

# **The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Tops Off a Banner Year of Investment in Energy Communities**

DECEMBER 2021



Interagency Working Group on  
Coal & Power Plant Communities  
& Economic Revitalization

[energycommunities.gov](https://energycommunities.gov)

In one of his first actions in office, President Biden committed to establishing federal leadership in partnership with coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities to create good-paying union jobs and spur economic revitalization in the energy communities and for the workers that have powered this country for more than a century. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provided critical funding to support new and innovative investments in energy communities. The **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**, signed by President Biden on November 15, represents the culmination of a year of historic Administration action to support energy communities hard-hit by shifting energy markets.

This historic investment will catalyze advanced energy manufacturing and clean energy demonstration projects in communities where coal mines or power plants have been shut down, fund the reclamation of abandoned mine lands and orphaned oil and gas wells, expand access to rural broadband, and more. When coupled with the Administration's actions to spur economic revitalization in energy communities, advance carbon capture and permanent sequestration, reduce methane emissions, and strengthen our domestic industrial base and critical supply chains, these historic investments will create millions of good-paying, union jobs in hard-hit energy communities across this country while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, advancing environmental justice, strengthening our global competitiveness, and building a stronger, healthier, and more climate-resilient future for generations of Americans.

## Spurring Economic Revitalization in Energy Communities

During his first week in office, the President established the Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization (IWG) to engage stakeholders, identify key policy actions and barriers, and drive significantly more federal resources to hard-hit energy communities.

In its **Initial Report to the President**, the IWG prioritized 25 communities across the nation for immediate strategic investment and identified \$38 billion in existing Federal programs that could be used to support the economic revitalization of energy communities. Since the release of the initial report, that number jumped to more than \$45 billion in open and planned investment opportunities available today to energy communities. Of those funding opportunities, IWG member agencies have delivered more than \$2.8 billion of investment to these communities thus far, including: **over \$260 million in existing resources mobilized by the Department of the Interior** to support abandoned mine land reclamation; **\$300 million through the Department of Commerce's Coal Communities Commitment** to support community-led economic revitalization, infrastructure investments, and quality jobs in coal communities; **\$167 million of investment in priority energy communities** through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) and the Electric Loan Program; and the **largest-ever package of \$52 million** in grant awards to coal communities through the Appalachian Regional Commission's Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) program.





## PROVIDE 100% BROADBAND IN ENERGY COMMUNITIES



The investments made through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will further the work of the IWG and deliver on its recommendations by:

- Reauthorizing the Appalachian Regional Commission, a key source of capacity building and economic revitalization support for energy communities with \$1 billion over five years, and establishing an Appalachian Regional Energy Hub initiative within the ARC.
- Delivering \$65 billion to ensure that every American has access to reliable high-speed internet through a historic investment in broadband infrastructure deployment—a foundational investment in communities working to build out new industries and entrepreneurship opportunities. The legislation will also help lower prices for internet service and help close the digital divide, so that more Americans can afford internet access.

## Advancing Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration

Earlier this year, the Council on Environmental Quality issued a [Report to Congress](#) describing how carbon capture technology can reduce emissions of carbon and other kinds of pollution while providing well-paying union jobs. The Report also underscores the Administration's commitment to accelerating the responsible development and deployment of CCUS to make it a widely available, increasingly cost-effective, and rapidly scalable climate solution across all industrial sectors. CEQ is finalizing guidance to agencies to accelerate the responsible deployment of CCUS in line with the President's climate, economic, and public health goals.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law directly addresses and makes progress on a number of areas identified for future action in the CEQ CCUS report including:

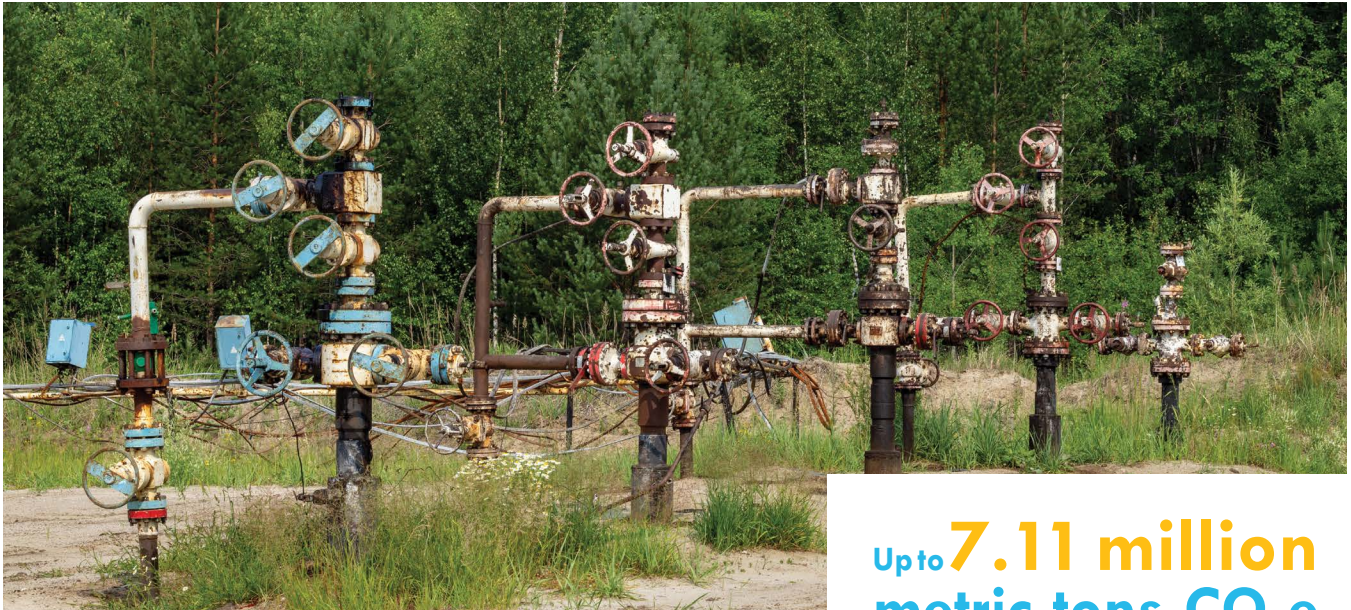
- Establishes and funds CCUS and carbon dioxide removal research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) programs, including carbon capture demonstration and pilot projects and regional direct air capture hubs.
- Provides additional funding for implementation of EPA's Class VI Underground Injection Control Program, to facilitate permitting of CCUS projects and increase staff capacity and training.
- Expands the Carbon Storage Validation and Testing Demonstration Program at the Department of Energy to include a large-scale carbon storage commercialization program to demonstrate the feasibility, site characterization, permitting and construction stages of commercial geologic sequestration projects.
- Establishes the Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation, or CIFIA Program [at the Department of Energy], to provide flexible Federal loans and grants for building carbon dioxide pipelines designed with excess capacity. Such excess capacity is required to enable efficient orderly deployment of CCUS at climate-relevant scales where multiple projects can share pipeline infrastructure.





## Reducing Harmful Methane Emissions

In November, the President issued the [U.S. Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan](#), an ambitious, whole-of-government initiative that uses all available tools—commonsense regulations, catalytic financial incentives, transparency and disclosure of actionable data, and public and private partnerships—to identify and cost-effectively reduce methane emissions from all major sources. The actions laid out in the plan will protect public health, promote U.S. innovation in new technologies, and help employ tens of thousands of skilled workers across the country, especially in energy communities. Specifically, the action plan aims to reduce methane emissions from the oil & gas industry, landfills, abandoned fossil fuel infrastructure and the agricultural sector.



Up to **7.11 million**  
**metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e**  
**methane emissions**  
**avoided from plugging**  
**abandoned gas and oil wells**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law responds to the strategies outlined in the Action plan by:

- Providing \$11.3 billion for the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grant program, which will allow for the remediation of most of the currently known coal AML sites throughout the country and potentially additional mining sites, creating jobs and helping to reduce methane emissions from abandoned underground mines and spurring economic revitalization. Further, these grants funds provide priority to projects that employ workers from energy communities.
- Authorizing \$4.7 billion for programs to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned wells on federal, state, and tribal lands.

**A National Energy  
Technology Laboratory  
field team locates and  
tests a long-abandoned  
well for methane leakage.**



## Rebuilding Our Industrial Base and Strengthening Domestic Supply Chains

In June, pursuant to Executive Order 14017, “America’s Supply Chains,” the Administration released [100-day reviews](#) of the supply chains of four critical products: semiconductors, high-capacity batteries, pharmaceuticals, and critical minerals and materials. Recommendations from these reports included establishing reliable domestic supply chains for critical minerals and materials, including battery materials, work that is being done for critical minerals and rare earth elements in energy communities across the country, [supported by the Department of Energy](#). Together with Executive Order 14005, “Ensuring the Future is Made in America by All of America’s Workers,” they form a key part of the Biden [21<sup>st</sup> Century American Industrial Strategy](#) to revitalize the domestic industrial base, creating good-paying manufacturing jobs in distressed and deindustrialized communities, and onshore critical production and supply chains.

**Lavender thrives in the rocky soil typically found on a reclaimed coal mine site.**



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law responds to the recommendations in the reports and Executive Orders by:

- Targeting funding directly to energy communities to support the transition to new growing energy industries, including providing \$750 million for small- and medium-sized manufacturers to build or revamp manufacturing facilities focused on a variety of advanced energy projects, to be located directly in or adjacent to communities where coal mines or coal power plants have closed. In addition, the bill invests \$500 million for new clean energy demonstration projects on current and former mine lands.
- Investing more than \$7 billion to bolster domestic supply chains for clean energy technologies—from critical minerals extraction and processing to high-capacity battery manufacturing and recycling—helping revitalize our nation’s manufacturing sector, boosting our global competitiveness, and reducing our reliance on foreign imports. The legislation also includes targeted funding for a demonstration facility to extract, refine, and separate rare earth elements, in which China currently has an 85 percent global market share.
- Strengthening and expanding Buy America requirements for Federal infrastructure investments, codifying the Administration’s efforts to ensure the future is made in all of America by all of America’s workers. When U.S. taxpayers are footing the bill, U.S. workers should reap the benefits. Federal infrastructure investments will be made with American-made goods and materials, supporting good-paying, union manufacturing jobs.

