

NSF ASCEND ENGINE in Colorado and Wyoming

Federal grant to support regional
economic development through
climate resilience solutions



Innosphere

NSF ASCEND ENGINE TEAM



Jeni Cross
Director of Co-Creation



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Chief of Workforce

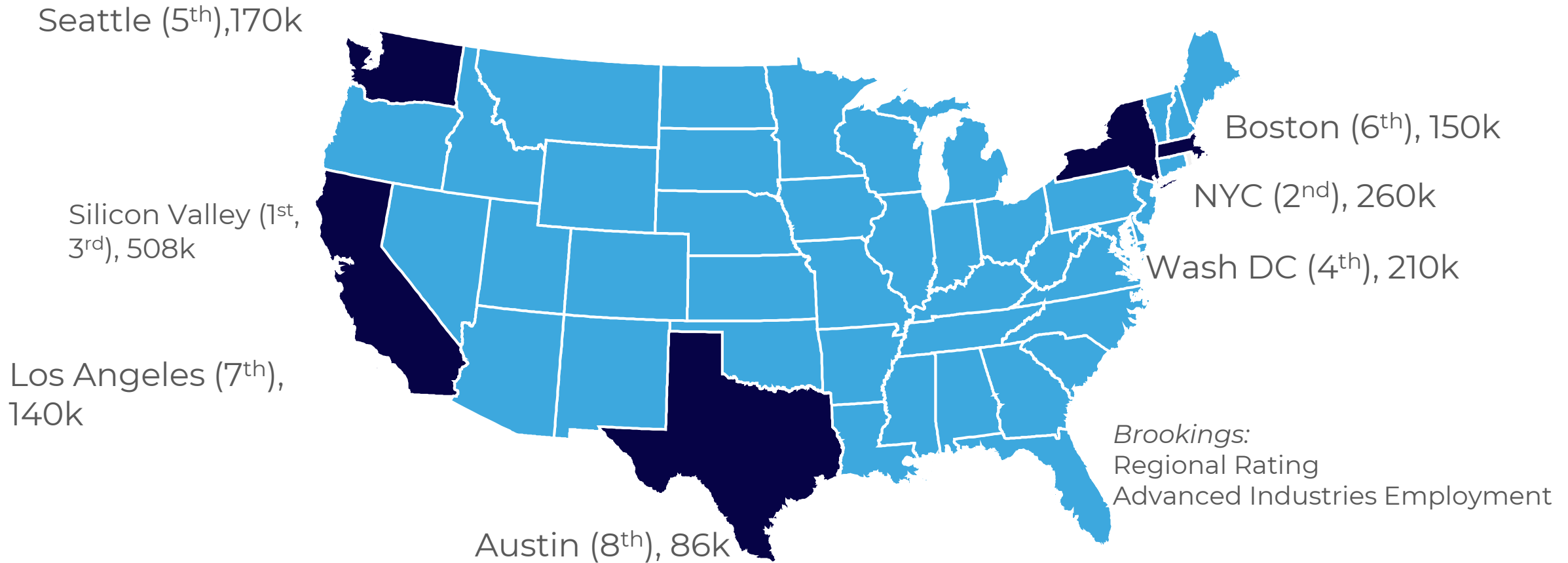
WHAT IS THE ENGINE?

We are a **diverse coalition** with the mission of increasing **climate resilience** and **economic growth**.

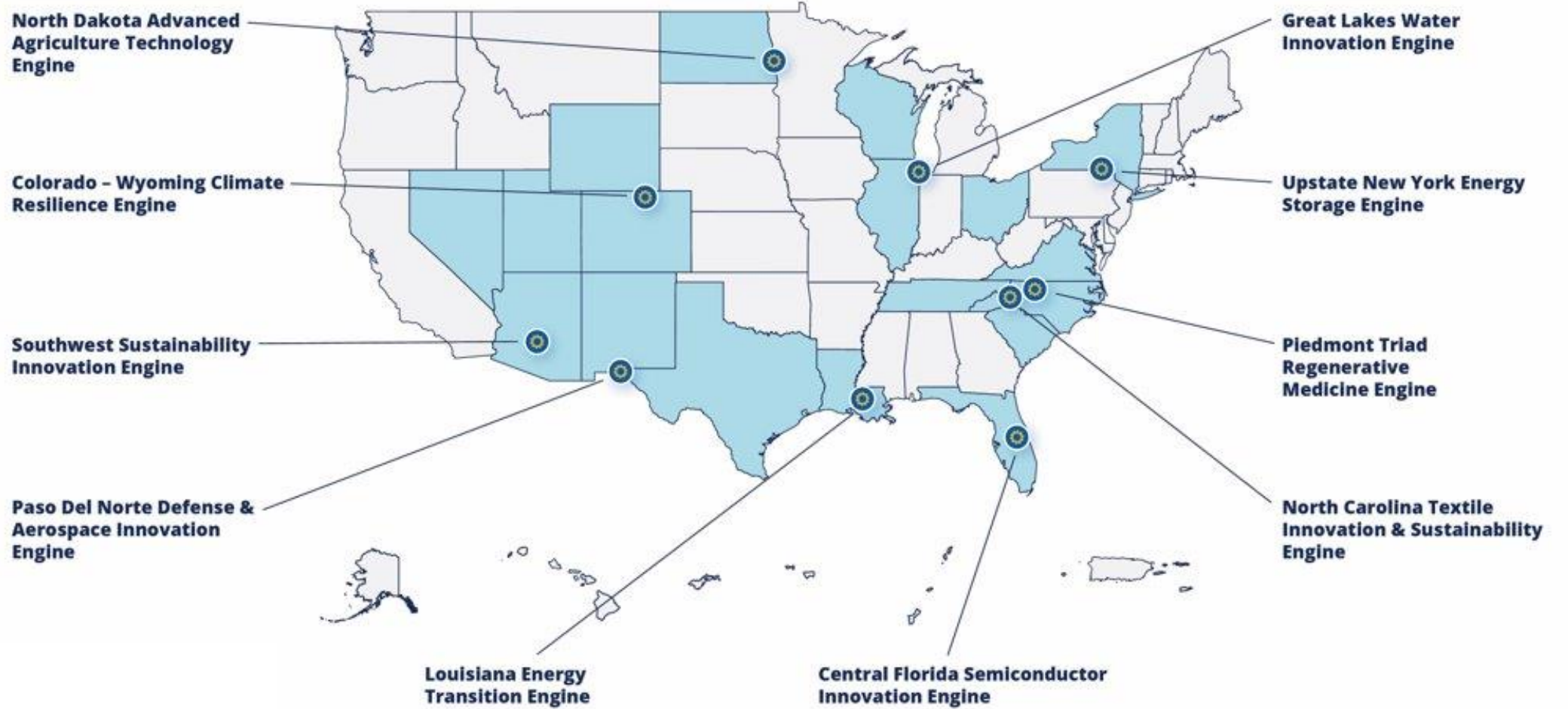
Key facts:

- Sponsor: **NSF** Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships
 - Started: **April 2024**
 - Funding: Up to **\$160M** possible over next 10 years
 - Support: **Funding** for *research, startups and interns*, **workshops, webinars**, etc.
 - Focus: Advanced environmental **sensing** and **predictive analytics**
 - Topics: **Soil** health & prod' ty, **Air** quality, **Fire** prep. & response, **Water** qual. & avail.
 - Mandate: Develop **technology, startups**, and **workforce**
 - Partners: **National Labs, Corporates, Universities, Governments**, etc.
 - Foundation: **Inclusive excellence**
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Eight Dominant Tech-based Metros

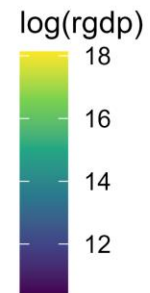
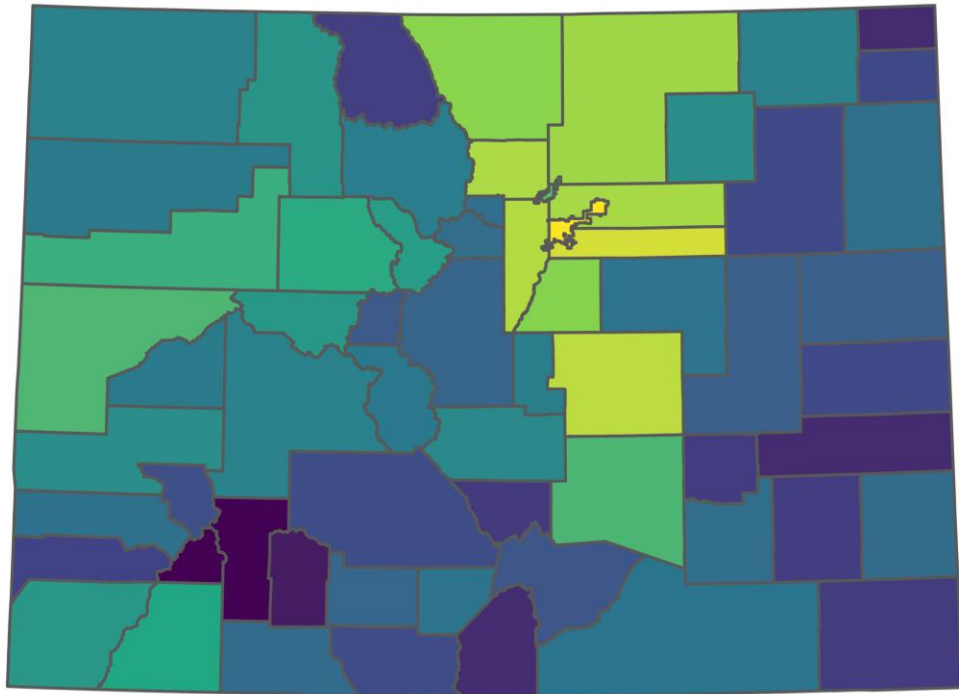


10 Inaugural NSF Engines

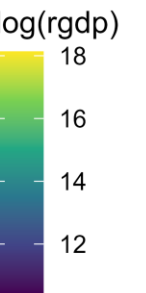
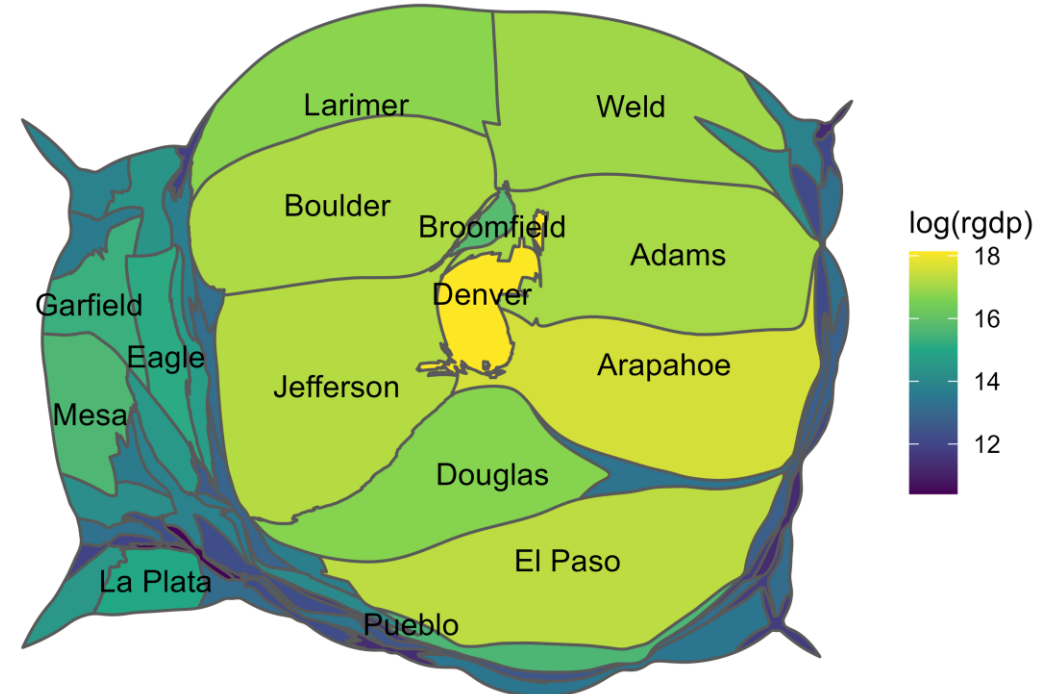


WHY ARE WE HERE?

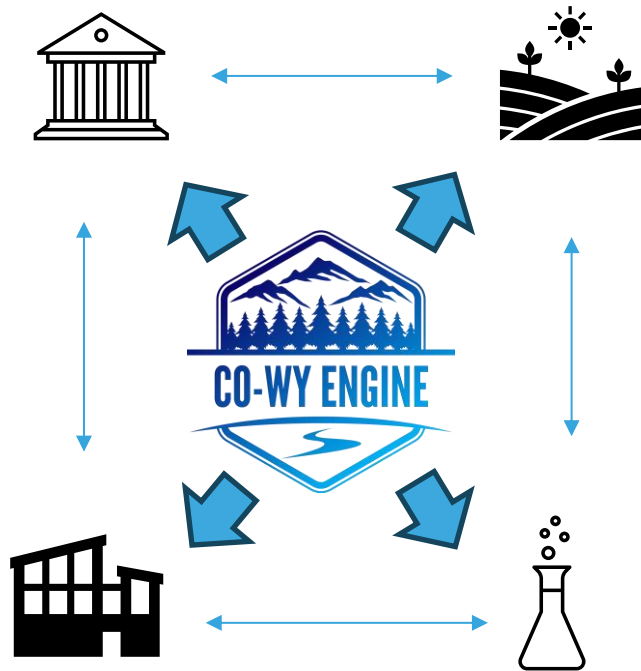
CO Counties Real GDP 2019 - Choropleth



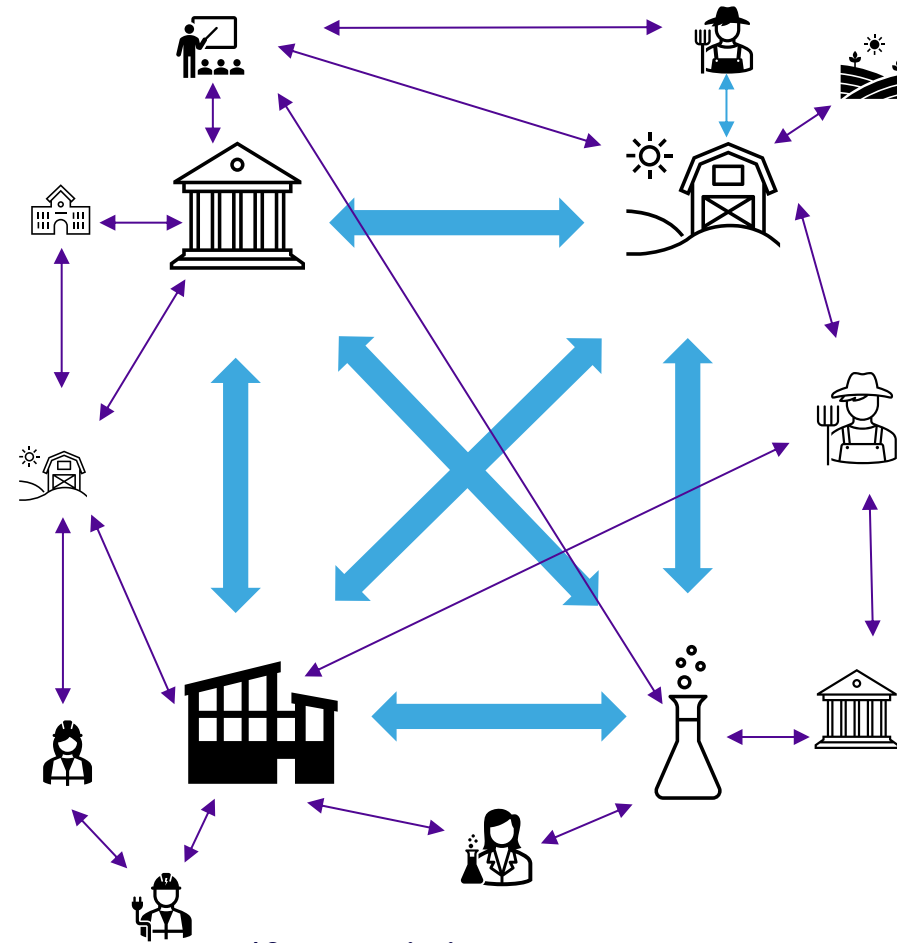
CO Counties Real GDP 2019 - Cartogram



Our goal is to catalyze a self-sustaining **ecosystem**



CO-WY Engine facilitated ecosystem



Self-sustaining ecosystem



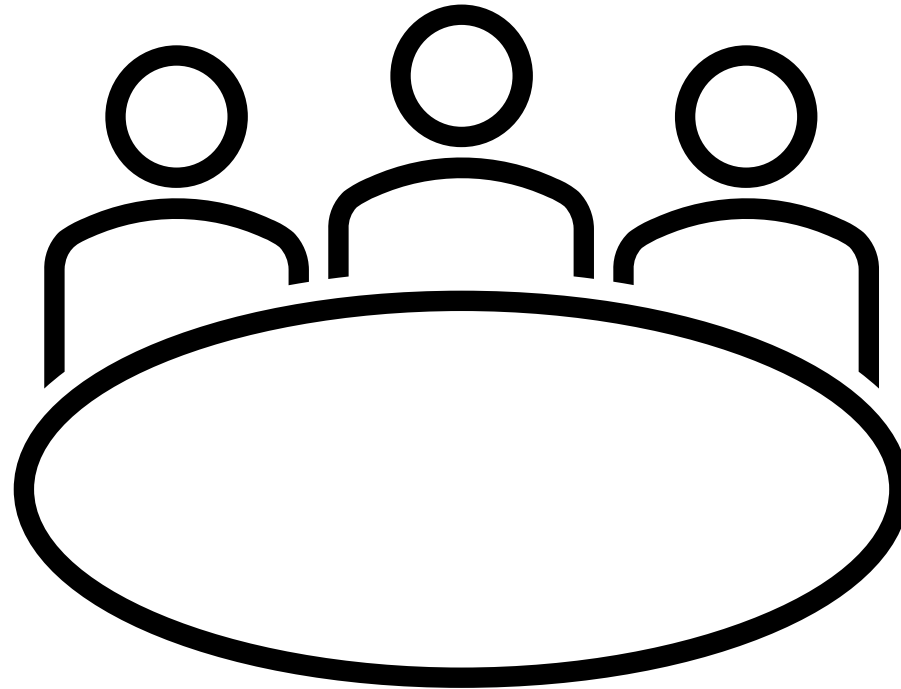
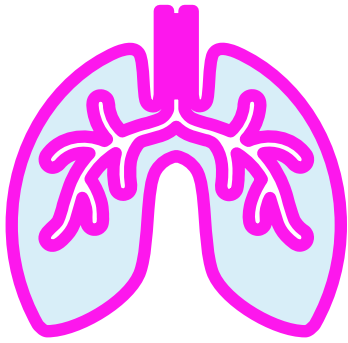
Urban sewage, CSU Colorado Water Quality

CSU Extension



Alexander Mountain Fire, July 2024 – *The Denver Post*

DISCUSSION – WHICH AREA(S) RESONATE MOST?



ACTIVITY – ECOSYSTEM MAPPING (10m)

For this activity, keep in mind the four areas we just discussed: **air quality, soil health, water quality and accessibility**, and **wildfire preparation**.

You will work individually at first, then will have the opportunity to discuss with others.

Make a list of the **businesses in your town** or region related to climate resilience
(5 mins)

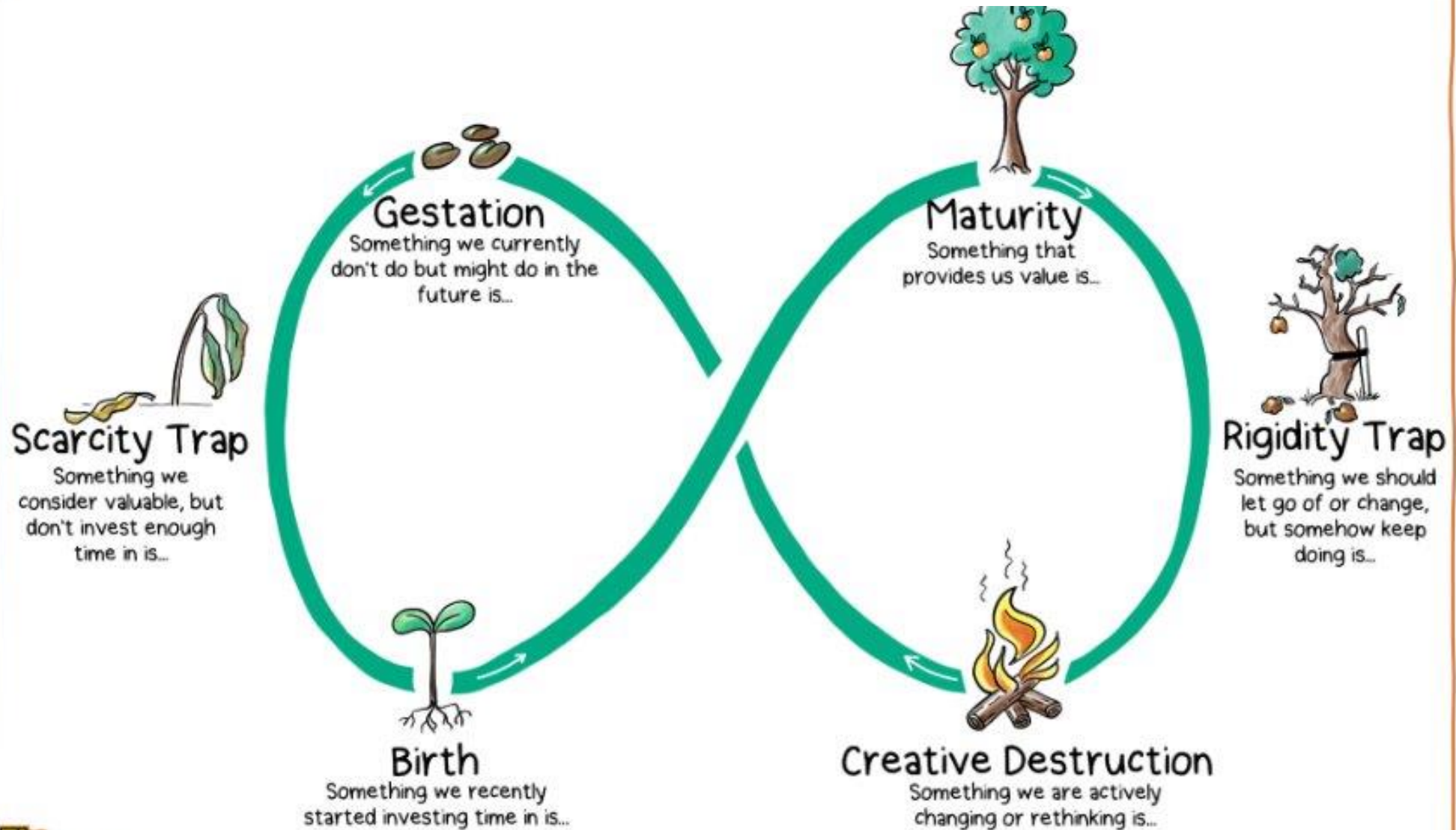
Make a list of **other activities related to our focus areas** (air quality, wildfire, water, soil) in your community
(5 mins)



1 Idea
on each
sticky
note

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM LIFECYCLE

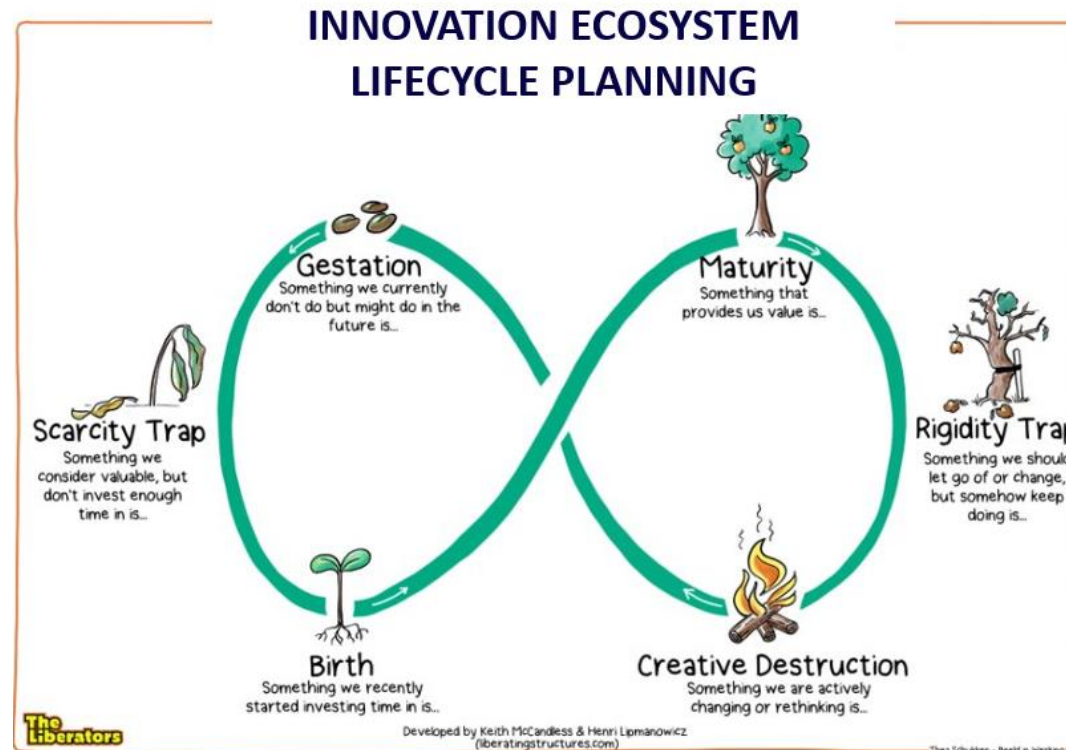
PLANNING



PLACE POST-ITS ON THE ECOSYSTEM LIFECYCLE (10m)

NOW: look at your post-its and think about which stage of the ecosystem it belongs.

Take your post-its and put them in the corresponding stage on the lifecycle.



BOARD CONVERSATION (10m)

- Form small groups, one for each of the lifecycle stages.
 - As a group, read all the post-its .
 - Move any post-its to another board, if the group thinks they are misplaced.
 - Identify highlights on this board.
 - Prepare for a 2min share out.
-

LARGE GROUP SHARE OUT

- 2-4 mins per group to share the group's KEY TAKEAWAYS
 - We don't need a summary of everything, just your Aha! and key insights.
 - **What can we see now, that was not obvious before? (15 mins)**
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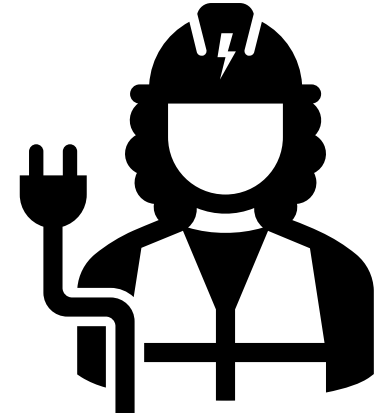
HOW THE ENGINE CAN HELP



Research & Development



Entrepreneurship



Workforce Development

**In addition to traditional support offered through Innosphere, including funding, acceleration, and incubation.*

MOVING FORWARD

- Who is one person you want to connect with?
- What is one post-it that you might be able to act on to help it move or develop it?
- What are the unique advantages of this region that we may not have discussed today?



Roundtable Discussion



ROUND ROBIN CLOSURE

- One action they will take after the meeting.
- One connection point you see with the CO-WY Engine.



Thank You!

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