



TRANSITION ISSUES IN COAL PLANT COMMUNITIES

DISRUPT

CATALYZE

TRANSFORM

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delta institute 

ABOUT DELTA INSTITUTE



Founded in 1998, our organization

- Convenes diverse stakeholders,
- Develops innovative programs & market-driven solutions,
- Builds sustainable markets, and
- Informs better policies

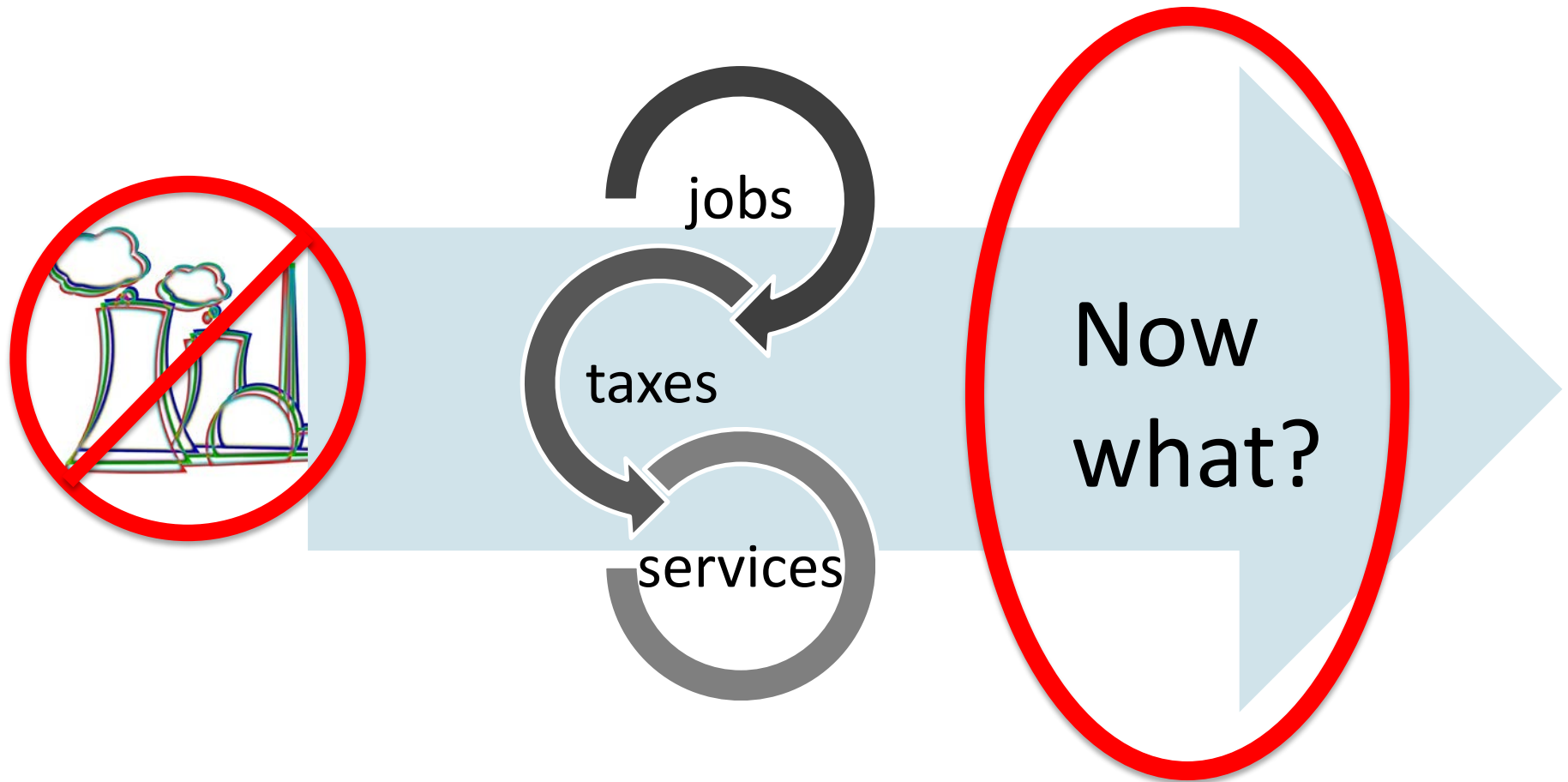
In order to

- Support sustainable economic development

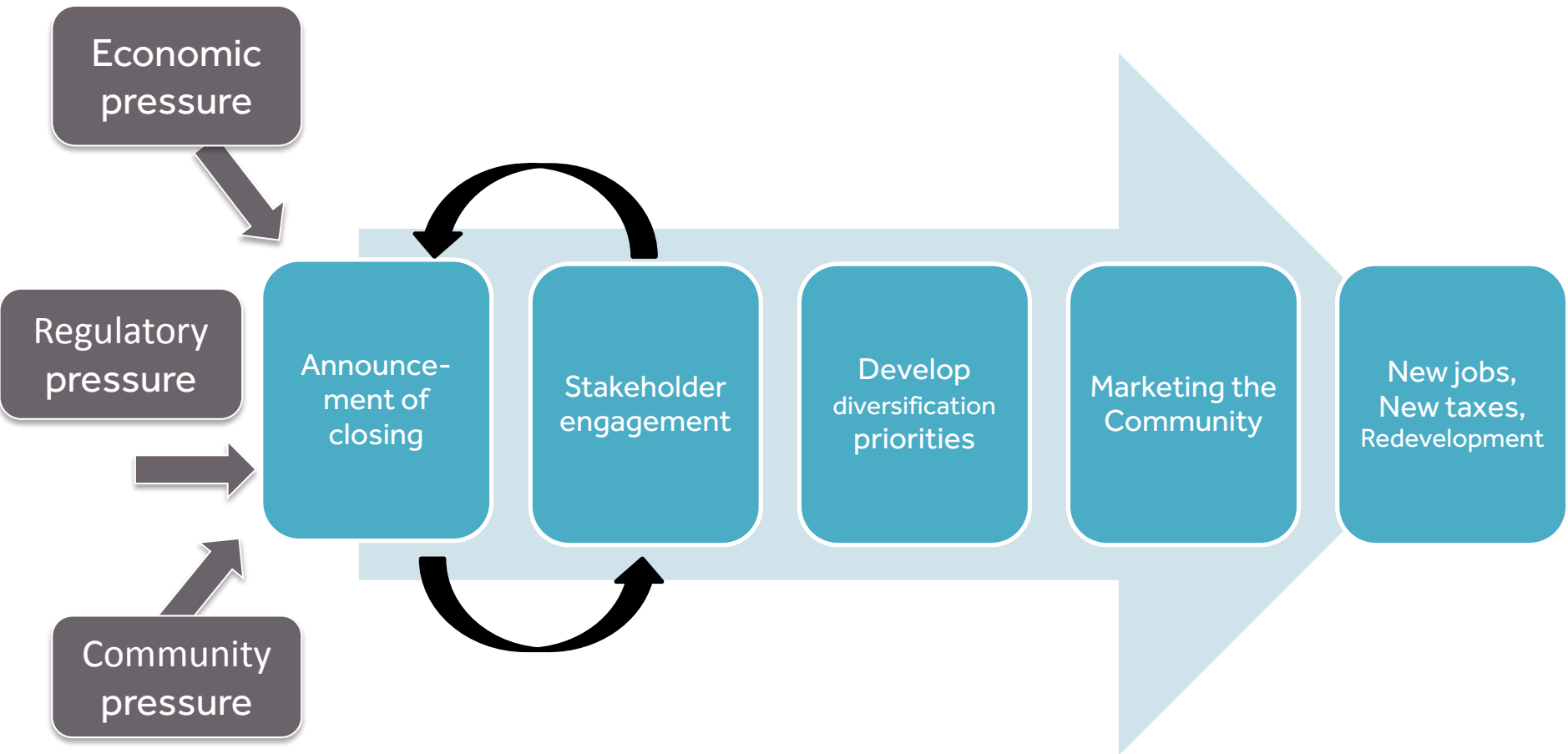
JUST TRANSITION PROCESS

This process provides **technical assistance** to coal communities to define a new **economic vision**, access federal funding to support the transition away from coal, and build a **community driven process** to identify opportunities and **implement change** toward a more sustainable future.

IMPACTS OF PLANT CLOSURES



A PATTERN OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION



SETTING UP THE PROCESS TO SUCCEED

1. Early planning

2. Robust, transparent stakeholder engagement process

- All stakeholders at the table (community, public, private)

3. Facilitation by neutral third party

- Bring in experts, facts to level playing field & manage expectations
- Help community partners move from advocacy to partnership

SETTING UP THE PROCESS TO SUCCEED

4. Clear, long-term vision for diversification needs to be created
 - Helpful for community marketing
5. Active government support = funding
 - Municipal clout keeps people at the table
 - Federal and state resources helpful

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Public sector
 - Municipal governments
 - Regulators/environmental compliance specialists
- Private sector
 - Power plant property owners
 - Private developers
 - Workforce development
- Community stakeholder
 - Community leaders/organizations
 - Unions
 - Funders



FRAMING THE PROCESS

- **Plan for and backstop tax impact with new businesses, fewer expenditures**

Examples -

- Actively recruit new and different businesses.
- Rethink zoning to make more unused structures available.
- Prioritize the sources and revenues in the general budget. Move to user fees and private services.

ADDRESSING TAX LOSSES



Rural Pennsylvania (Greene Township)

FRAMING THE PROCESS

- **Transitioning coal plant and mining skills**

Examples -

- Focus on sectors that have jobs now:
Electricians can be retrained for the nearly 100,000 high wire linemen jobs or renewables production.
- Retool local training programs early.
- Help people speak and think about their skills in lay terms so others can see value.



Transitioning skills, SE Ohio

FRAMING THE PROCESS

- **Reusing unused plant sites**

Examples -

- Many financing/ownership combinations
- Location can increase attractiveness – water, transportation, infrastructure.
- Understand decommissioning and remediation needs
- Promote brownfield reuse community wide
- Welcome new players and uses to your community

REUSING PLANT SITE - PUBLIC INVESTMENT



Fisk Power Plant to Chicago Transit Authority

REUSING PLANT SITE - PRIVATE INVESTMENT



Municipal Power House to Canon Design, St. Louis

REUSING PLANT SITE - PUBLIC/PRIVATE INVESTMENT



Chester Power Station to Wharf at Rivertown

FRAMING THE PROCESS

- **Encourage renewable energy**

Examples -

- Understand your energy needs.
- Learn where your new source of power will be and how that may impact you.
- Consider publically or cooperatively owned solar to control costs.

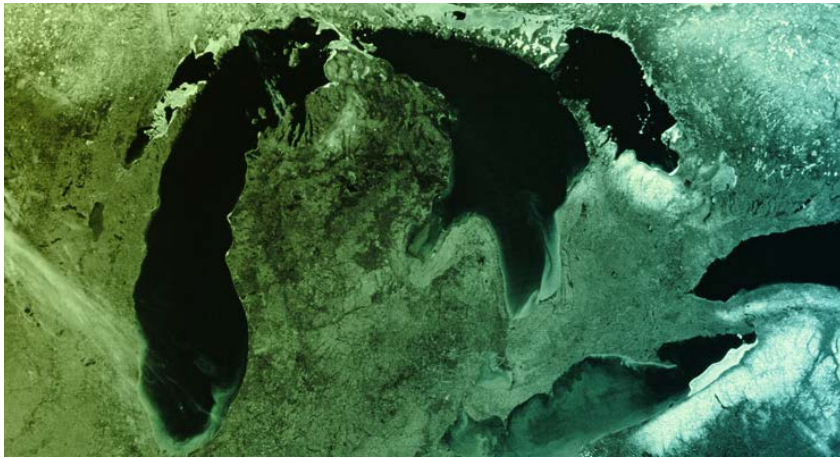
ENCOURAGING RENEWABLE ENERGY



Presque Isle Power Plant, Marquette MI

Photo courtesy of Superior Watershed Partnership

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