A2A PROGRESS REPORT

OVERVIEW

Assessment-to-Action" (A2A) helps communities identify their primary economic constraints and develop actions to address them.. Communities progressed through four phases: initial 10-week workshops, 10+ weeks of implementation, 6-month milestones, and 12+ month sustained outcomes.

- 2 years
- 6 A2A Sessions (workshops + 10 weeks)
- 19 Wyoming communities
- 104 total participants

The 10+ week period was characterized by **intensive groundwork**: communities moved from conceptual planning to boots-on-the-ground relationship building, systematic assessment, and creating the collaborative infrastructure necessary for long-term implementation. This phase focused on gathering intelligence, building coalitions, and establishing credibility before making major resource commitments.

The post-A2A period demonstrates communities moved beyond project focus to **systems change**: creating permanent committees, restructuring organizations, formalizing funding commitments through MOUs, hiring dedicated staff, and integrating new methodologies into standard city operations. Rather than one-off initiatives, these communities built **sustainable infrastructure** for ongoing economic growth work.

Most Notable: Hudson's transformation from infrastructure planning to delivering 12+ discrete improvements spanning governance, capital projects, community services, and communications—demonstrating how initial focused work can catalyze comprehensive community change.

For more detail, refer to the [A2A Summary Spreadsheet](#)

Next A2A tentatively scheduled for March 3-4 in Casper, WY.

KEY RESULTS

Housing Development (5 communities) Sheridan, Shoshoni, Greybull, Rolling Hills, and Burlington all identified housing as critical. Notable achievements include Greybull's partnership negotiations with Habitat for Humanity, Shoshoni's creation of a long-term town-sponsored A2A committee with strategic housing plans, and Sheridan's improved stakeholder collaboration with integrated city-wide processes.

Infrastructure Development (3 communities) Hudson demonstrated exceptional results, moving from initial planning to annexing commercial property, upgrading critical sewer systems, hiring code enforcement, establishing a 501(c)3 for community funding, and implementing comprehensive beautification programs including a food pantry and baseball field renovation.

Partner Collaboration & Engagement (6 communities) Riverton, Thermopolis, Evansville, Gillette, and others focused on breaking down silos. Gillette achieved significant structural change by merging two economic development entities and has plans to relocate city staff to facilitate ongoing collaboration, backed by formal MOUs outlining multi-stakeholder funding commitments.

Business & Industry Development Glenrock developed Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) capabilities, while our Local Foods Industry team successfully revised the Food Freedom Act through stakeholder engagement, collaborating closely with the Dept of Ag, presenting improvements at state conferences.

PROGRAM RETENTION & IMPACT

- **Active participants:** 15 out of 18 (83%) of teams moved beyond initial workshops into continued sustained implementation.
- **Discontinued:** 3 communities attended workshops but did not continue (Dubois, Lander, Shoshoni - initial cohort, Upton - later cohort) *NOTE: Shoshoni joined a later cohort, successfully completed A2A, and continues to work the process*
- **Long-term success:** 66% of communities show 12+ month sustained outcomes with structural changes to governance and funding

WYOMING

POST-SURVEY RESULTS

- <u>Meaningful Change</u>: Teams moved the needle on key issues, addressing root causes rather than symptoms.
    - **100%** said A2A was "**effective in helping identify a root problem**".
    - **88%** said that they made "**valuable headway on the problem**".
- <u>Increased Collaboration</u>: The program fostered stronger relationships and teamwork, a critical foundation for future efforts.
    - **87%** said the A2A program "**improved collaboration**."
    - **88%** of respondents noted that **collaboration and teamwork** when learning and getting things done was what they were "**most proud of**".
- <u>Scalable Results</u>: The A2A framework is repeatable, equipping communities and industries with tools to tackle ongoing challenges.
    - **75%** "**likely to continue to work on the project**"
    - **75%** said they **will use the A2A process** to address other problems or issues.
    - **88 % would participate in A2A again.**

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

This program demonstrates that targeted technical assistance, combined with structured peer learning and accountability, produces tangible infrastructure improvements, institutional reforms, and enhanced public-private collaboration across diverse community sizes and challenges.

This community-driven economic growth model yields measurable returns in infrastructure investment, organizational capacity, and cross-sector partnership development.

WYOMING