PLAN EVALUATION (N=12)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Revenue Replacement</th>
<th>Environmental Remediation</th>
<th>Economic Context</th>
<th>Transition Outlook</th>
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**Approach**

**Identify Coal Plant Closures and Plans**

Deregulation of the electricity markets and re-regulation in several states has led to a disjointed and fragmented policy and ownership regime. In the West, we have identified 18 coal-fired power plants, with 32 individual owners of various types, such as, investor-owned utility company, independent power producers, cooperatives, and municipal owners. Each type of owner is guided by different incentives that influence decisions about the end of life processes of these plants. This leaves the community in a constant state of uncertainty about if and when plants may close. Of the 18 coal plants in the West, 11 of those communities have formal plans that address the coal plant closure.

**Characterize by Economic Geography**

Closures are playing out across a diverse economic geography in which local opportunities vary widely based on access to markets via airports, and presence of amenities associated with the growing service economies. Rasker et al. (2009)’s Three West’s typology in which counties are metropolitan, connected, or remote as measured by mean driving time to airports. Of the 11 plants identified in our study, six are located in an county isolated from markets (Figure 1).

**Evaluate Plans**

Pulling from bodies of scholarship in economic and rural geography, sociology, and community resilience, we have identified four essential transition strategies to be applied in the planning process.

**Four Essential Transition Strategies**

1. Importance of replacing and stabilizing revenue streams
2. Necessity to plan, fund, and complete environmental remediation
3. The risk of focusing on economic development strategies inappropriate to local context
4. Association of willingness to change and positive outlook with community resilience during transitions.

**References**