



## **Turnaround: A Model for Restoring Jobs and Economic Growth to Distressed Communities in Appalachia and Beyond**

*Two new reports from the Ohio River Valley Institute explain why natural gas development failed to deliver jobs and prosperity to Appalachia and how the region can learn from the experience and implement a new economic development model that can.*

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### **Summary:**

By determining the causes of the natural gas industry's failure to deliver jobs and prosperity, ORVI researchers were able to identify the essential attributes of economic development models that can succeed. They also found a real-life case where such a model is in place and producing compelling results.

#### Destined to Fail: Why the Appalachian Natural Gas Boom Failed to Deliver Jobs & Prosperity and What It Teaches Us

Why hundreds of billions of dollars in natural gas investment couldn't bring jobs to Appalachia and how the region can get a better deal than the one it's getting now

- The natural gas boom turned out to be a bad deal for gas-producing counties because a tiny fraction of the money invested in and earned from gas stayed in local economies.
- The reasons—natural gas doesn't require many workers; relies heavily on out-of-state investors, suppliers, and workers, who repatriate investment and proceeds; and damages quality of life and the business environment—are structural and aren't correctable by added expansion.
- States and localities can make the bad deal better by enacting policies that (1) keep more of the money in local economies and (2) mitigate the damage to peoples' health and quality of life.

#### The Centralia Model for Economic Transition in Distressed Communities

A real-life model of successful economic and clean energy transition in a chronically depressed coal town that faced the closures of a coal mine and a power plant, the town's largest employers,

- The natural gas industry's economic shortcomings provide a template for the qualities necessary to make economic transition successful.
- Centralia established a \$55 million transition fund for investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, and education that spurred local job growth, drove complementary investment, and are providing ongoing benefits including utility bill savings, increased disposable incomes, and improved quality of life.
- Despite the closing of the mine and impending retirement of the power plant, Centralia's economy and jobs grew at twice the rate of the nation's in the transition plan's first four years.

With economic stimulus and infrastructure legislation pending in Washington, D.C. these lessons are critical to making sure that any funds that are forthcoming are spent productively and not squandered.

#### **Report Links:**

- Turnaround Landing Page: <https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/turnaround/>
- Report Landing Pages
  - Destined to Fail: <https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/destined-to-fail/>
  - The Centralia Model: <https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/the-centralia-model/>

#### **Hashtags:**

- #Turnaround
- #Centralia
- #EnergyTransition
- #BadDeal
- #DestinedToFail

#### **Sample Social Media Posts:**

- As federal economic stimulus and infrastructure legislation continues to gain speed, a new set of reports from @O\_R\_V\_I provides a road map for successful economic and clean energy transition that could revitalize struggling Appalachian economies.  
#Turnaround <https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/turnaround/>
- A first-of-its-kind set of reports from @O\_R\_V\_I point to a real-life model for #EnergyTransition in Appalachia. Read them here:  
<https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/turnaround/>

- The thriving former coal town of #Centralia, WA provides a real-life model of economic and clean energy transition. A new report from @O\_R\_V\_I explains how Centralia's success could guide energy transition across Appalachia:  
<https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/the-centralia-model/>
- After negotiating a \$55 million transition fund for investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, and education, the former coal town of #Centralia is seeing jobs and GDP grow at twice the national average.  
<https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/the-centralia-model/>
- Discussions of #EnergyTransition have spurred innovative ideas, but little tangible strategy. Now, a new report from @O\_R\_V\_I outlines a real-world example of successful transition—and what it could mean for Appalachia:  
<https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/the-centralia-model/>
- The natural gas boom has been a #BadDeal for Appalachia. A new report from @O\_R\_V\_I describes how fracking has actually hurt local economies—and why things aren't likely to change with added expansion.  
<https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/destined-to-fail/>
- Despite hundreds of billions of dollars in investments, the natural gas boom hasn't brought jobs or economic prosperity to Appalachia. New research from @O\_R\_V\_I explains how the region can make the #BadDeal better:  
<https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/destined-to-fail/>
- Natural gas doesn't require many workers, relies heavily on out-of-state suppliers and labor, and damages quality of life. The fracking boom was #DestinedToFail in Appalachia—but new research from @O\_R\_V\_I shows how the region can make a #BadDeal better. <https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/destined-to-fail/>
- Only a tiny fraction of the hundreds of billions of dollars invested in Appalachian natural gas development stayed in local economies. A new report from @O\_R\_V\_I explains why the fracking boom was #DestinedToFail:  
<https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/destined-to-fail/>

## Graphics:

[Click here to view and download.](#)

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