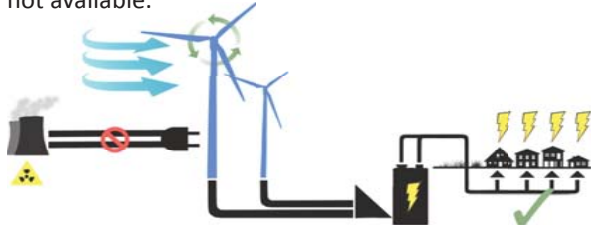


Wind Mill Power Storage:



The wind in Coal City rarely drops below 8 miles an hour which makes it an ideal location for wind farm. The only issues are power storage and transmission through the electric grid. The grid needs constant power so battery storage, or a consistent method of generating power, is required. Storing highly compressed air to be released when needed to power the generator is a way to maintain a constant feed to the grid. Energy storing batteries for wind turbines harness energy and store it for when wind is not available.



CONCLUSIONS:

At this moment, there are three ideas that are considered 'low-hangingfruit', low risk and high reward goal that can be easily executed by the team; construction of the movie theater, the bike trail project, and the Coal City Museum. We developed a survey that will soon be distributed among Coal City residents in order to gauge their interest and opinions on various projects planned.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Future IPRO teams will find the results of this survey to be of great interest and can prioritize the next steps for Coal City. There is also the need for Coal City to supply them with the requisite data and meaningful figures.

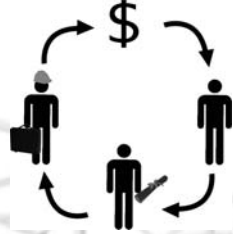
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Dr. Nasrin Khalili, Advisor
Mr. Matt Fritz, Village Administrator
Gideon Blustein, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Neal Nelson, Coal City Mayor

College Grants/Community College:



Coal City is facing the same demographic challenges as many other small towns in the United States, the flight of young residents. We propose a Business Incubator/ Entrepreneurship Center to create start ups that have use for college graduates.



Transportation:



Coal city has traffic problems. To relieve congestion a shuttle bus program/carpooling will be implemented to take residents to common destinations. This would make commuting within Coal City and Grundy County far more efficient.

coal city current transportation



coal city future transportation



Team Members

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S.E.E.D.

Sustainable Entrepreneurial Economic Development

The purpose of this project is to provide the framework for creating the most feasible and sustainable economic development model for the village of Coal City using generalized approaches that could be emulated in other small towns.



Movie Theatre:

There is a small theatre group in town that is growing fast. The town may want to use space in the theatre for shows. Renovating the opera house would preserve a historical landmark and a venerable building, save money and not dislocate any tenants.

BACKGROUND:

Coal city is a small town in Illinois that has partnered with IIT. Its current population is 5,152 and has been steadily increasing. Coal City is located just south of I-80 along the I-55 corridor and less than an hour from Bolingbrook. Along the northern border of Coal City, are adjoining lakes and abandoned coal mines. Small town atmosphere is conducive to community interaction and pride. Several buildings important to the village's history include: Castle Hall, Opera House, Old Village Hall, Fire Bell, and the Old Store. The village comes together for several events each year, including Oktoberfest, where the downtown area shuts down and the streets are overcome with vendors, people, and businesses celebrating together.

Museum:

The town has a history that it would like to preserve and advertise to others. There are large amount of vacant buildings in downtown Coal City that could be used for a museum. For example, the old brick BNSF train station that was pulled off the demolition list could be used.

Urgent Care Center:

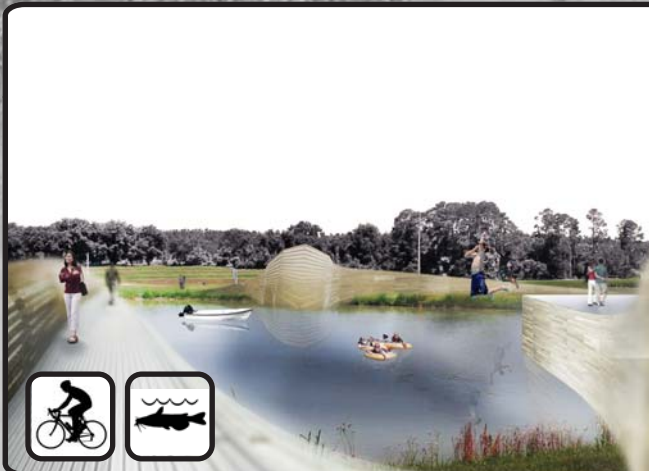
Coal city does not have an emergency care center. The nearest center is in Morris, Illinois. A facility is needed for immediate health care needs. Based on our feasibility study an urgent care center that services 50,000 residents was the most financially stable. A successful urgent care center will have 12,000 visits per year with one provider available for a 10-11 hour day, 7 days per week.



OBJECTIVE:

A strategy that looks at further improving the quality of life of Coal City residents, is economically viable in the long run, has minimal systematic risks and produces minimal adverse effects.

We will foster an environment where small businesses can flourish and create jobs, minimize the adverse impact to the environment, improve the quality of life on the town by focusing on the residents wants and needs, and preserve the stable small town feel of **Coal City**.



Lagoon and Bike Trails:

The former water treatment lagoon is a promising project. The water must be flushed clean and the sludge dried and removed. Utilizing part of the lagoon as a detention basin would helping mitigate flood destruction. The city owns the land so the major expenses would be detoxifying the area. There is a bike path just south of the lagoon that would make the land utilized, perhaps water storage for bouncing during storms. The current lack of sidewalks in Coal City hampers bike-riding and walking in the town. Coal City and the neighboring towns in the region have a few bike trails but there is a need to connect them so they all lead to the camping grounds and other areas.