



Campbell County
Economic Development
Corporation

■ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ■ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ■ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

5 YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CAMPBELL COUNTY

Economic Development Strengths in Campbell County

January 19, 2010

Minerals

Campbell County is located in a geographical region rich in natural resources. Due to the abundance of minerals, the county has been able to utilize the tax base to construct projects to benefit the county as a whole.

Strengths

- According to 2008 demographic data – 22,670 workers are employed in Campbell County. Of the 22,670 workers, 6,760 are employed directly at the coal mines
- It is estimated that each coal–mining job supports three related jobs in other business sectors
- In 2007, the average income in the Wyoming coal industry was \$75,977, twice the state average of \$39,245
- In 2008, more than 465 million tons of coal was produced in the County
- The top 10 producing mines in the U.S.A. are all located in Wyoming’s Powder River Basin, producing over 40% of the country’s production
- 85.95 percent of the tax base in Campbell County is provided by the mineral industries (oil, gas, utilities, and coal).

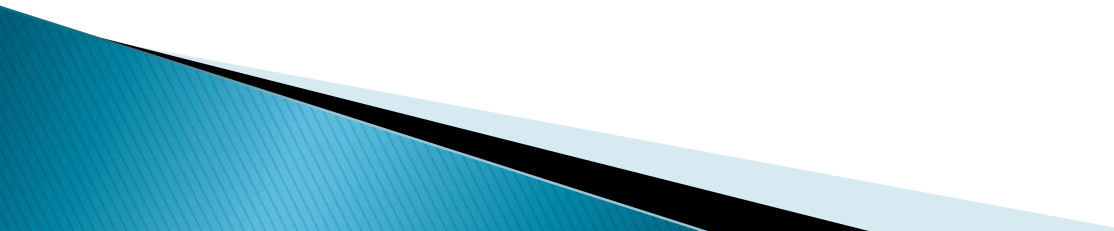
Minerals

▶ Improvement Opportunities

- ▶ Due to the abundance of minerals in the County, not much diversification of industry has been developed in the past. Possibly using the minerals and extraction processes to our benefit by utilizing tourism programs to help educate the public would be a great opportunity by bringing in outside money to our community.
- ▶ Utilizing our minerals and agriculture resources would lend itself to development of an Interpretive/Training/Business Research Center that would identify and create uses for land management, entrepreneurship, coal conversion, and diversification of related industry.
- ▶ Extraction of new minerals or uses of those minerals exist and are now being considered as alternatives for energy production such as: wind, uranium, solar, and the exportation of natural gas through a pipeline to dormant oil fields to spur production.

Tax and Finance

▶ Strengths

- There is no corporate state income tax
 - There is no personal state income tax
 - There is no tax on inventory and rolling stock
 - There is no corporate continuation fees
 - The tax structure, combined with low property taxes, results in the lowest personal tax burden in the United States
 - With the State, rated 2nd in the nation as offering a favorable tax climate for existing and future industries and businesses
 - Finance options available from Community, Regional and National banks with offices in Campbell County to handle any size operation or development.
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Tax and Finance

▶ Improvement Opportunities

- Low taxes inhibit long-range planning by local governments. These governments cannot raise taxes because, under Wyoming's constitution, that power is reserved for the Legislature
- Because the County depends primarily on mineral taxes, there is little incentive to diversify when the energy economy is booming.
- ▶
- Depending primarily on mineral taxes is a hindrance when the mineral's economy decreases

Education – College

▶ Strengths

- The College serves over 2,000 local, regional, national, and international students
- The College's enrollment increased 74% since 2000
- Technical Education Programs at the College increased over 56% since 2000
- Recent additions to the College include:
 - A 9,700 sq. ft. Health Science Center in 2008
 - New student housing was built for up to 100 students in 2009
 - A 97,700 sq. ft. Technical Education Center in 2010
- The College has unparalleled financial support from local industries, including on-going purchases of equipment for the Technical Education Center
- Strong cross section of community leaders from various industries assist the college by participating in advisory boards
- The local industries assist the College's Foundation to raise funds for scholarships and equipment purchases
- The College collaborates with all the High Schools in the county and Wright with concurrent Enrollment courses.
- The College benefits indirectly from local mineral taxes

Education – College

- ▶ Improvement Opportunities

Education – K –12

➤ Strengths

- 91% of the School District's students are proficient in technology standards.
- There is a computer for every 3 students in all Campbell County schools.
- The computer technology is rotated every five years, which keeps our students on the leading edge of technology.
- 57% of the School District's students are enrolled in Career Technical Education Classes.
- Many employers partner with the School District by offering mentorship programs, serving on advisory boards, and participating in roundtable discussions with students and faculty.
- Over 93% of students grades 3 through 7 exceeded the State PAWS Test average for the past four years.
- The School District benefits from funding from local mineral taxes.
- A ½ mill of tax is distributed through the Board of Cooperative Higher Education Service (BOCHES) for educational opportunities for secondary and post-secondary students.
- Well over 350 CCSD students are participating in Concurrent Enrollment courses through Gillette College.
- Parental support is very strong in the School District.
- Local Business support has been exceedingly strong for years.

Education – K –12

▶ Improvement Opportunities

- Three academies currently exist. This is a good start however, our goal is to have a total of 12 academies.
- Although grades 3 through 7 exceed the State PAWS test average 93% of the time, grades 8 and 11 need more guidance to reach these statistics.

Recreation

▶ Strengths

- Campbell County offers approximately 112 Human Service Resources to assist with the needs of its residents
- Campbell County hosts approximately 110 Community Clubs that are strongly supported by its residents
- Campbell County residents serve on approximately 84 Community Boards. These boards support both Governmental and private entities.
- Campbell County and the cities of Gillette and Wright provides 54 parks for its residents including soccer and baseball complexes and 67 miles of walking trails
- Cam-Plex Event Facilities contain over 400,000 sq ft of indoor space in 7 facilities on 1,100 acres, hosting more than 350,000 visitors annually with over 400 events
- Campbell County residents enjoy use of the 190,000 sq. ft., \$55 million Recreation Center
- Campbell County has several golf courses including a 27 hole and 9 hole in Gillette and a 9 hole course in Wright

- The Recreation Center and its 85 recreation programs have over 140,000 visits annually

Recreation

- ▶ Improvement Opportunities

Government

▶ Strengths

- The County, City of Gillette, and the Town of Wright's political leadership has proven to be visionaries in determining the needs of the growing communities
- The County is pro economic development and is constantly expanding its infrastructure to accommodate the current and future industries and companies
- Investment in infrastructure by the Gillette, Wright and the County since 2005 exceeds \$178,300,000
- The County and the communities combined are planning for \$362,000,000 in public infrastructure projects from 2009-2014
- Gillette Regional Water Supply Project \$226,000,000 expansion project to ensure adequate water supply over 56,000 people by 2038
- Campbell County Memorial Hospital is going through a \$65,000,000 expansion
- The County has great public facilities and is committed to investing over \$200,000,000 for the next five years
- The County and the City of Gillette invested \$36 million to build and furnish Gillette College's Technical Education Center, a state-of-the-art learning center with 825,000 square feet devoted to industrial electronics, welding and diesel mechanics
- Investment in Gillette's Avenues of the Arts will be \$4,000,000 by 2014
- Cam-Plex Event Facilities contain over 400,000 sq ft of indoor space in 7 facilities on 1,100 acres, hosting more than 350,000 visitors annually with over 400 events
- Gillette City Council holds very successful and well attended annual citizen summits to determine the priorities of the community for the coming year

Government

- ▶ Improvement Opportunities