**Name of Project**

Outreach and scholarship related to transition assistance for coal workers and their communities

**Final Report on the Project**

**September 1, 2017**

This project was part of the Brookings Carbon Tax Initiative and builds on earlier work supported by the Alex C. Walker Foundation and other funders. This work included providing guidance to policymakers on:

(1) the depth and breadth of projected declines in U.S. coal production and the adverse outcomes for workers and coalfield communities;

(2) the implications for state and local governments that rely on coal-related revenue;

(3) how a carbon tax could provide the resources necessary to help coal economy areas transition, including via retirement benefits, mine reclamation, job training, economic diversification and community redevelopment , and infrastructure investment.

In this project, senior fellow Adele Morris continued her outreach on the implications for projected declines in U.S. coal production on coal workers and their communities and documenting the potential role for a carbon tax to fund assisting their economic transition.

This grant supported her engagement with Congressional staff on their designs for carbon tax legislation. For example, Morris discussed coal worker and transition benefits with Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) and his staff in advance of the recent release of his carbon tax bill. She also commented on the bill, including emphasizing the value of coal community benefits, at an event at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). Coverage of that event appears here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2017/07/27/the-energy-202-what-do-sheldon-whitehouse-and-myron-ebell-have-in-common-a-conservative-think-tank-s-panel/5978ddfb30fb04367954328e/?utm_term=.df51441d8bc0>

Morris also spoke with a staffer with Representative Larson’s office about their draft carbon tax bill, including how the revenue from the carbon tax might be used to benefit effectively coal-reliant workers and communities. They discussed the design and funding of retraining, health, pension, infrastructure, and other potential benefits for coalfield communities.

In August 2016, Morris published a paper describing the downsides to state governments of relying heavily on revenue from fossil fuel production. The paper is available here: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-challenges-of-state-reliance-on-revenue-from-fossil-fuel-production/>

In addition to the event at AEI, Morris spoke about coal workers and carbon pricing at a number of other public fora, including an event at the Cato Institute.

During this grant period, Morris’ spoke regularly with journalists about how the urgency of transition assistance to coal workers, whose industry is facing downturns from a variety of market and policy forces. Examples of her quotes and other media references to her work related to coal appear here:

* <http://www.roanoke.com/townnews/economics/virginia-coal-is-rebounding-but-is-donald-trump-to-thank/article_c330c251-9108-536d-8c48-f1c17ec602fa.html>
* <http://www.cnn.com/2017/07/07/politics/rick-perry-supply-demand/>
* <http://www.foxbusiness.com/features/2017/06/19/coals-decline-spreads-far-beyond-appalachia.html>
* <https://www.seeker.com/trumps-pledge-to-revive-coal-looks-doomed-but-us-oil-exports-are-boomi-2297237170.html>
* <https://www.forbes.com/sites/beltway/2017/02/14/what-should-government-do-with-carbon-tax-revenues/#2b3f0eb82226>
* <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/2264934-trump-plans-to-make-america-dominant-energy-player/>
* <https://eos.org/articles/policy-experts-debate-trump-energy-plan>
* <https://www.forbes.com/sites/beltway/2016/10/06/lessons-for-the-u-s-from-canadas-ambitious-carbon-tax-plan/#1a84cebc1928>
* <http://www.insidesources.com/new-mexico-flaring-rule/>

Outcomes of the Project

As described above, the outcome of this grant and allied funding for the Brookings Carbon Tax Initiative included a variety of analysis and outreach activities such as:

* Presentations at public events.
* Meetings with policymakers and stakeholders.
* Dissemination of findings through the Brookings website, newsletters, and print and social media.

Project Timeline

* July 1 2016 – Outreach and analysis begins
* June 20, 2017. Grant period ended.