WHAT’S NEXT, West Virginia?
Let's Talk About Our Future
What does it take to make democracy work as it should?

Citizens who make sound decisions about their future.
Communities that works together to address common problems.
Institutions that work with the public to strengthen society.
What’s Next is an initiative designed to encourage thinking, talking, and actions based on West Virginians’ own ideas for building a more vibrant and diverse economy.
A *STATEWIDE* conversation made up of *LOCAL* initiatives

What’s Next, Wood County?
What’s Next, Huntington?
What’s Next, Southern WV?
What’s Next, St. Albans?
What’s Next, Berkeley County?
and many more
Who Sponsors the Initiative…

- WV Center for Civic Life (wvciviclife.org)
- WV Community Development Hub (wvhub.org)
- WV Public Broadcasting (wvpublic.org)

…and a broad and growing coalition of partners from nonprofit, philanthropic, governmental, educational, and faith-based organizations (whatsnextwv.org/partners)
Where are we now?

Where do we want to go?

How do we get there?
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Then</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Weirton Steel</td>
<td>131,700</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>2,006,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Now</td>
<td>Walmart</td>
<td>19,273</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>22,113</td>
<td>1,852,994*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Natural population increase would have resulted in 2,600,000 during these years*
Our Workforce

Average Annual Population Growth WV, 2002-2012

Source: IHS Global Insight
Then and Now

Sharp Drop in Coal & Manufacturing Jobs Since Early 1980’s

Source: Workforce West Virginia data. Note: Beginning in 2001, data is based on NAICS instead of SIC.

Looking Ahead

West Virginia’s Industry Forecast

West Virginia’s forecasted change in employment by industry, 2010-2020

- 12.7% Manufacturing
- 10.1% Utilities
- 3.6% Coal, Gas, Other Mining
- 2.1% Finance, Insurance, Real Estate

+ 22.7% Health, Social Services
+ 22.7% Construction
+ 18.3% Professional, Technical Services
+ 14.2% Retail Trade
+ 13% Food, Lodging, Entertainment
+ 12% Education, Information Services
+ 7.6% Wholesale Trade & Transportation
+ 5.2% State & Local Government
+ 3% Federal Government, Military
+ 2.3% Farming, Forestry
## Our Workforce

### Health Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Status</th>
<th>WV (% of pop)</th>
<th>US (% of pop)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General health-poor or fair</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No health care access</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can’t afford medical care</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical inactivity</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Build on what is already happening
• Bring new ideas and people into the discussion
• Talk through important issues
• Set directions for future work
WHAT'S NEXT, West Virginia?
Let's Talk About Our Future
How It Works

When citizens ask . . .

Who organizes the conversations?

We say . . .

YOU! And a diverse planning team from your community...
Local planning team (coalition)

• Nonprofits
• Government agencies
• Volunteer groups
• Economic development councils
• Faith groups
• Businesses
• Educational institutions
• Local residents
Support for Your Local Work
Let the discussion begin!

Prosperity can mean different things to different people. It can mean having a good job, a house, enough money to make ends meet, plus a little extra to set aside. Prosperity can mean living in a place with laws and policies that give everyone a fair chance to succeed. Prosperity can also mean having many friends or being in a position to give to others. It can mean having a strong cultural heritage, feeling content with your life, living in a beautiful landscape, or living in a place where people help each other. There are lots of ways to think about building a more prosperous future. It’s up to your community to decide what’s the best fit.

The conversation begins: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

This is a discussion about our community’s economy—where it is now and where it’s been. It’s a chance to take stock of our current work and assets and to build a foundation for our future work together.

NOTE: To begin with a statewide focus, substitute “West Virginia” for “our community.”

For discussion...

How would you describe our community’s economy today? What factors led us to where we are?

Think about what our economy was like in the past. What would we like to retain or recreate?
WHAT'S NEXT, West Virginia?

A Community Guide for Organizing Discussions and Action Planning
Regional Workshops

Diverse Planning Team
At Home

Where are we now?

How get there?

Where do we want to go?

How get there?

Planning

Dialogues

Actions
Let's Talk About Our Future
Join others across West Virginia who are talking and working together to strengthen local economies.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Getting to Know The Power+ Plan

By now you may have heard about a little something called the “Power+ Plan.” If not, it's time to get educated! Because it's geared directly toward communities that have been impacted by a downturn in the coal industry, communities that need resources to help shape the next chapter of their...Read more

Faith, Hope, and the Economy

When we asked Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball about the intersection of her ministry and the economy, we weren't prepared for her dazzling answer. We caught up...Read more

This Is What Economic Development Looks Like

This Infographic represents what leaders and community members in the New River Gorge region say economic development work looks like. The responses came from a recent summit we attended, hosted by the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, that brought together stakeholders in the region to talk about how...Read more

Faces of What's Next

This August, What's Next hit the road to bring regional workshops to Buckhannon, Martinsburg, Berkeley, Charleston, and Wheeling. Attendance was tremendous, swelling the rooms where people received training, discussed the future, and started planning for the conversations that will begin rolling out in communities across the state this fall. Along the way...Read more
Social Media

WHAT'S NEXT, West Virginia?

What's Next, WV?
@whatsnextwv

TWEETS 370  FOLLOWING 388  FOLLOWERS 444
Citizens at Work throughout West Virginia
What’s YOUR idea for:
What’s Next, West Virginia?
Get in touch…

• Go to [whatsnextwv.org](http://whatsnextwv.org) to get started
• Email – [whatsnextwv@wvciviclife.org](mailto:whatsnextwv@wvciviclife.org)
• Facebook – [facebook.com/whatsnextwv](http://facebook.com/whatsnextwv)
• Twitter – [@whatsnextwv](https://twitter.com/@whatsnextwv)