

**Press Release:**

## **OHIO COAL COMMUNITIES PROJECT RECEIVES SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE GRANT**

A research and arts project to document how eastern Ohio has been shaped by changes in the coal industry was awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Sustainability Institute at Ohio State. The Ohio Coal Transition: Pathways for Community Resilience is a partnership between The Ohio State University's School of Environment and Natural Resources, OSU Extension, University Libraries, and the departments of Theatre, Geography and Civil, Environmental, and Geodetic Engineering.

The multi-county project in Ohio's Appalachian region is led by a multi-disciplinary group of faculty, staff and students interested in documenting how the coal industry has shaped Ohio's history, culture and economy and how ongoing changes in the coal industry will impact Ohio communities moving forward.

The project team is collecting historical and archival information and data about coal production and use as well as conducting interviews with community leaders and residents in targeted Ohio communities about the role coal mining, transportation and use has and will play in communities. The team plans to produce reports and a project website, as well as theatrical and fine art products that tell the story of these coal communities. The confidential research is non-political and supportive to communities and participants. The Ohio State Office of Responsible Research Practices study number is 2020E1066.

"These communities have such a rich and complex history with the coal industry, and face a number of challenges and opportunities moving forward" said project lead Jeffrey Jacquet. "This award from the Sustainability Institute will allow our team to spend quality time in these places and collect data and artifacts that can tell their stories."

The team is currently focusing interviews in Belmont, Coshocton and Noble counties. If you were involved in the coal industry or impacted by the closures of Central Ohio Coal (Noble Co.) or AEP coal-fired power plant closures in Coshocton or Belmont Counties and would like to participate in the study, contact Gwynn Stewart, OSU Extension Educator – Noble County at [stewart.1818@osu.edu](mailto:stewart.1818@osu.edu) or 740-305-3177 or Katie Finneran, School of Environment and Natural Resources, at [finneran.57@osu.edu](mailto:finneran.57@osu.edu) or 419-788-8216.

Additional information about the research project is available at <https://energizeohio.osu.edu/fossil-energy-resources/ohio-coal-communities>. More information about the Sustainability Institute at Ohio State is available at <https://si.osu.edu>.

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