



Community Benefits Virtual Summit Agenda

Tuesday May 23

11 am - 3:00 pm ET

Thursday, May 25th

11 am - 2:00 pm ET

[Register for this event here](#)

Day Two - Thursday, May 25th

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Keynote Panel: How do we build a bright future for Appalachia while acknowledging our past?

- Moderator: Reverend Jeffrey Allen, Director of WV Council of Churches
- Jay Williams, President and CEO of the Hartford Foundation, Former US. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Former Executive Director of the Federal Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers, Former Mayor of the City of Youngstown, Ohio
- Jean Ambrose, Co-Vice-Chair Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action Coalition, OH and WV
- Zachary Space, President at Sunday Creek Horizons, LLC, former U.S. Representative for Ohio's 18th Congressional District

12:00-12:30 PM: Sharing Tools: Overview of Community Benefit Process

Ioanna Paraskevopoulos, Former Executive Director and Co-founder of Action Tank Cincinnati

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM: Breakout Groups: Dig into the tools, skills, and phases of a successful process

Option 1: Building a Broad Coalition and the Role of Visioning in Creating Authentic Relationships

Facilitator: Joanne Martin, ReImagine Beaver County & Meagan Niebler, Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services

Growing strong and trusting relationships is the spark to community change. It is an ongoing action that takes time and attention to connect with partners and in real and authentic ways. Participants will be introduced to a tool to help them think about how you want to build with neighbors, partners, decision-makers, and community.

Option 2: Methods of Conflict Resolution

Facilitator: Alaa Kamel, Senior Policy Advisor, BlueGreen Alliance

If your group doesn't have conflict, it's not big enough, but done right, conflict can help grow your vision and make your project more impactful. Learn practical skills to approach conflicts which occur. Remind people this can be a messy process - conflicts not just between company and community, but also between someone's sister-in-law on the zoning board.

Option 3: Research and Education to Empower Community Participation

Facilitators: Emily Freeborn, Staff Attorney, Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services

What are the facts and policies you may need to educate and empower local advocates to learn about new projects coming to your area? Learn how to research the companies and policies that will affect those projects, and how you can engage your community in these conversations. These processes aren't transparent - often we don't know about projects until key decisions are made. This session will also cover tools and processes to track entities, including local governments and other agencies, which can alert early in a development process.

Option 4: CBA Negotiation Approaches for Attorneys

Facilitator: Julian Gross, Law Offices of Julian Gross

This session, led by Julian Gross, one of the nation's principal experts on community benefits in land use development and public infrastructure, will focus on sharing information for attorneys and others interested in the process of negotiating these agreements.

Option 5: Opening up Communities That Are Resistant to New Ideas

Facilitator: Erifili Draklellis, Senior Associate, Carbon Free Electricity, RMI

Many community advocates experience frustration with the dynamics between new economic opportunities and long-held political dynamics. Let's discuss how we can open up new conversations, and support these unprecedented efforts towards a sustainable economy. What are some strategies and tactics that have worked to break through despair, stagnation, and old ideas and move forward in a way that is effective with long-term impact?

1:30 PM - 2 PM: Learnings from breakout groups and discussion of what's next.