



## **Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities (BRECC) Initiative**



STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

- **Advocate county priorities** in federal policymaking
- **Promote exemplary county policies** and practices
- **Nurture leadership skills** and expand knowledge networks
- **Optimize county and taxpayer resources** and cost savings, and
- **Enrich the public's understanding** of county government.





**1. About BRECC**

**2. Outcomes and  
takeaways**

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**3. Continued Engagement and Next Steps**





# Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities (BRECC) Initiative



BUILDING RESILIENT  
ECONOMIES *in*  
COAL COMMUNITIES





BUILDING RESILIENT  
ECONOMIES *in*  
COAL COMMUNITIES

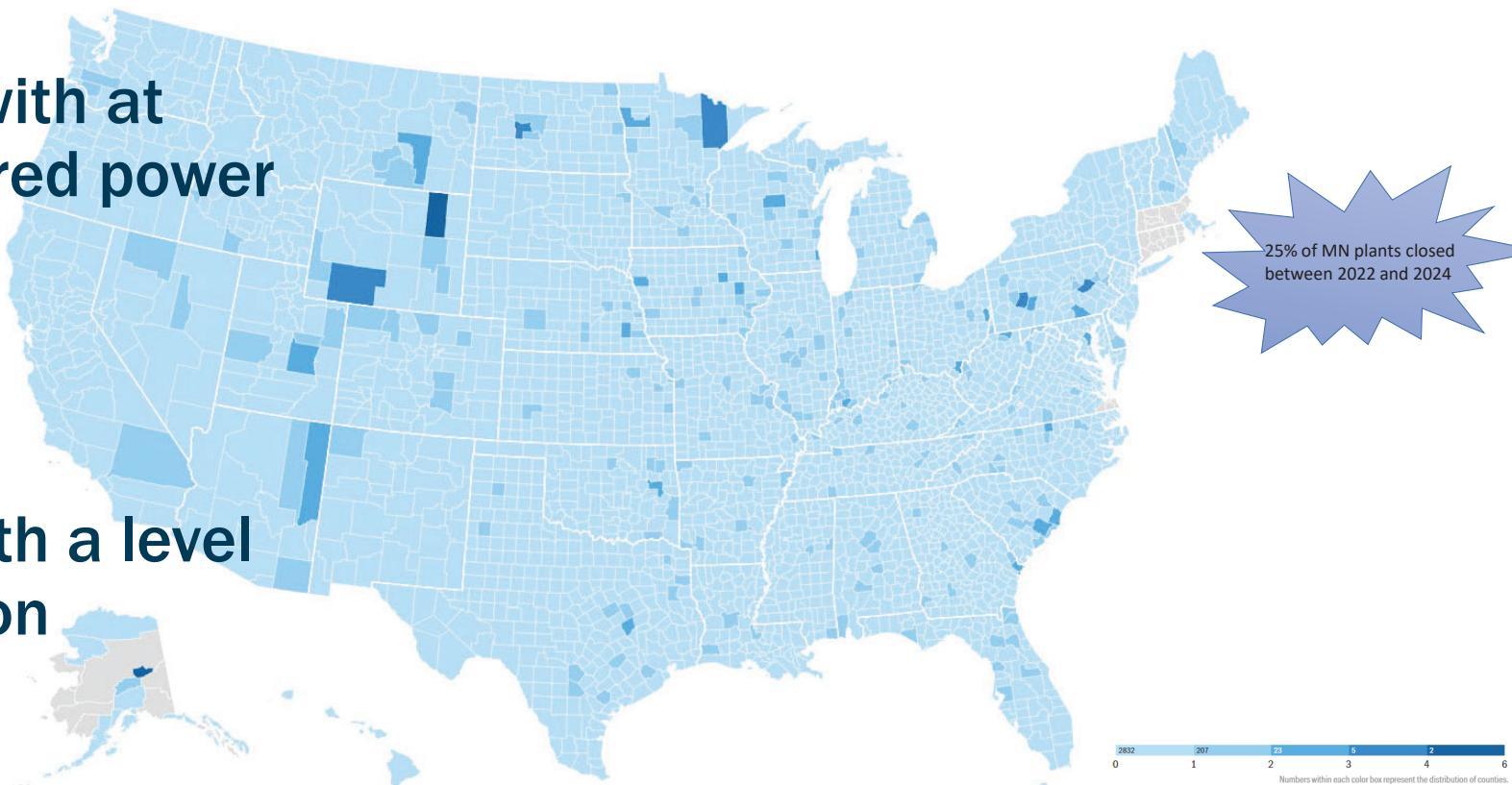
## BRECC Background

230+ counties with at least one coal-fired power plant

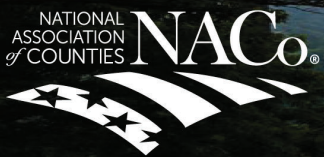
125 counties with a level of coal production

## 2022 TOTAL COAL-FUELED POWER PLANTS

Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Energy Information Administration Data







NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION  
of COUNTIES **NACo**®  
BUILDING RESILIENT  
ECONOMIES *in*  
COAL COMMUNITIES

## BRECC Background

### The BRECC National Network

- Forum and peer network open to all community leaders

### The Commitment Coalition

- Network of 20 coal community leaders actively engaged with deepening knowledge on economic resilience

### The Action Challenge

- Technical assistance program that worked with 15 communities over two years to advance economic revitalization and diversification projects

Infrastructure  
Investment



Strategic  
Planning



Industry  
Diversification



Workforce  
Development



Community  
Revitalization





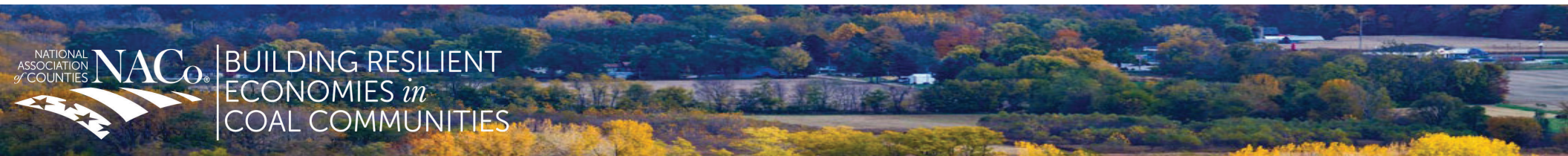


# BRECC Outcomes and Resources



BUILDING RESILIENT  
ECONOMIES *in*  
COAL COMMUNITIES

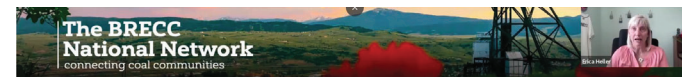




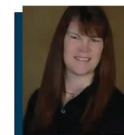
## BRECC Outcomes and Resources

- National Network Webinar Series
  - 12 one-hour webinars for economic diversification strategies
  - Next webinar is June 25, 2025
    - Register [HERE](#) to learn about the BRECC Online Toolkit.

June 25, 2024: How Coal Communities and Utility Companies are Working Together



### Today's Panelists



Hon. Melody Villard  
Moffat County Commissioner



Janet Dean  
Public Affairs Manager, APS



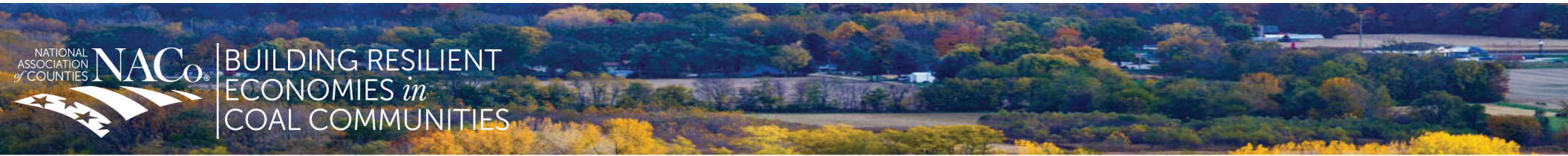
Alexis Sulentic  
Senior Manager, EEI



Powerful Partnerships / July 25, 2024





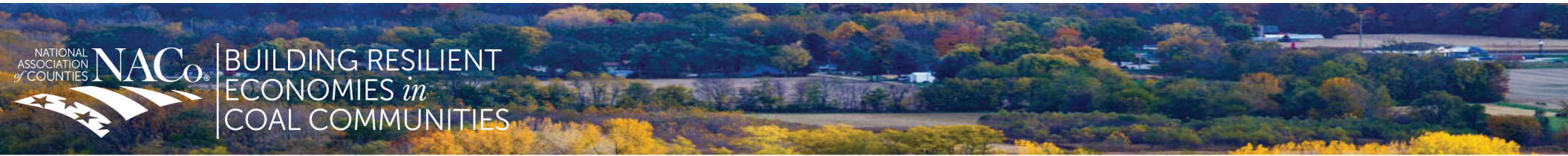


## **BRECC Outcomes and Resources**

- **BRECC Online Toolkit – June 25, 2025**
  - An online, ‘how-to’ guide for coal communities looking to diversify their economies

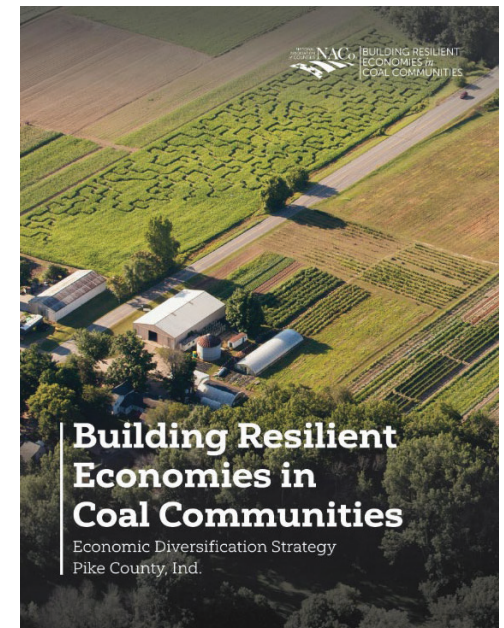






## **BRECC Outcomes and Resources**

- **Action Challenge Economic Diversification Plans**
  - **15 Example Economic Diversification Plans from Coal-Impacted Communities**
- **Access these resources at [naco.org/brecc](https://naco.org/brecc)**







# NACo Clean Energy Programming



## NACo Clean Energy Programming: Rural Energy Academy

### • Potential Rural Energy Academy

- Partnering with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for a Rural Energy Academy
- Kicking off at the end of the year the program would provide:
  1. Online resources and virtual engagement
  2. One-time site visits to tour different energy communities
  3. A structured Peer cohort group



*Rural county leaders participated in a listening session on clean energy priorities at 2025 NACo Legislative Conference*



## NACo Clean Energy Programming: SolSmart

### • Minnesota Designees:

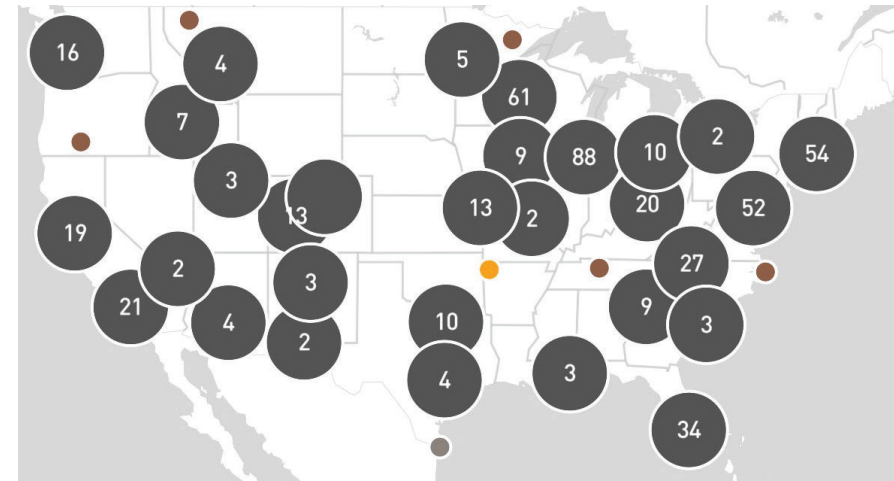
#### Silver:

- Chisago County
- Clay County
- Stearns County



#### Bronze:

- Carlton County
- Pine County
- Ramsey County



### Achievements:

- Online permitting checklists
- Cross-train inspection and permitting staff
- Allowed solar by-right accessory use in all zones
- Reviewed local zoning codes and identified restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development





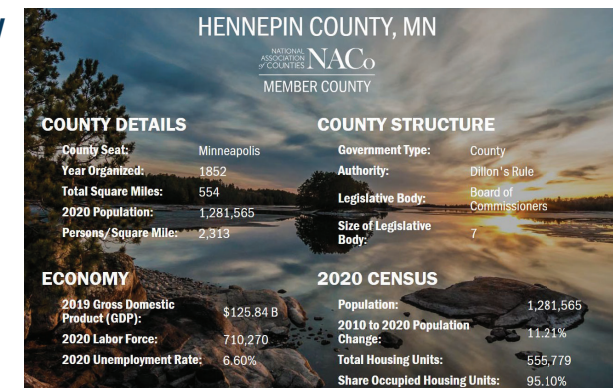
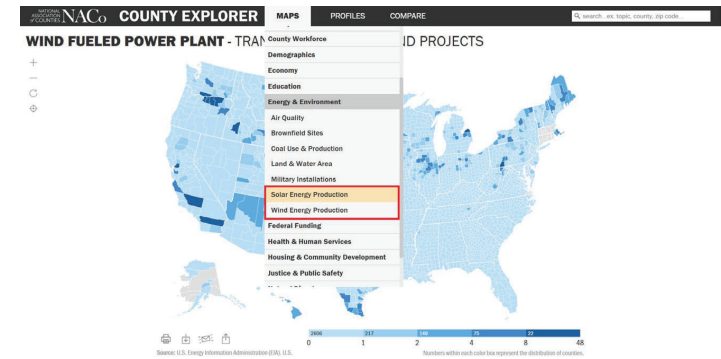
## NACo Clean Energy Tools

- **Current Energy Related Tool**

- County Explorer- Solar Plants, Solar MW Output
- County Explorer- Wind Plants, Wind MW Output

- **Future Energy Related Tool**

- Energy profiles
- County Explorer- Battery Energy Storage Plants, Battery Energy Storage MW



# Clean Energy Initiatives

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