Technical Assistance for Nuclear Communities

The Technical Assistance for Nuclear Communities program helps communities plan for a more resilient future when their plant is no longer operating. Our team supports a host community's journey toward a diverse and prosperous economic future through a wide range of capacity-building resources. These services are provided at **no cost** to a host community. Check out the communities who have previously won awards.

Regardless of the timing of the plant closure (past, present, or future), it is never too early to start considering the economic and social impacts of the closure, identifying infrastructure improvements, and developing project concepts in preparation for decommissioning. Our approach combines education and strategy, technical assistance, and best practice elements tailored to each community's particular needs and goals.
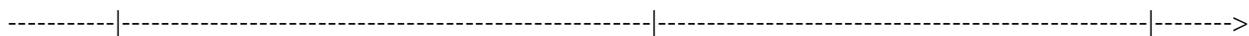
To identify the best support for each community, a series of conversations and initial assessments with local and regional stakeholders will help determine how a community may be impacted, its goals and interests in building on strengths and assets, and the most effective approach based on its stage of closure or economic resilience planning. These may include (but are not limited to) the following services and resources:

Services and Resources

Support understanding the decommissioning process
Formal strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis
Stakeholder engagement and communications; visioning strategies, marketing and messaging
Land use, zoning, and housing stock assessments
Underutilized sites and brownfield assessments
Economic development strategies and diversification (local and regional); enhancing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)
Economic impact analysis; fiscal hotspot analysis
Analysis of employment industries
Preparations for pursuing federal funds

Phases of resiliency planning & nuclear closure

Wherever your community is in this process, it is critical to understand decommissioning, the economic impacts that follow, and what you can/cannot influence. While the utility or decommissioning company will maintain control of the majority of the site for the foreseeable future, work can be done to prepare and adjust ahead of those events. As your community considers its future, our team can provide free support around how to leverage the economic power brought by significant resources spent on decommissioning and how to bring benefits to the community to help chart a sustainable economic future.

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PLANNING PHASE

Little or no economic planning has been done in anticipation of or response to closure. Where to begin?

- Understanding the decommissioning process and assessing its economic impacts
- Engaging the community: education, visioning, and advocacy
- Stakeholder outreach and regional coordination; encouraging partnerships with Economic Development Districts (EDDs)
- Enhancing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to better reflect challenges posed by plant closures
- Best practices in economic diversification, resilience planning, and wealth creation strategies

EVALUATION PHASE

Your community is planning for or responding to closure or planning a resiliency strategy and has done some analysis of impacts and assets. Preparing to apply for funds.

- Utilize SWOT to scope out additional needs and move toward project identification and development
- Employment market and tax base assessments
- Economic & fiscal analysis
- Identifying brownfields and land reclamation within the community
- Zoning, land use, and real estate market considerations

ACTION PHASE

Community has done regional planning and identified scenarios or opportunities for economic diversification.

- Workforce development
- Talent retention
- Identifying underutilized sites/land
  - Brownfields assessments
  - Identifying regulatory challenges and roadblocks
  - Site assessment tools
- Main Streets; Downtown redevelopment strategies

To inquire about these **FREE** technical services, please email
nuclearcommunities@smartgrowthamerica.org.