

Payne Institute Spring Seminar Series

Chris Markuson, Director of Colorado and State Economic Transition for the BlueGreen Alliance, and Dennis Dougherty, Executive Director of the Colorado AFL-CIO

Just Transition: Supporting Coal Workers in the Evolving Energy Economy

noon-1:00pm | Monday, February 3, 2020
Alderson Hall, room 352

In 2019, anticipating that every coal power plant in Colorado will close permanently in the near future, the Colorado State Legislature passed a bill that created a Just Transition office in the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. This office is the first of its kind in the nation, and is tasked with supporting workers and communities after coal industry closes. The bill that created the office was brought forward by the Colorado AFL-CIO, the BlueGreen Alliance, and several environmental organization partners.

This forum will discuss the extremely complex concept of Just Transition, and what Colorado's leaders are working to implement, forging a path for the nation to re-think how society supports workers as energy sources move away from coal and toward renewables. The discussion will be led by Chris Markuson, Director of Colorado and State Economic Transition for the BlueGreen Alliance, and Dennis Dougherty, Executive Director of the Colorado AFL-CIO.