
COMMUNITY ENERGY FOR A RESILIENT NORTH FORK

JUST TRANSITION RURAL INNOVATORS

PAONIA, CO

CHRIS CASKEY, SWITCHBACK RESTORATION

Original member of the North Fork Coal Mine Methane Working Group

Vice-Chair of the CO Electric Transmission Authority

Past Board Chair of the Western Slope Conservation Center based in Paonia

Completed graduate research in chemistry at NREL.

PETE KOLBENSCHLAG, COLORADO FARM & FOOD ALLIANCE

Completed the NCSP's "Community Power Accelerator Learning Lab" course

25 years of community organizing and communications experience

Boardmember of 100-year-old domestic water co. with service area abutting project site

Skilled grant writer

KEY PROJECT PARTNERS INCLUDE DELTA BRICK & CLIMATE, MOUNTAIN WEST STRATEGIES

Community and Project Partners include Mirasol Agrivoltaics, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Valley Organic Growers, The Learning Council, Thistle Whistle Community Solar

AMERICAN MADE SOLVE IT PRIZE – U.S. Department of Energy



Use community-power to create a business incubation and light manufacturing hub centered at a coalmine reclamation site in disadvantages, climate-vulnerable community.

This project addresses three persistent challenges that exist in coalmining regions: methane gas leakage, site remediation and ensuring a just transition.