



### **Becoming a Member Group of The Alliance for Appalachia**

The Alliance for Appalachia is composed of member groups working to end mountaintop removal and other destructive coal technologies and create a sustainable future for Appalachia.

#### **Who Can Join?**

The Alliance for Appalachia is interested in engaging with a variety of Appalachian organizations, in order to strengthen our alliances and the power which we hold together.

While we consider ourselves allies and supporters of many different aspects of social change in Appalachia and beyond, the Alliance has a set of specific goals which we works towards together. Therefore, organizations interested in working together with us as a member organization should share at least one of our goals. Our three core goals are:

1. ending a devastating form of coal mining called mountaintop removal coal mining,
2. putting a halt to destructive coal technologies, and
3. creating a sustainable, just Appalachia.

#### **What does becoming a member organization entail?**

There are two levels at which member organizations participate in the Alliance for Appalachia; Core Member Groups and Supporting Groups. We put these distinctions in place to accommodate the different needs and capacities of our member groups.

#### **Benefits of Core Groups:**

- Core groups have a voting role on The Alliance Steering Committee.
- Core groups can bring up to four people to the Steering Committee Meetings. Members of the Coordinating Committee must be members of core groups.
- Core groups receive priority for funding support, such as travel scholarships, housing costs, food, and other expenses related to Alliance meetings and events when there is a budget cap.

#### **Expectations of Core Member Groups:**

- Core member groups have a voting role in the Alliance Steering Committee and participate in steering committee meetings and calls to guide the overall strategic direction of the Alliance.
- Core member groups have members or staff who take part in committee work to implement the Alliance's plans in legislative, enforcement, training, and other areas.
- Core member groups commit a significant amount of resources (time or budget) to the overall plans of the Alliance. This includes, but is not limited to, bringing members to events, applying technical knowledge or specialized skills, and staff time.
- Core member groups work to achieve the Alliance's goals independently of the Alliance.
- Core groups are listed as members of the Alliance in public and private materials.

**Benefits for Supporting Groups:**

- Supporting groups can bring up to two people to the Steering Committee meetings as space allows.
- Supporting groups receive priority for funding support below that of Core groups, but before non-member groups and individuals when there is a budget cap. Can receive financial support for travel scholarships, housing costs, food, and other expenses related to Alliance meetings and events when funding allows.
- Supporting groups can choose whether or not to be publicly listed as member groups.

**Expectations of Supporting Groups:**

- Supporting groups do not have a formal vote in the Alliance's steering committee, but are expected to participate in steering committee meetings and calls when they include the specific projects on which they are working. They are not expected to contribute to the overall guiding strategy of the Alliance, but are welcome to do so.
- Supporting member groups have members or staff who participate in committees that are implementing the projects to which they are contributing.
- Supporting groups may not have a member on the coordinating committee.
- Supporting groups commit resources to the projects to which they are contributing, whether by bringing members to events, applying technical knowledge or specialized skills, or staff time.

**How do we apply to become a member?**

In order to become a member of The Alliance for Appalachia, our Steering Committee, made up of representatives from all of our organizations, would like some input in person or in the form of a letter with regard to the following questions:

- What are the benefits of joining The Alliance for your group?
- What are the benefits for The Alliance as a whole if your group were to join?
- In what way would you participate or How does it see itself fitting in?

Finally, we need to know whether or not you would like to become a "Core Member Group" or a "Supporting Group."

**Contact The Alliance for Appalachia:**

**By email:** [Contact@TheAllianceforAppalachia.org](mailto:Contact@TheAllianceforAppalachia.org)

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