

# Beyond Coal: Imagining Appalachia's Future



To offset lost mining jobs, officials, business leaders and environmentalists are setting aside political feuds to try to create an entrepreneurial economy.

By [SHERYL GAY STOLBERG](#) AUG. 17, 2016

PIKEVILLE, Ky. — Here in the heart of central Appalachian coal country, an economic experiment is underway inside an airy renovated Coca-Cola bottling plant. Most days, Michael Harrison, a former mine electrician and “buggy man” who once drove trucks 700 feet underground, can be found hunched over a silver laptop, designing websites for clients like the [Pikeville tourism board](#).

Mr. Harrison, 36, is one of 10 former mine workers employed at [BitSource](#), an internet start-up founded by two Pikeville businessmen determined to prove a point: that with training and encouragement, Kentucky miners can learn to code. [READ MORE](#)

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