

# The Local Social and Economic Context of Energy Transitions

Hannah Wiseman, Penn State Law



**PennState**

**CELP**

CENTER FOR ENERGY  
LAW AND POLICY

# Global vision, local impacts

Culture, politics, economic history and trajectory

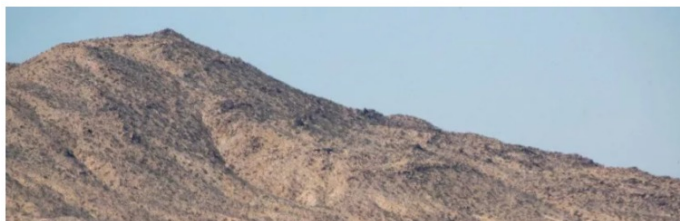
Loss of industry and jobs

Growth of zero-carbon resources



BUSINESS

## California's San Bernardino County slams the brakes on big solar projects



SUBSCRIBERS ARE READING >

OPINION  
L.A. Times electoral endorsements for 2022

CALIFORNIA  
Your guide to California's 2022 primary election

OPINION



World ▾ Business ▾ Legal ▾ Markets ▾ Breakingviews Technology ▾ Investigations More ▾

April 7, 2022  
7:45 AM EDT  
Last Updated 2 months ago

United States

## Special Report: U.S. solar expansion stalled by rural land-use protests

By Nichola Groom

13 minute read



# The many meanings of “transition”

**Preserving coal-fired power plants** in Wyoming—Act No. 74, 2019.

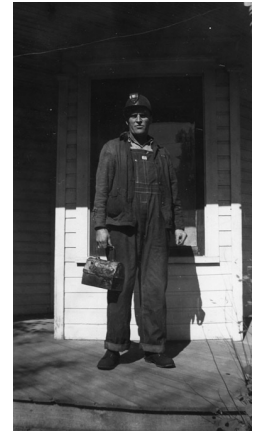
**Re-employing coal miners** from retiring mines in China to train new coal-miners (3-D media).

Building approximately **11,600 acres of solar farms** in North Carolina.

**Raising coal output targets** in Indonesia.

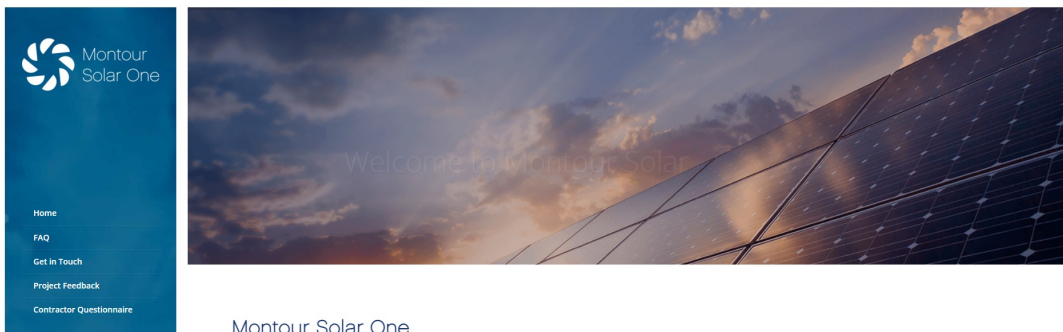
# Local culture and social circumstances

Sheridan, Wyoming: “Coal town” since 1890s facing coal mine bankruptcies and closures.



<https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/coal-camps-sheridan-county>

Montour County, Pennsylvania: Agricultural community facing proposed utility-scale solar farm. “Unprecedented” conflict—concerns about impacts on farmland, hunting, runoff.



Montour Solar One



# Local resources

Building from existing resources and leveraging new ones.

Rural coal communities such as **Sheridan, Wyoming:**

Maintaining airport service

Emphasizing quality of life for new employees

Expanding broadband

**Essen, Germany:** Coal to “European Green Capital” (Douglas and Harrahill)

## Sheridan High-Tech Business Park Nearly Full

June 6, 2022 Kevin Koile



Kevin Koile - Sheridan Media

<https://sheridanmedia.com/news/106907/sheridan-high-tech-business-park-nearly-full/>

# Local resources, continued

Sweetwater, Texas: County's taxable value (sales, property, etc.) \$630 million to \$2.5 billion in ten-year period, but declining population.

Need to improve "curb appeal" to attract workers, residents.



**City of Sweetwater trying to bring more chain restaurants, retail**

Jan 24, 2022

**City of Sweetwater trying to bring more chain restaurants, retail**

[Read More](#)

# Local resources, continued

Agrivoltaics (Montour County, PA): Can farmers transition to raising sheep and turkeys?



Sheep from Owens Family Farm at Susquehanna University Solar Project (photo credit – E2)

## Dual Uses of Agriculture and Solar

PA Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee  
Hearing  
September 21, 2021



Kling Family Turkey Farm, Sunbury, PA



Jack Copus  
Partner, SGC Power LLC  
Coalition Member RW4PA



RENEWABLES WORK FOR PA

## HARVESTING THE SUN

ON-FARM OPPORTUNITIES  
AND CHALLENGES FOR  
SOLAR DEVELOPMENT

July 2021

Anuj Krishnamurthy,  
Oscar Serpell

Kleinman Center  
for Energy Policy

# Economic factors

School revenue: 50% of Hayden, Colorado's recent School District bond paid by coal-fired power plant.

Job quality and pay: NMA 2014—average wage for all U.S. coal miners \$82,058.





# Economics: Australia's Hazelwood plant and redeployment

November 2016—announced closure of Hazelwood brown coal power stations.

Power companies, union, and government negotiated worker redeployment to still-operating coal-fired plants.

Other workers retained for site rehabilitation.

\$22 million in immediate financial assistance to the workforce.

# Tools

**Government support (not just financial):** EU Just Transition Mechanism, Just Transition Platform

**Host community agreements/community benefits agreements**

**Worker and community engagement/involvement:** Earthworker Cooperative Australia; North-Rhine Westphalia worker, community, employer, government (Douglas & Harrahill)

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT  
CASTLE WIND MORRO BAY OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROJECT**

This COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is entered into as of November 29, 2018 (the "Effective Date"), by and between the CITY OF MORRO BAY, a California municipal corporation, ("City") and CASTLE WIND LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, ("Castle Wind"). Each of City and Castle Wind are sometimes referred to below individually as a "Party" or, collectively, as the "Parties."