

The Advanced Carbon Collaborative

When Dave Spencer "retired" last year, he didn't let his expertise retire with him. Instead, he started The Advanced Carbon Collaborative and set up his office in the Energy Capital Enterprise Center.

Dave says he doesn't fit the profile for most businesses in the Enterprise Center. In fact, he's more of a resource for start-up businesses rather than being a start-up himself.

The retired Northeast Regional Director for the Wyoming Business Council started his consulting business with an eye to "working with companies that are prospects for value-added coal products."

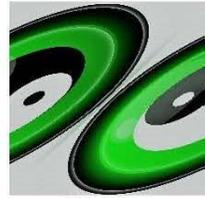
Dave partners with the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources. He's paid as a consultant by UW to work at no charge with start-up businesses that want to commercialize a value-added coal product. His other primary client is Energy Capital Economic Development. He's working closely with Phil Christopherson, CEO, on developing the Advanced Carbon Product Innovation Center to give those value-added coal products companies a place to take their ideas from concept to market.

Dave does most of his work in the Powder River Basin and in southwest Wyoming--what he calls "the two main industrial areas of the state." One of Dave's particular specialties is site analysis--maintaining a database of available sites for plants and helping new companies evaluate which sites best meet their needs.

In addition to working directly with clients on commercialization, technology transfer and other services to help them grow, he also serves as a referral system for other consultants with specialties that his clients might need. Another of his roles is to ensure UW stays connected to the local market, and Dave identifies opportunities the university might want to pursue for research purposes.

Dave doesn't intend to work through his whole retirement. His goal is to build his company up over the next 4 to 5 years and then possibly turn it over to someone else. Until then, Dave will continue helping start-up companies--and the Wyoming economy--to thrive and grow.

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