

### COAL INITIATIVE IN WESTERN KENTUCKY GOALS/PURPOSE/ACTION PLAN

**GOAL 1:** Develop an underground coal mine exhibit in the basement of the Owensboro Museum of Science and History (OMSH) building and a participatory exhibit upstairs featuring how coal is converted into energy and to provide an introduction into clean-coal technologies and coal's importance in our future.

Purpose: To provide an overview of 1) the history and methods of west KY coal mines - include portions of the oral history narratives and photo collection (**See GOAL 4**), 2) today's technology in coal including current machinery used in coal extraction and 3) the future for coal;

Action 1: Begin planning phase of exhibit in October 2005. Planning phase will produce comprehensive outline and story line for coal mine exhibit, exhibit drawings and preliminary designs to be used in fundraising for exhibit fabrication and installation.

Cost: Request for \$25,000

Funding Source: Seeking assistance.

In addition to the above mentioned coal display, OMSH is adding additional coal-related displays within the museum which include:

Action 2: Developing natural history/geology exhibits on 1<sup>st</sup> floor which will include displays on the formation of coal and why this area is so rich in this fossil fuel.

Funding Source: A formal request is being made to a local foundation.

Action 3: Expansion of the historical exhibits on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to which will include river history, in particularly steamboats and coal.

Funding Source: Local business has expressed interest.





1910 -1954 Active Mining Taking place at George H. Rudy Mine  
2003 – Rudy Mine and Farm becomes a part of the Kentucky State Park System

**GOAL 2: Develop the George H. Rudy Mines and Co. Interpretive Center and walking trails at Ben Hawes State Park.**

Purpose: To expand the current offerings at Ben Hawes State Park; to share the story of George H. Rudy Mines and Co.; to expand the general public's knowledge and appreciation of the important role coal played in Kentucky' history; to become one of the interpreted sites along the Kentucky Coal Legacy Driving Tour through Western Kentucky; Site for future coal festival.

Action 1: Provide a film and interpretive photo display within the house located on the grounds; Include portions of the oral history narratives previously recorded **(See GOAL 4)**

Action 2: Develop interpretive signage at all nine of the Rudy Mine on-site structures, special educational programs and a participatory history walk and/or scavenger hunt throughout the site. **(See GOAL 3)**

Action 3: Finalize the transfer of the Tenant House to the State Park for a staging area and housing some artifacts and interpretive material.

Current Status – Paperwork and legal documents submitted to State.

- Requires State Action to proceed.

Action 4: Add buildings to historical register.

Current Status - Preliminary paperwork completed and submitted to State.

- Requires State Action to proceed.

Action 5: Site study request to be submitted to the Kentucky Department of Parks – **Formal request to be made at October, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005 meeting.**



*Both the Owensboro Museum of Science and History (OMSH) building and the George H. Rudy Interpretive Center will serve as central hubs to direct visitors to other coal sites throughout both west and east Kentucky and promote the western Kentucky Coal Driving Tour and Coal Legacy project. Other satellite hubs will be developed all along the route.*



*This monument in Providence KY serves as a tribute to Coal Miners. It will be one of many stops included on the Coal Legacy Trail in Western Kentucky*

**GOAL 3: Develop a Western Kentucky Coal Legacy Driving Tour through nine counties.**

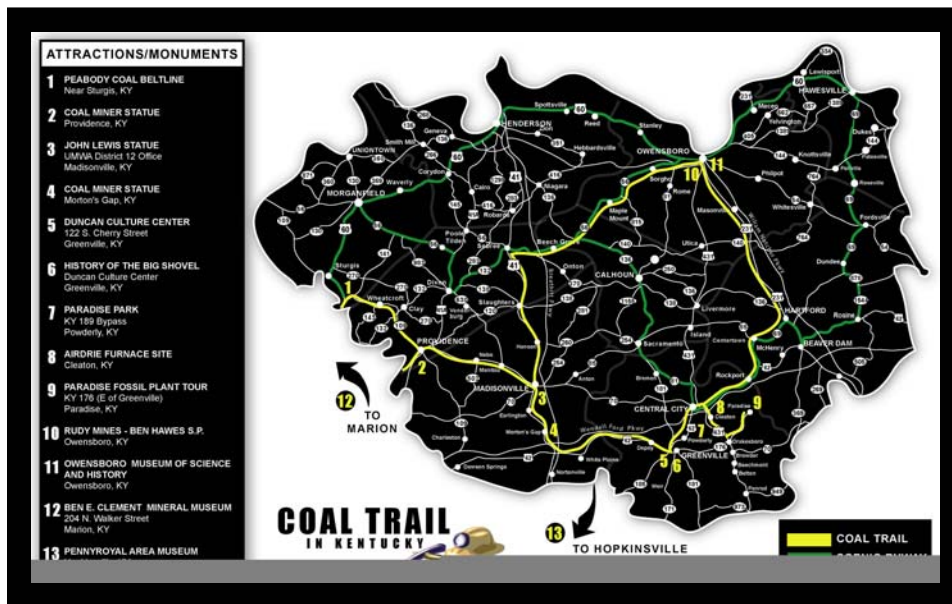
Purpose: To support regional tourism in Western Kentucky and share the story of western Kentucky' rich coal mining heritage.

Action 1: Apply for TEA-21 funds to cover the costs for research of all coal related historic sites within Western Kentucky and for development of a Driving tour which will include CD/DVD one can purchase at numerous locations along the way as well as interpretive, directional, and site specific signs to assist the traveler. This will be done in conjunction with the development of the Blues to Bluegrass Scenic Byway 9-county initiative

Cost: \$250,000 for directional and interpretive sign program, brochure, website, CD/DVD development and research (*Please note: Will address more than just Coal such as Music, Civil War, etc*)

Funding Sources:

State Matching Funds (1% Tax) – **Application due in October TEA-21 – Application due Winter 2005/06.**



**Western Kentucky Coal Legacy Driving Tour**  
A part of the **BLUES TO BLUEGRASS SCENIC BYWAY**

**GOAL 4: Expand the Western Kentucky Coal Legacy oral history project to include other mines in Western Kentucky.**

Purpose: To record the stories of western Kentucky coal miners and compile a photo library of each of the sites and its people.

Action 1: Interview those associated with the Rudy mines – **COMPLETED**

- March 13<sup>th</sup> 1985 – Hewitt Magliner
- December 15<sup>th</sup> 1986 – Hewitt Magliner and Tom Kyle
- May 17<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Herman Kyle
- July 15<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Herman Kyle
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004 – Bobby Gene McCormick
- August 24<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Anna Lee Greer
- August 24<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Judy Bailey
- October 5<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Mary lee Fitzgerald
- November 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 – Sara McNulty

Action 2: Compile a photo library for Rudy Mine – **COMPLETED**

Action 3: Historic preservation of documents (maps, letters, ledgers)  
– **Currently in process**

Action 4: Transfer information and photos – Develop CD/DVD highlighting the historic photos and information obtained from personal interviews and research. – **In the development stage**

Cost: \$5,000

Funding Source: \$5,000 grant from Kentucky Historical Society's Oral History Commission.

**Applications due October 15<sup>th</sup> 2005**

Action 5: Interview others associated with the coal mining industry in Western Kentucky, develop a photo library and begin to "tell the story" through photographs, CD/DVD and music.

Cost: \$5,000

Funding Source: \$5,000 grant from Kentucky Historical Society's Oral History Commission. **Applications due October 15<sup>th</sup> 2005**



## PARTNERS IN THE COAL LEGACY TRAIL INITIATIVE

Kentucky Coal Council  
Kentucky Coal County Coalition  
Kentucky Heritage Council  
Kentucky Historical Society  
Kentucky State Parks  
Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History  
Sunlite Music Studio  
WMTH Corporation

### Communities in:

- Daviess County
- Hancock County
- Henderson County
- Hopkins County
- McLean County
- Muhlenberg County
- Ohio County
- Union County
- Webster County

### Individuals:

- Rick Miller, Local Historian
- Sara McNulty, Coal Mine Family Historian and Florist
- Gary Emord-Netzley, Photographer