



## APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY CAPITAL

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### **Appalachian Community Capital Members Use Roundtable to Advance Green and Inclusive Financing across Greater Appalachia**

*Members advance the agenda toward making Greater Appalachia a national leader in the inclusive Green economic transition*

Pittsburgh, PA – Appalachian Community Capital (ACC) along with Bridgeway Capital recently co-hosted a “Green and Inclusive Finance Roundtable” regional convening in Pittsburgh, where ACC members who are also Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) created a regional CDFI action roadmap for a broader Appalachian green economic transition that focuses on ensuring BIPOC and distressed rural communities and entrepreneurs lead the way. This initiative has laid the foundation for the 33 current ACC members, with over \$2 billion in current regional assets under management, to accelerate awareness, capacity-building, and support for the region’s more than 2 million small businesses to benefit from and participate fully in the national Green economic transition .

During the roundtable, the group convened over the course of a two-day program, including discussions with national funders and practitioners leading innovation in the delivery of inclusive green finance practices. Presenters engaged with and shared their experiences with ACC member attendees, and each of the ACC members walked away with their own goals and initiatives to pursue within the communities they serve.

“The communities of Greater Appalachia are uniquely equipped to lead the Green economy transition, provided sufficient capacity, capital and awareness are developed and deployed on a priority basis,” noted Donna Gambrell, President & CEO of ACC. “This gathering of leading ACC members focused on the inter-connected goals of accelerating investment into historically disadvantaged and distressed rural communities, as well as communities of color, across Appalachia is an essential first step in this journey,” she added.

“Neighborhood Community Development Fund would like to thank ACC and Bridgeway Capital for co-hosting the Green and Inclusive Finance Roundtable,” said Mark Masterson, executive director of Neighborhood Community Development Fund. “The event marked a meaningful step toward ensuring BIPOC and low-income communities are the priority during the Appalachian green economic transition.”



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In addition to practitioner conversations, the group participated in group exercises like solution sprints and visioning. Collectively, the ACC members completed a 2035 Vision for Appalachia, which led members to begin thinking about the future they want to build through supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs. The group also participated in site visits to multiple projects and initiatives in the Pittsburgh area that incorporate green and inclusive financial products like [Bridgeway's Monmade "Green Leap" product exhibition](#), [Hazelwood Green](#), and one of the largest slanted roof solar projects in the U.S. on a revitalized a historical steel manufacturing site, Mill 19.

This event served as the kick-off for a unique and potentially ground-breaking Green Appalachia Innovation Accelerator (GAIA) Initiative, led by ACC and its member CDFIs. GAIA will be focused at the intersection of historically disadvantaged demographics (communities of color and distressed rural communities), and emerging Green and sustainable economy opportunities with transformative potential not only for Appalachia, but also for the major interconnected East Coast and Midwest urban centers that are dependent on and impacted by the core Appalachian regional transportation, energy, natural and agricultural economy and resources in one way or another. Consisting of 423 counties across 13 States, Appalachia is home to more than 26 million people – more than 5 million of them Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC) – and boasts over 2 million active small and medium enterprises, nearly 100,000 of them owned and/or operated by BIPOC entrepreneurs.

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### **About Appalachian Community Capital**

Appalachian Community Capital is a CDFI lending intermediary created to raise capital for its 33-member CDFIs and other mission-based lenders. The members, in turn, use ACC's capital to fund small businesses and entrepreneurs in underserved areas in Appalachia. The members-many of which have been in operation for more than 20 years-and their affiliates manage over \$2 billion in assets supporting economic development in Appalachia.