded innovative efforts to create high-road jobs, build local wealth, and improve the economic conditions of workers and marginalized community members.



### Policy

We supported initiatives to advance local, state, and federal transition-related policies, as well as policies that create economic opportunity in key sectors.



### Planning and capacity

We supported nascent community planning efforts and helped communities access specialized expert resources and apply for federal grants.

## In response to COVID-19, we also expanded and re-launched our rapid response grantmaking as the Economic Resilience and Recovery Fund.

The pandemic created significant financial and operational challenges for many of our community-based partners, on top of the deep economic stress already faced by coal communities. The ensuing economic downturn also accelerated the pace of closures, leaving communities little time to plan. We made rapid-response grants, consistent with the strategies above, to address the urgent needs and opportunities below.



Advocating for economic transition in federal stimulus relief packages.



Seeding community transition planning projects necessitated by unanticipated closures.



Providing direct community relief and supporting programmatic responses to the pandemic.

## A complete list of 2020 grants follows.



# COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

## Appalachian Sustainable Development

Abingdon, VA  
\$15,000

Appalachian Sustainable Development's (ASD) mission is to transition Appalachia to a more resilient economy and a healthier population by supporting local agriculture, exploring new economic opportunities, and connecting people to healthy food. With Just Transition Fund support, ASD will implement the Groundwork workforce program and provide wrap-around services for participants.

## Coalfield Development

Wayne, WV  
\$150,000

Coalfield Development addresses the acute lack of jobs and economic diversity in West Virginia coalfield communities by committing to a just and equitable transition via holistic workforce training. With Just Transition Fund support, Coalfield will expand its Workforce Readiness and Professional Success workforce training program to train 50 workers over the grant period and develop two new training centers in southern West Virginia.

## Colorado Farm & Food Alliance

Paonia, CO  
\$35,000

Colorado Farm & Food Alliance (COFFA) builds capacity within the local farm and food industry in order to: support and enhance cooperation, best practices, and market opportunities; work for a more sustainable food system; and, elevate farm and food stakeholders as climate change and conservation leaders. With Just Transition Fund support, COFFA will develop local food networks in three rural counties in order to strengthen economic resiliency and food security. expansion of local food networks to strengthen economic resiliency and food security.

## Colorado Farm & Food Alliance

Paonia, CO  
\$7,500

Colorado Farm & Food Alliance (COFFA) builds capacity within the local farm and food industry in order to: support and enhance cooperation, best practices, and market opportunities; work for a more sustainable food system; and, elevate farm and food stakeholders as climate change and conservation leaders. With Just Transition Fund support, COFFA will launch their new Just Good Food initiative.

## Community Farm Alliance

Berea, KY  
\$7,500

Community Farm Alliance promotes family-scale agriculture in Kentucky's communities through organizing cooperation among rural and urban citizens. Just Transition Fund funding will support CFA's Kentucky Black Farmer Fund, which supports Black farmers disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic's economic effects and face barriers in accessing relief.

## Generation West Virginia

Charleston, WV  
\$150,000

Generation West Virginia (GWV) is a statewide organization dedicated to attracting, retaining, and advancing young talent in West Virginia. With Just Transition Fund support, GWV will expand its two holistic workforce development programs—the Impact Fellowship and NewForce—to create more jobs and career pathways in growing, diverse sectors in West Virginia. The Impact Fellowship creates new entry-level jobs that allow people to stay, return home, or come to West Virginia for the first time. NewForce is an employer-driven, six-month technology skills training program addressing the worker skill mismatch that is limiting new economic growth in the state.

## Mountain Association

Berea, KY  
\$100,000

The Mountain Association (previously known as MACED) works to create economic opportunity and support the sustainable use of natural resources in Kentucky and Central Appalachia. With Just Transition Fund support, the Mountain Association will continue its work to strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems, organize the grassroots in frontline transition communities, and expand the clean energy sector in coalfield communities.

## Native Renewables

Oakland, CA  
\$100,000

Native Renewables catalyzes clean energy for Native American homes and communities by building partnerships, seeking cost-effective solutions to reduce fossil fuel use, and supporting local economic development and technical capacity building. With Just Transition Fund support, Native Renewables will continue their Solar Workforce Development Program, which provides solar and electrical job training held on the Navajo and Hopi reservations. The training provides both in-classroom and hands-on learning of energy basics, photovoltaics, and battery storage, preparing Native American solar installers to build and maintain on-grid and off-grid systems.

## Natural Capital Investment Fund

Shepherdstown, WV  
\$50,000

Natural Capital Investment Fund (NCIF) advances sustainable development in economically distressed areas by providing affordable, flexible capital and advisory services to small and emerging businesses. NCIF advances economic diversification and the transition to a new economy in Central Appalachia by expanding access to capital as well as capacity and field building that promotes entrepreneurship. With Just Transition Fund support, NCIF will provide a combination of capital and targeted technical assistance to facilitate the growth of locally-owned businesses, mitigate risk for their bank partners, and help the businesses maximize the impact of the capital.

## Plenty Doors Community Development Corporation

Crow Agency, MT  
\$40,000

Plenty Doors Community Development Corporation (PDCDC) promotes economic development, individual and community capacity building, business development, preservation of culture and food sovereignty for communities on the Crow Reservation and surrounding counties. With Just Transition Fund support, they will create a workforce training program for the Crow Tribe and community.

## Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning, Inc.

Montrose, CO  
\$25,000

Region 10 League for Economic Assistance and Planning, Inc. (Region 10) serves as a Council of Governments and US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's designated planning organization for the Region 10 Development District in Colorado. Serving six counties, Region 10 has provided leadership, capacity, and technical assistance in supporting communities, diversifying the regional economy, and working with governments to meet community needs. With Just Transition Fund support, Region 10 will continue the development and implementation of a small business toolkit for city governments to help attract small businesses, and continue their broadband infrastructure program.

## Robert C. Byrd Institute, Marshall University

Huntington, WV  
\$25,000

The Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) at Marshall University in West Virginia provides training in manufacturing and entrepreneurship through their popular welding program. With Just Transition Fund support, RCBI will create a new welding training site to increase the number of trainees served and meet demand for their RCBI Welding Technology program.

## **Rural Action**

The Plains, OH  
\$75,000

Rural Action is a community development organization working to build a more just economy in Appalachian Ohio by developing the region's assets in environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable ways. With Just Transition Fund support, Rural Action will expand its agricultural entrepreneurship program designed to connect beginning farmers with wraparound services—peer-to-peer education and networks, business planning, a no-barrier food hub marketplace to sell their products, and micro capital—in order to grow their farm and forest businesses.

## **Sprouting Farms**

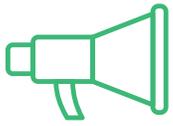
Talcott, WV  
\$30,000

Sprouting Farms supports economic transition in Central Appalachia by scaling up sustainable agriculture and economic development programs to create jobs in coal-impacted communities. With Just Transition Fund support, Sprouting Farms will expand its workforce and educational programming for beginning farmers and food-industry careers. In addition, the organization will make infrastructure upgrades at the main warehouse of the Turnrow Appalachian Farm Collective, an online food marketplace connecting local producers to consumers across southern West Virginia.

## **Tolani Lake Enterprises**

Winslow, AZ  
\$75,000

Tolani Lake Enterprises' (TLE) mission is to cultivate healthy, safe, and prosperous communities by strengthening food, water, and economic systems for Native communities. TLE will serve as the fiscal sponsor for the Dine and Hopi Economic Transition Project. With Just Transition Fund support, TLE will organize community leaders to implement regional strategy around tribal transition challenges, hold leadership strategy sessions and projects, and support culture and tourism-based tribal business ventures.



# POLICY GRANTS

## Appalachian Citizens' Law Center

Whitesburg, KY  
\$25,000

The Appalachian Citizens' Law Center (ALCLC) is a nonprofit law firm that fights for justice in the coalfields by representing coal miners and their families on issues of black lung and mine safety. They also work with grassroots groups and individuals to protect the land and people from misuse and degradation caused by extractive industries. With Just Transition Fund support, ALCLC will advance just transition policy initiatives in Kentucky and at the national level.

## Appalachian Voices

Charlottesville, VA  
\$50,000

Appalachian Voices brings people together to protect the land, air, and water of Central and southern Appalachia and advance a just transition to a generative and equitable clean energy economy. In Southwest Virginia, the organization advances coal community transition through solar energy development and state-level policy reform. With Just Transition Fund support, Appalachian Voices will advocate for additional state policy reforms, including mechanisms to support communities affected by fossil fuel plant closures and expanded support for Southwest Virginia's solar energy sector.

## Center for Coalfield Justice

Washington, PA  
\$50,000

The Center for Coalfield Justice (CCJ) is an environmental justice organization in Southwest Pennsylvania. Their mission is to improve policy and regulations for the oversight of fossil fuel extraction and use; to educate, empower, and organize coalfield residents; and to protect public and environmental health. With Just Transition Fund support, CCJ will work at the state level to help develop and advocate for just transition policy in Pennsylvania and work at the local level in Greene County to develop a transition plan to diversify their local economy.

## Center for Coalfield Justice

Washington, PA  
\$15,000

The Center for Coalfield Justice (CCJ) is an environmental justice organization in Southwest Pennsylvania. Their mission is to improve policy and regulations for the oversight of fossil fuel extraction and use; to educate, empower, and organize coalfield residents; and to protect public and environmental health. With Just Transition Fund support, CCJ will work with the National Economic Transition platform planning team to engage in communications opportunities, and to educate state-level leaders and communities.

## Coalfield Development

Wayne, WV  
\$15,000

Coalfield Development addresses the acute lack of jobs and economic diversity in West Virginia coalfield communities by committing to a just and equitable transition via holistic workforce training. With Just Transition Fund support, Coalfield Development will promote the community-based solutions and strategies set forth in the National Economic Transition platform.

## Colorado Fiscal Institute

Denver, CO  
\$30,000

The Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI) provides credible, independent and accessible information and analysis of fiscal and economic issues facing Colorado. These resources inform policy debates and contribute to sound decisions that improve the well-being of individuals and communities. CFI works with community partners to build a tax code that raises the money necessary to implement policy and build an inclusive and productive economy. With Just Transition Fund support, CFI will develop a list of revenue options for the Just Transition Cash Fund for the state's newly formed Just Transition Office.

## Conservation Minnesota

Minneapolis, MN  
\$40,000

Conservation Minnesota advocates for clean energy policies, water cleanup, and habitat protection in the state. They helped pass the 2008 Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the State Constitution, and produced the only comprehensive analysis of the state conservation budget. During the 2020 legislative session, Conservation Minnesota was successful in passing legislation that created a grant program for economic development in base load power plant host communities. With Just Transition Fund support, Conservation Minnesota will work to expand this legislation to provide further financial, job creation and economic development support to communities.

## Generation West Virginia

Charleston, WV  
\$15,000

Generation West Virginia (GWV) is a statewide organization dedicated to attracting, retaining, and advancing young talent in West Virginia. With Just Transition Fund support, GWV will aid the efforts of the National Economic Transition platform through continued education on issues within the platform, stakeholder engagement, and communications.

## Mountain Association

Berea, KY  
\$15,000

The Mountain Association (previously known as MACED) invests in people and places in Eastern Kentucky to advance a just transition to a new economy, one that is more diverse, sustainable, equitable, and resilient. With Just Transition Fund support, the Mountain Association will promote solutions and strategies in Central Appalachia needed to build a new economy as outlined in the National Economic Transition platform.

## RECLAIM Coalition

Minneapolis, MN  
\$200,000

The RECLAIM Coalition—composed of Appalachian Voices, Appalachian Citizens’ Law Center, and the Blue Green Alliance—seeks the passage of the RECLAIM Act and other federal policies necessary for a just transition for coal communities. The RECLAIM Act would promote economic revitalization in these communities through increased investment in reclamation projects on abandoned mine land. With Just Transition Fund support, the RECLAIM Coalition will continue advocacy for the RECLAIM Act, the Abandoned Mine Land fee, and extension of the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund’s excise tax rate—measures critical to sustainable, long-term federal support for reclamation and black lung benefits.

## San Juan Citizens Alliance

Durango, CO  
\$25,000

San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA) is a community-based organization with 1,000 members primarily in Northwest New Mexico and Southwest Colorado. For over a decade, SJCA has advocated for transition from a regional economy in Northwest New Mexico focused on fossil fuels to one that embraces the region’s plentiful solar resources, abundant transmission capacity, and quality of life. With Just Transition Fund support, SJCA will mobilize community participation and ensure transition funds and worker assistance are effectively utilized and accessed by community-led groups.

## SCALE, Inc.

Abingdon, VA  
\$7,500

SCALE, Inc. builds healthier, more sustainable local economies and communities. They work across the US, and occasionally beyond, with local leaders, farmers, entrepreneurs and others to increase their economic diversity and resilience, primarily in rural communities. More recently, SCALE has begun working with local communities in Kentucky and Virginia to build their capacity to overcome the ‘urban-rural divide’ through improved understanding of the underlying causes, along with better strategies to overcome this problem. With Just Transition Fund support, SCALE will continue to address the rural-urban divide to improve rural development policies and investment strategies.

## Solar United Neighbors

Washington, DC  
\$65,000

Solar United Neighbors (SUN) works to create a clean and equitable energy system that directs control and benefits back to local communities. The group has a strong track record of working on the ground with communities to advocate for state and local policies that advance solar adoption in Appalachian and the Midwest. With Just Transition Fund support, SUN will continue its grassroots advocacy campaign to legalize on-site solar power purchase agreements in West Virginia, which would expand access to, and investment in, solar energy for communities across the state.

## Tolani Lake Enterprises

Winslow, AZ  
\$15,000

Tolani Lake Enterprises (TLE) cultivates healthy, safe, and prosperous communities by strengthening food, water, and economic systems for their Native communities, and promoting Native cultural knowledge in the Little Colorado River watershed. Just Transition Fund support will allow TLE to help educate tribal leadership on the National Economic Transition platform principles.

## Western Organization of Resource Councils

Billings, MT  
\$80,000

The Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) is a network of eight community-based organizations in seven western states that advances the vision of a democratic, sustainable and just society through community action. With Just Transition Fund support, WORC—alongside BlueGreen Alliance and Appalachian Voices—will work to elevate components of the National Economic Transition platform with federal decision-makers and the media.

## Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project

Billings, MT  
\$50,000

The Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project advocates for comprehensive reclamation policies that build on the RECLAIM Act and Abandoned Mine Land fee reauthorization. The organization targets administrative changes designed to reclaim mine and power plant sites in order to protect land, water and public health, and to maximize local reclamation jobs. With Just Transition Fund support, they will advance policies to ensure effective reclamation of coal mines and coal ash ponds, provide good jobs for affected coal communities, and lay the foundation for more sustainable economic development.



# PLANNING AND CAPACITY GRANTS

## **Adams County Community Foundation Inc.**

West Union, OH  
\$5,000

The Adams County Community Foundation was created in response to the devastating losses of jobs and tax base resulting from the closure of the Stuart and Killen coal plants in Ohio. With Just Transition Fund support, they will develop a website and marketing materials for the organization's vocational training program.

## **Appalachian Voices**

Charlottesville, VA  
\$15,000

Appalachian Voices brings people together to protect the land, air, and water of Central and southern Appalachia, and advance a just transition to an equitable clean energy economy. In Southwest Virginia, the organization leads efforts to advance coal community transition through solar energy development and state-level policy reform. With Just Transition Fund support, Appalachian Voices will bolster community outreach and education, host community forums with impacted stakeholders, and compile feedback of community and workers' needs in order to support the development of a just transition plan.

## **Center for Energy and Environment**

Minneapolis, MN  
\$15,000

The Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) discovers and deploys the most effective energy solutions that strengthen the economy and improve the environment for a healthy, low-carbon economy. With Just Transition Fund support, CEE will convene and facilitate a stakeholder process for the community surrounding Minnesota Power's Clay Boswell coal plant to develop a community transition plan.

## **Clean Air Coalition of Western New York**

Buffalo, NY  
\$60,000

Clean Air Coalition of Western New York (CAC) is an environmental justice membership-based organization located in Western New York. With Just Transition Fund support, CAC will organize a campaign to reform and strengthen the New York State remediation regulatory process. These changes would impact thousands of contaminated coal plant sites across the state, many located in communities of color and poor and working class white communities, including the former Huntley Generating Station site in Tonawanda, New York.

## **Clean Air Coalition of Western New York**

Buffalo, NY  
\$10,000

Clean Air Coalition of Western New York (CAC) is an environmental justice membership-based organization located in Western New York. With Just Transition Fund support, CAC will retain a professional geologist to oversee remediation efforts for former coal sites in Western New York.

## **Delta Institute**

Chicago, IL  
\$27,500

Delta Institute is a nonprofit organization with a mission to support and collaborate with communities to improve their environment, increase economic opportunity, and rebuild neighborhood vitality to promote the health and well-being of residents. With Just Transition Fund support, Delta Institute will work with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to create a statewide outreach and engagement strategy that will focus on coal-impacted communities and stakeholders. They are working to ensure that input from the people and places most impacted by the transition away from coal inform key decision makers regarding the allocation of revenue from PA's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative program.

## Friends of the Cheat

Kingwood, WV  
\$50,000

Friends of the Cheat (FOC) works to restore, preserve, and promote the outstanding natural qualities of the Cheat River watershed in northern West Virginia. The organization has experience promoting community-based development centered on the region's natural assets. With Just Transition Fund support, FOC will build organizational capacity and structures for the new Mountaineer Trail Network Authority, a state-designated authority designed to promote the outdoor recreation sector based on a multi-county trail network in northern West Virginia.

## Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis

Lakewood, OH  
\$15,000

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) conducts research and analyses on financial and economic issues related to energy and the environment. IEEFA has been working closely with community leaders from the Navajo Nation who have made important progress in accelerating the transition from coal to clean energy. With Just Transition Fund support, IEEFA will provide hand sanitizer to COVID-19 affected Navajo communities.

## Labor Network for Sustainability

Takoma Park, MD  
\$20,000

The Labor Network for Sustainability (LNS) helps labor become a central player in the movement to address climate change, economic instability, and political deadlock. With Just Transition Fund support, LNS will implement the Just Transition Listening Project to engage workers and communities in dialogue, strategy, and action.

## Native Renewables

Oakland, CA  
\$15,000

Native Renewables is a Navajo-led nonprofit that addresses the urgent energy and other needs of especially remote households, businesses and organizations of the Navajo and Hopi Nations. They promote fast, frugal, smart, green, and locally-appropriate projects and investments to reduce fossil fuel use, support local economies, promote health and high quality of life and grow technical capacity. With Just Transition Fund support, Native Renewables will bring solar lights to 400 Navajo families without power.

## Northern Plains Resource Council

Billings, MT  
\$50,000

The Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC) is a grassroots conservation group that organizes Montanans to protect their water quality, family farms and ranches, and unique quality of life. They have been instrumental in advocating for thorough cleanup of coal ash ponds at the closing Colstrip coal plant, using local and tribal labor. Their research papers on the job creation potential of remediation efforts have been widely circulated in other communities facing similar challenges. With Just Transition Fund support, NPRC will see through to completion the job creation potential of Colstrip ash pond remediation.

## Powder River Basin Resource Council

Sheridan, WY  
\$25,000

The Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC) strives to preserve agricultural heritage and promote the responsible use of and conservation of natural resources in Wyoming. They are working to ensure Wyoming is preparing for its economic transition as a result of the steep decline in coal mining and proposed closure of coal plants. With Just Transition Fund support, PRBRC will secure local and statewide support for transition job training and employment plans for coal mine workers and their spouses at Kemmerer and Jim Bridger mines.

## Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition

Charlottesville, VA  
\$75,000

The Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition—composed of Appalachian Voices, Coalfield Development, and Rural Action—partners with state and regional development agencies to identify mine reclamation projects with the potential to drive economic and social impacts. A central focus of the group’s work includes helping projects secure funds from the Abandoned Mine Land ilot Program and other sources. With Just Transition Fund support, the Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition will continue identifying and supporting innovative reclamation projects, advance policies affecting mine reclamation, and support a community of practice for just transition principles in land restoration and economic diversification.

## Tó Nizhóní Ání

Kykotsmovi, AZ  
\$75,000

To Nizhoni Ani (TNA) is a community grassroots organization based on Black Mesa. Their mission is to preserve and protect the water resources of Black Mesa through strategies such as local solar projects, workforce training, water planning and water projects. With Just Transition Fund support, TNA will build capacity for transition work on the Navajo Nation and provide emergency relief support related to the COVID pandemic.