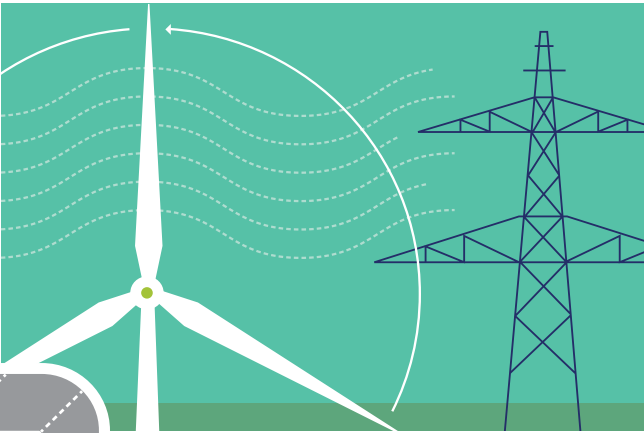


# Clean Energy Success in the States



 **CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL**

 **LCV**

Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

# Clean Energy Success in the States

**OVER THE LAST YEAR, OUR COUNTRY HAS CHANGED.** While weathering the compounding impacts of a global pandemic, a national reckoning on racial justice, and the climate crisis, states have continued to push forward and make critical and equitable clean energy progress. Last November, voters elected climate champions to lead the White House and Congress, and, for the first time in years, we have an opportunity to link federal action with the transformative progress states and cities have recently advanced.

In this now-or-never moment, federal, state, and local leaders have the opportunity to collaborate to create transformational change that will cut planet-warming pollution in half by 2030 and invest in exciting and just solutions to build a better future for us all. And while federal action is imperative, critical advancements at the state and local levels are providing examples and inspiration for the kind of bold and equitable climate action needed to meet the challenges we face.

Through the Clean Energy for All campaign, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) and our more than 30 state affiliates' (together, the Conservation Voter Movement) have grown and mobilized grassroots power into a strong movement demanding that our leaders respond with the urgency science and justice demand to confront the climate crisis. Since launching the campaign in 2018, we've secured 100% clean energy commitments from more than 1,300 successful local, state and federal candidates. And across the CVM we've translated those commitments into policy progress in 28 states, including statewide 100% clean energy commitments in 15 states. This year, together, we have achieved victories that protect public health, defend our environment, create good, family-sustaining jobs, reduce the legacy of toxic pollution in frontline communities, and ensure that the transition to a clean energy economy includes benefits for everyone.

The policies, regulations and other wins in this report are helping our country seize this critical moment. From shutting down fossil fuel infrastructure and making solar more accessible, to utility reform and setting emissions reduction targets in major polluting sectors, to groundbreaking community-led solutions to address environmental justice, this is our opportunity to shape our future with clean energy for all.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL

# Accomplishments

2,000+



Meetings

WITH DECISIONMAKERS & STAFF

200,000+



Calls, Emails, & Texts

TO DECISIONMAKERS

40,000



Public Comments

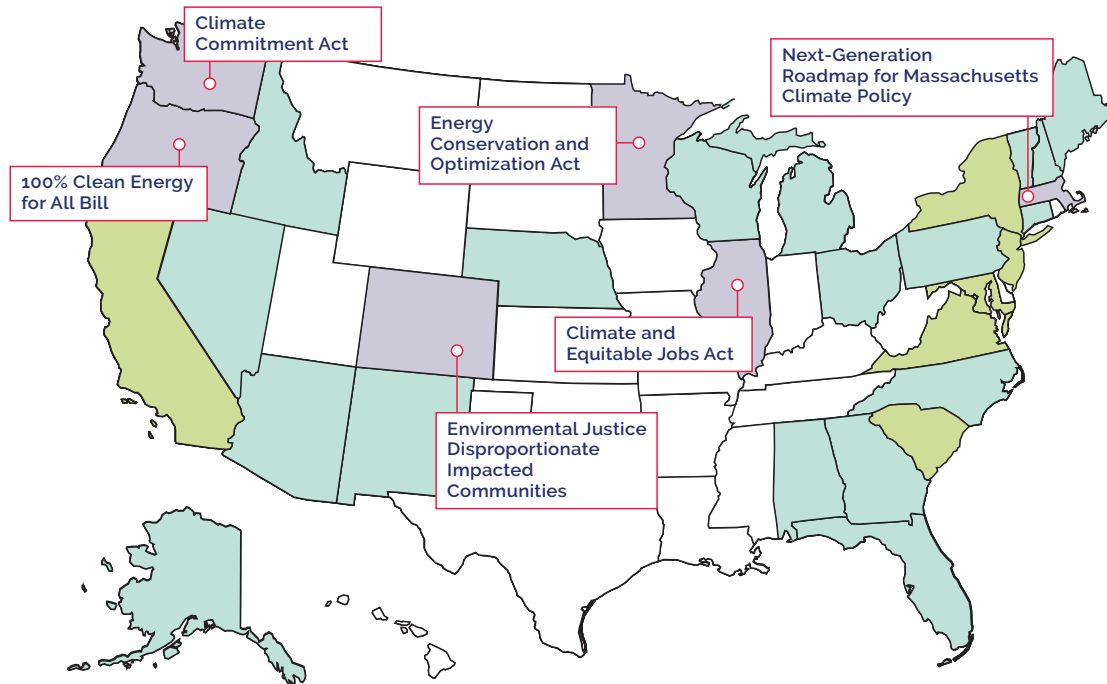
SUBMITTED

NEARLY **40%** OF PEOPLE

LIVE IN A PLACE THAT HAS COMMITTED TO

**100% CLEAN ENERGY**

# 2021 Clean Energy for All Progress



## 30 STATES

campaigning for  
Clean Energy for All Progress

- Comprehensive climate or clean energy legislation
- Significant state clean energy victories
- Active Clean Energy for All programs making progress



# CALIFORNIA

## California's Clean Energy Progress

- **FIGHTING FRACKED GAS:** Governor Gavin Newsom banned new fracking permits after 2024 and directed the state to create a plan to phase out oil extraction entirely by no later than 2045. Newsom also proposed a new rule to require a 3,200 foot buffer zone between new oil wells and communities — the largest in the country — and increased pollution regulations for existing wells within that distance.
- **OFFSHORE WIND PLANNING:** Together with the Biden administration, Governor Newsom struck a deal to develop 5GW of offshore wind off the coast of California to help the state meet its renewable portfolio standard goals. California also committed over \$20 million to fund the project.
- **CUTTING POLLUTION AND HOLDING POLLUTERS RESPONSIBLE:** California passed legislation to increase and enforce oil and gas companies' responsibility for managing idle extraction sites and liability for remediation of abandoned wells and infrastructure. The South Coast Air Quality Management District, which regulates air quality for 18 million Californians, also adopted key rules to lessen air pollution from trucks and oil refineries.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE:

# California Environmental Voters

Since Governor Newsom took office in 2019, California Environmental Voters (EnviroVoters) has pushed him to step up as a leader on clean energy and climate. When the legislature has failed to pass critical climate policy, Newsom has taken bold initiative to protect clean air and water for Californians through executive action.

EnviroVoters also consistently holds legislators' feet to the fire, and this year, ran powerful accountability campaigns targeting key state senators. Through multi-faceted tactics, from on-the-ground organizing in battleground regions to persistent lobbying and legislative pressure, including hosting their annual Green California Advocacy Days,

Necessary investments in climate adaptation, mitigation, and offshore wind development were set to expire in the Senate at the end of the legislative session, but EnviroVoters' accountability efforts raised public awareness to hold state senators responsible and secured these budget items. The wins at the South Coast Air Quality Management District were also the result of accountability work after EnviroVoters brought the agency's ties to fossil fuel interests to light through a strategic media program, creating a website and turning out community members to comment at meetings. EnviroVoters' robust, sustained advocacy campaigns in 2021 gained extensive media coverage and mobilized tens of thousands of Californians to demand action, especially in response to the devastating wildfires that plague the state.



Leaders need to deliver for Californians who are worried about the impact of the climate crisis on our water and air, protecting our homes from wildfires and the resilience of our food and energy supply. Breaking corporate polluters' grip on Sacramento is the only way we will solve the climate crisis."

**Mary Creasman, CEO, California Environmental Voters**



*EnviroVoters partnered with local artists to highlight the impacts of the climate crisis and the need to pass bold climate legislation.*



# COLORADO

## Colorado's Clean Energy Progress

- **ENFORCEABLE AND EQUITABLE EMISSIONS REDUCTION:** Colorado set specific, enforceable deadlines and accountability for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in three of the state's top five carbon polluting sectors: electricity generation, oil and gas, and industry. Governor Jared Polis established emissions reductions goals in his 2019 climate and 100% clean energy roadmap but until now, there were no mandatory actions or targets to ensure the state actually achieved the goals.
- **ENGAGING AND INVESTING IN DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES:** Colorado adopted nation-leading environmental justice legislation that codifies important provisions for engaging disproportionately impacted communities in environmental decision making. The state also closed a loophole so that polluters are fined for the greenhouse gas pollution they emit, and the revenue is invested back into Colorado's most impacted communities.
- **REDUCING CARBON POLLUTION IN BUILDINGS:** A suite of bills passed to reduce carbon pollution from another of Colorado's top five polluting sectors — buildings — by ordering large commercial buildings to track and reduce their energy waste, directing gas utilities to create "clean heat" plans to reduce their overall greenhouse gas emissions, and establishing incentive programs for energy efficiency upgrades in households and businesses.
- **MAKING POLLUTERS PAY:** In a hard-won victory, polluters in Colorado must now pay for more comprehensive and transparent air pollution monitoring. This will provide much-needed data to assess and address the impacts of pollution, particularly on communities of color, rural and lower-income communities that are disproportionately affected by air pollution.
- **CRACKING DOWN ON METHANE LEAKS:** All new and existing oil and gas facilities in Colorado are now required to use valves that do not release methane and other pollutants when opened — the first rule of its kind in the country.

# THE CVM DIFFERENCE: Conservation Colorado and Protége

Despite political challenges, Conservation Colorado and Protége worked with more than 100 organizations to build momentum behind a bill to set enforceable pollution reduction deadlines in the legislature, and created an overwhelming show of public support to convince state leaders to come to the table and negotiate on the bill. Key tactics included generating over 7,000 contacts to legislators, running a large print ad with environmental justice partners in the state's largest newspaper, the Denver Post, and leading a robust positive accountability campaign to thank legislators who supported the bill. Conservation CO and Protége's efforts were critical to achieving this important victory; the key provisions in the climate roadmap legislation were adopted into another of their priority environmental justice bills, which passed the legislature and was signed into law.

Conservation CO and Protége have been extremely successful in activating grassroots support and pushed all of their 2021 priority climate and environmental justice bills across the finish line. Their public engagement this year included organizing a large climate rally on the lawn of the state Capitol and holding a climate week that generated over 1,000 actions and received press attention each day. Conservation CO has also helped build a powerful and diverse climate coalition of over 100 groups, including conservation, public health, community, justice, business and outdoor recreation organizations. The unprecedented, unified strength and strategic cooperation of this coalition was vital to achieving pollution reduction measures and polluter accountability policies.



Colorado climate coalition members hosted a press conference in front of a melting ice globe with sponsors of the 2021 climate and environmental justice bills (Credit: Sean Price)



Colorado decision-makers from the legislative Latino Caucus spoke with their constituents during a listening tour co-hosted by Protége



We must urgently address the climate emergency to leave Colorado better for our kids and grandkids. I was proud to work alongside Conservation Colorado this year to pass a suite of bills that will measurably reduce carbon pollution and make Colorado a national leader on environmental justice."

Faith Winter, Colorado state senator





# ILLINOIS

## Illinois' Clean Energy Progress

- **THE CLIMATE AND EQUITABLE JOBS ACT:** Governor J.B. Pritzker signed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) into law — the boldest and most equitable climate bill in the country. CEJA focuses on racial and economic justice, centering impacted communities and sets a goal of 50% clean energy by 2040 and 100% by 2045. This groundbreaking policy will create thousands of good-paying jobs, establish nation-leading equity programs and hold utilities accountable.
- **INCENTIVIZING AND INVESTING IN ELECTRIC TRANSIT:** After violating federal emissions regulations, Volkswagen was ordered to pay states as restitution. Governor Pritzker revised Illinois' VW settlement spending plan to prioritize funding transit electrification with the remaining \$88.6 million. Previously, the plan focused on fossil fuel spending and was heavily influenced by industry. Illinois also passed a bold package of tax incentives for electric vehicle manufacturing to encourage diverse and equitable hiring practices.
- **COLLABORATING WITH OTHER STATES TO ADVANCE ELECTRIC VEHICLES:** Illinois joined four other states to create the Regional Electric Vehicle for the Midwest initiative to collaborate on building electric vehicle infrastructure in the region. The Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) also introduced and secured the passage of two resolutions in the state Legislature calling on the governor to sign on to the Multi-State Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum.
- **CLOSING COAL PLANTS:** Two coal plants in Illinois announced retirements this year, including a plant that IEC and partners had long been fighting against because of environmental justice concerns.
- **CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING IN CHICAGO:** The Chicago Metropolitan Mayors Caucus joined the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to create a climate action plan for the Chicago Region. The area is home to nearly 9 million people and is one of only three places in the U.S. to create a regional climate plan.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE:

# Illinois Environmental Council

The Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) spent years organizing, lobbying and building power to pass and sign into law the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA). This major victory commits the state to 100% clean energy while creating jobs, holding utilities accountable, and centering communities most impacted by fossil fuel pollution and climate change. IEC helped develop Illinois' legislative Green Caucus and secure the climate action majority in the General Assembly that made this victory possible. IEC also mobilized tens of thousands of Illinoisians to contact their legislators in support of clean energy and climate action, including organizing multiple lobby days with over 1,000 attendees.

CEJA is a nation-leading clean energy bill that was created by and for communities through purposeful public involvement and strong and equitable partnerships. IEC was part of forming the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition which includes organizations connected to hundreds of communities across the state. Through the coalition, IEC helped orchestrate the Listen, Lead, Share program, which gathered input on the state's clean energy future from residents and community leaders in every Senate District in the state.



*Clean Energy Rally during the special legislative session that was convened to pass clean energy legislation in Illinois.*



The fossil fuel industry has a deadly legacy of pollution and climate impacts that sickens our community and hinders our prosperity. Securing a just transition for the Waukegan coal plant and equitable clean energy legislation will mean a healthier future for our children and more economic opportunities for everyone.”

**Celeste Flores, co-chair, Clean Power Lake County**





# MARYLAND

## Maryland's Clean Energy Progress

- **TRANSITIONING TO CLEAN BUSES STATEWIDE:** All new transit buses purchased by the state must be zero-emission vehicles starting in 2023. Maryland is the first state to pass a law committing to transition to r clean buses statewide and is a national leader on electric buses and school buses.
- **LEADING ON ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES:** Montgomery County Public Schools unanimously approved a contract to lease 326 electric school buses, the first step toward a goal to electrify their entire fleet.
- **REFORMING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMISSION:** Maryland reformed the state's Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to increase representation and accessibility for people on the frontlines of environmental and public health harms.
- **MAKING CLEAN ENERGY MORE ACCESSIBLE:** Maryland passed legislation to allow Community Choice Energy, which gives communities the power to make electricity purchasing decisions and choose their energy sources while leaving ownership of power generation and the grid in the hands of utilities. The state also doubled the limit on net metering to encourage more solar development.
- **CLEANING UP CLEAN ENERGY:** Maryland's legislature passed a bill removing "black liquor" — a by-product of paper production — from the list of subsidized renewable energy sources. After extensive lobbying by the state's only paper mill, burning this toxic industrial waste for power generation was included under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standards nearly two decades ago and eligible for receiving subsidies meant to encourage clean energy development.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE:

# Maryland League of Conservation Voters and Chispa Maryland

Maryland League of Conservation Voters' (MDLCV) Chispa Maryland program has been pushing for electric school buses through its Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign. As part of the campaign, MDLCV led the mobilization of nearly 10,000 Marylanders statewide in support of bus electrification, including thousands in support of the Montgomery County school bus commitment and the MDOT transit bus commitment, organized multiple lobby days, and engaged dozens of elected officials.



In Maryland, we are making strides to sustain our environment, one that we take pride in leaving for our children. Step-by-step, we continue to make progress on climate change, and I look forward to continuing to work with Maryland LCV to shape policy that protects our state's natural resources and Marylanders."

**Cory McCray, Maryland state senator**



*Maryland LCV Executive Director Kim Coble was invited with the League of Conservation Voters, Chispa LCV, Vice President Kamala Harris, Senator Van Hollen, Senator Ben Cardin, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, and National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy to hear about more climate action on the national scale, electric school buses, the Electric Vehicles Charging Action Plan and more!*





# MASSACHUSETTS

## Massachusetts' Clean Energy Progress

- **NEXTGEN ROADMAP BILL:** After months of negotiations, Governor Charlie Baker signed the NextGen Roadmap into law. The landmark climate legislation set the strictest carbon emission limits in the country, significantly increased offshore wind procurement, and incorporated strong environmental justice protections.
- **VINEYARD WIND PROJECT FINALLY APPROVED:** The Biden administration approved the long-overdue Vineyard Wind project — the nation's first large-scale offshore wind development — which will be constructed off the coast of Massachusetts.
- **INCREASING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY IN OFFSHORE WIND:** In Massachusetts, offshore wind developers are now required to submit workforce and supplier diversity plans for evaluation with their project proposals and are connected with business advocacy organizations that prioritize communities of color. The goal is to increase economic inclusion in the offshore wind industry while building wealth and opportunity in communities of color and low-income communities.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE:

# Environmental League of Massachusetts

The NextGen Roadmap bill was a hard-won victory after years of engagement led by community-based, frontline groups in partnership with the Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) and other environmental organizations. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker vetoed the original bill, but advocates had built strong, bipartisan support in the state legislature so it was quickly amended and refiled without losing momentum, resulting in a stronger bill that was signed into law.

ELM has been a driving force in the nation advocating for offshore wind and created New England for Offshore Wind (NE4OSW), a powerful coalition to advance the responsible development of this resource through regional collaboration. Since launching in 2020, NE4OSW has grown to include almost 100 members, and has secured commitments for 8,786 megawatts of future offshore wind. To ensure the

coalition reflects the interests and needs of the region, ELM gives out subgrants to allow smaller, less-resourced organizations to participate and continues to seek out groups that represent varied communities and issues to join the coalition. After an initiative organized by the coalition, nine governors sent a letter to the Biden administration in support of offshore wind.

ELM is focused on ensuring that offshore wind projects include strong labor standards and that the economic benefits are equitably distributed. They have built relationships with labor groups and business leaders of color, held briefings for stakeholders, driven public comments and lobbied legislators and regulators resulting in the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources adopting two of ELM's key recommendations for increasing supplier and workforce diversity in offshore wind.



Offshore wind is a game changer for New England. Accelerating responsibly developed offshore wind is the single biggest action we can take to address the climate crisis in New England. It's not a question of should we develop offshore wind, it's can we afford not to."

**Susannah Hatch, clean energy coalition director and regional lead, Environmental League of Massachusetts and New England for Offshore Wind**



ENVIRONMENTAL LEAGUE OF MASSACHUSETTS



Block Island Wind Farm



# MINNESOTA

## Minnesota's Clean Energy Progress

- **ENERGY CONSERVATION AND OPTIMIZATION ACT:** The bipartisan Energy Conservation and Optimization Act was the first major clean energy legislation passed in Minnesota in nearly a decade. The bill expands the state's successful energy efficiency program to reduce emissions and help transition to clean energy. Up to \$12 million in new spending will be dedicated to efficiency measures for low-income customers.
- **PLANNING FOR EMISSIONS REDUCTION AND CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION:** Minnesota passed a package of legislation to help the state meet its emissions reduction and clean energy goals. The state will study incentives for using materials with lower environmental impacts and a new Energy Transition Office will support communities and workers as outdated electricity infrastructure is retired, helping to ensure an effective and equitable transition to clean energy.
- **REGULATING CAR POLLUTION:** Minnesota adopted clean cars rules proposed by Governor Tim Walz, becoming the first state in the Midwest to set such strong tailpipe emission standards.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE: Conservation Minnesota

In 2021, Conservation Minnesota's (CM) three major climate policy priorities were passed through the only divided legislature in the country and signed into law. These bipartisan victories are a result of years spent cultivating relationships with legislators on both sides of the aisle and developing partnerships across the political spectrum and with non-traditional allies representing diverse interests including business, agriculture, labor and equity. Through strong policy and public engagement teams, CM has built bridges between the environmental movement and other communities, growing their influence, increasing their leverage in the legislature and furthering clean energy progress in Minnesota. The state is an inspiring example of how environmental solutions can bring people together.

CM leads transparency and accountability campaigns to highlight and reward decision makers who have

taken action on climate issues and call out those who blocked or opposed progress. In this way, the organization is encouraging further climate leadership by building and demonstrating support from constituents and drawing contrasts for the public. CM also engages elected officials through a robust candidate education initiative to ensure leaders are prepared and well versed in clean energy policy as they assume office.

For over two years, CM advocated for clean cars rules, helping to build a broad coalition and participating in all aspects of the rulemaking process. They worked closely with Governor Walz's administration, collected public comments, ran a vast public education campaign on the impacts of the policy and mobilized Minnesotans in support. Through CM's efforts, Governor Walz has become a climate champion and Minnesota is leading the way in the Midwest.



The clean energy victories in this year's legislative session were a win for all Minnesotans. They take important steps to improve air quality, reduce emissions, and protect hard working Minnesotans. With the only divided legislature in the nation, Minnesota has demonstrated to other states and the federal government how to create public policy to make progress on clean energy."

**Paul Austin, executive director, Conservation Minnesota**



*Conservation Minnesota Executive Director Paul Austin among environmental leaders with Governor Walz at an Eden Prairie business celebrating Clean Cars MN going into effect.*



**CONSERVATION  
MINNESOTA**





# NEBRASKA

## Nebraska's Clean Energy Progress

- **POWER TO THE PEOPLE! UTILITIES COMMIT TO DECARBONIZATION:** All three of Nebraska's major electricity providers have committed to decarbonization due to years of strategic campaigning and power building by the Nebraska Conservation Voters. This year, the state's largest utility, the Nebraska Public Power District, committed to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Omaha Public Power District adopted the goal in 2019 and in 2020, the Lincoln Electric System set an even bolder target — to reach carbon neutrality by 2040. Together, these utilities provide power for over 95% of the state, which means that effectively, Nebraska is now the first red state to commit to decarbonization and set on the path to 100% clean energy. Nebraska is also the only state in the nation with entirely publicly-owned utilities, making this a completely people-powered victory. The carbon reduction targets in Nebraska are not only major progress in a reliably conservative state, but are among the most ambitious utility goals in the country, showing that clean energy is winning everywhere because it is good for everyone.
- **LARGEST SOLAR PROJECT PLANNED:** The Omaha Public Power District signed a contract to build the state's largest solar project, which will generate enough electricity to power 14,000 homes.
- **MAKING PROGRESS LOCALLY:** Nebraska's two largest cities, Lincoln and Omaha, advanced climate action plans this year, spurred by the decarbonization goals of their regional utilities. Lancaster County also loosened rules for installing wind turbines, which were some of the most restrictive in the nation.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE: Nebraska Conservation Voters

For the past six years, Nebraska Conservation Voters (NCV) has advanced climate action through cities, counties, and public utilities. Most importantly, NCV has led a strategic and victorious effort to secure decarbonization commitments from Nebraska's largest utilities by electing and cultivating clean energy champions to their governing boards — including NCV Deputy Director Chelsea Johnson — and building and mobilizing public support for carbon-free energy.

NCV arranged informational meetings and one-on-one conversations between utility board members and experts to educate them about decarbonization. Due to NCV's coordinated, multi-dimensional advocacy strategy, thousands of Nebraskans contacted their utility board in support of the net-zero goal including calls, emails, letters, public comments and petition signatures. NCV also ran a robust digital campaign, canvassed communities, drove turnout to board meetings, and organized a group of community leaders, called Renew Nebraska, to promote the economic development and rural revitalization opportunities presented by clean energy.

Additionally, in 2021, NCV successfully fought back against all attacks on clean energy and democracy in the legislature, where NCV Executive Director Eliot Bostar served his first year as a newly elected state senator.



*NCV organizers canvassed for a net-zero carbon goal.*



This is a historic moment for every single Nebraskan. NPPD's vote to decarbonize highlights what we have known for years — that Nebraskans from every corner of our state support investing in clean energy and reducing pollution because it makes good environmental and economic sense."

**Eliot Bostar, Nebraska state senator and NCV executive director**



# NEW JERSEY

## New Jersey's Clean Energy Progress

- **BUILDING MORE OFFSHORE WIND:** The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities unanimously approved two new offshore wind projects, which together will triple the state's wind turbine capacity and power over 1.5 million homes while creating thousands of jobs and bringing over \$3 billion in benefits to the state.
- **TRANSITIONING TO A GREEN ECONOMY:** Governor Phil Murphy created the Office for Climate Action and the Green Economy and within it, established a new state council responsible for developing a comprehensive strategy to build a green economy that includes support for workforce transition and prioritizes environmental and economic justice.
- **ELECTRIFYING FLEETS AND PORTS:** Governor Murphy allocated \$100 million for electrifying New Jersey's ports and vehicles, including municipal fleets, school buses, heavy-duty and medium-duty fleets and cargo equipment. More than half of the designated money will fund air pollution reduction and vehicle electrification in environmental justice communities.
- **STRENGTHENING EMISSIONS REDUCTION GOALS:** In line with the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) goals, Governor Murphy set an interim greenhouse gas reduction target of 50% below 2006 levels by 2030 to help keep New Jersey on track to meet its goal of reducing emissions 80% by 2050.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE:

# New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

This year, New Jersey LCV Education Fund revived their innovative Green in '17 initiative to create a state environmental agenda and completed their most inclusive and collaborative report, the Green in '21 Environmental Policy Guide, with over 25 different stakeholders and partners. The guide illustrates environmental, public health and equity challenges facing New Jersey, and details policy recommendations at all levels of state government for 77 environmental areas, ranging from clean energy to building electrification and indoor air quality.

New Jersey LCV helped form the New Jersey Progressive Equitable Energy Coalition (NJPEEC) to develop and advocate for 100% clean energy legislation that advances equity and environmental

justice. NJPEEC represents communities across the state and intentionally centers the expertise and direction of environmental justice leaders and frontline communities. New Jersey LCV works to build NJPEEC's capacity, uses their network to amplify the coalition and its members, and leverages their longstanding relationships to boost its influence.

NJLCV Executive Director Ed Potosnak also joined Governor Phil Murphy when he announced new greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, NJLCV's strong and effective policy advocacy effort to strengthen legislation requiring the state to meet emissions reductions goals helped make the governor's new targets possible.



With the reelection of Governor Murphy, no state offers more opportunity for continued bold and innovative action addressing the climate crisis and justice than New Jersey over the next four years."

**Ed Potosnak, executive director, New Jersey LCV**



*Build Back Better Art Activation with U.S. Representative Andy Kim in Mill Race Village, New Jersey.*



# NEW YORK

## New York's Clean Energy Progress

- **NYC ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES:** New York City — the largest school district in the country — committed to transition its entire school bus fleet to electric, zero-emission vehicles by 2035.
- **OPENING THE DOOR TO RENEWABLES:** Newly adopted rules will streamline the siting and construction of large-scale renewable energy facilities in New York. Previously it could take several years for these projects to be permitted, delaying when construction could begin.
- **TRANSFORMING RIKERS ISLAND:** The New York City Council passed two pieces of legislation to transform Rikers Island, currently home to the second largest jail complex in the country, and notorious for inhumane conditions and abuse. The Renewable Rikers Act transfers ownership of the island from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Environmental Protection to no longer be used for incarceration by 2027 and directs the city to conduct a feasibility study for developing renewable energy and energy storage facilities on the island after the jail is closed.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE:

# New York League of Conservation Voters

As part of Chispa LCV's Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign, New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) helped establish the NYC Clean School Bus Coalition, working to electrify NYC school buses. Through the campaign, NYLCV organized events and webinars across the city and state to mobilize support for electric school buses and developed the Clean Bus Guide to provide analysis and case studies for activists and policymakers. NYLCV also engaged in extensive lobbying efforts with city officials to secure the victory. After years of advocacy, in early 2020, both Mayor Bill de Blasio and Council Speaker Corey Johnson made commitments to electrify NYC's school bus fleet by 2040. This year on Earth Day, de Blasio announced an

accelerated timeline to achieve the goal and began phasing in the first electric school buses. Finally, the goal was officially codified when the New York City Council passed a law this October requiring 100% clean, electric buses by 2035.

NYLCV has also been leading Clean Fuels New York, a coalition of environmentalists and businesses campaigning for a statewide clean fuel standard. The coalition has developed legislation and secured support from a majority of both houses in the state Legislature. This year, due to the coalition's advocacy, the Transportation Advisory Panel of New York's Climate Action Council recommended that the state adopt a Clean Fuel Standard.



[Electric school buses are a] common-sense investment to reduce our carbon footprint and dramatically cut emissions that pollute our air will make an indescribable impact on the long-term health of our families and our city as a whole. I look forward to the day when every vehicle in this city runs on electric power, while the days of fossil fuel consumption become nothing but a distant memory.”

**Donovan Richards Jr, Queens Borough president**



*NYC Councilmember Jim Gennaro, chair of the Environmental Protection Committee, showed his excitement for the upcoming vote on the clean school bus bill during a rally.*





# OREGON

## Oregon's Clean Energy Progress

- **100% CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL BILL:** Oregon passed legislation to set the most ambitious target for eliminating emissions from power generation in the country. The bill requires the state's electric utilities to transition to 100% clean energy by 2040 while centering benefits for communities of color and rural, coastal, and low-income communities and workers.
- **REDUCING ENERGY BURDEN:** Utilities in Oregon can now provide more options to decrease utility bills for customers that need economic relief. The state also approved a new fund to help lower income households access home repairs and upgrades to reduce energy costs and improve indoor air quality.
- **ELECTRIFYING TRUCKS:** Oregon became the second state to approve California's advanced clean trucks regulations, requiring medium- and heavy-duty vehicle manufacturers to sell an increasing percentage of zero-emissions electric vehicles in the state each year starting in 2025. Now the entire West Coast is committed to reducing transportation climate impacts through tailpipe and fuel emissions standards and mandating electric vehicle sales for all classes of vehicles.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE:

# Oregon League of Conservation Voters

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) supported the Oregon Clean Energy Opportunity Campaign (OCEO) package of bills, which all passed and were signed into law in 2021. OCEO is led by frontline community organizations and develops clean energy policy focused on advancing environmental and economic justice. This was the first time OLCV and their coalition followed another group's lead and championed their priorities. The partnership was extremely successful and led to Oregon committing to 100% clean energy and establishing important programs for energy affordability. OLCV's advocacy efforts to support these bills included a media campaign, polling to show legislators that clean energy is a popular and winning issue in Oregon, and driving grassroots lobbying through a virtual lobby day with over 300 participants, public hearing turnout and submitting over 4,000 contacts to decision makers.

OLCV and their coalition partners have worked with Governor Kate Brown to empower her as a climate champion and, in 2020, helped the administration develop an Executive Order to reduce carbon emissions. This year OLCV continued to support the governor by engaging in the rule-making process to ensure strong implementation of the order and fighting back against the fossil fuel industry and other opponents seeking to undermine these efforts.



*Governor Kate Brown Signing the 100% Clean Energy legislation into law!*

“

Climate change is a concern for me because, as a young person, my future depends on the action taken against climate change today. I think it is important to understand that climate change is not just related to the climate, but also to race. Due to systems of oppression in place, BIPOC communities are disproportionately affected by climate change. I want to help frontline communities fight climate change because there are communities that are feeling the impacts of climate change right now.”

**Sofia Jayaswal, youth intern and climate activist,  
Oregon League of Conservation Voters**







# SOUTH CAROLINA

## South Carolina's Clean Energy Progress

- **REFORMING STATE UTILITY:** A major utility reform bill passed unanimously to increase oversight of South Carolina's state-owned utility, Santee Cooper. The law also requires Santee Cooper to evaluate clean energy options and paths to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, and develop a community-driven transition plan to support workers and communities impacted by coal plant closures.
- **AGENCY STANDS UP TO UTILITIES IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN ENERGY:** The South Carolina Public Service Commission (PSC) rejected proposals filed by both of the state's major utilities, Duke Energy and Dominion Energy, because they failed to adequately model for clean energy and energy storage, coal plant retirements, and management programs to save energy and reduce peak demand. In 2019, the Energy Freedom Act increased the PSC's regulatory authority and set a new requirement for the utilities to provide three-year plans for review moving forward. This was the first year that Duke and Dominion filed plans and the PSC ruling signals a new era for energy decision making in South Carolina with a newly-empowered regulatory agency to put them in check. The PSC also unanimously voted in support of a recommendation by the solar industry and consumer choice advocates to protect net-metering and reject an anti-solar proposal by Dominion.
- **INCREASING ACCESS TO SOLAR:** South Carolina expanded the existing property tax exemption for rooftop solar to include customers with a rented or third party-owned solar system. Previously, only customers who own their solar panels were eligible. This helps increase equitable access to solar by making it more affordable.

# THE CVM DIFFERENCE: Conservation Voters of South Carolina

Conservation Voters South Carolina (CVSC) is the lead organization working on Public Service Commission (PSC) accountability and advocacy in the state. They have played a critical role to translate and amplify regulatory decision-making to the public and have effectively built support and mobilized utility customers to testify at commission hearings and submit comments. These initiatives have helped CVSC defend and advance clean energy in South Carolina and secure the PSC victories this year.

In 2021, CVSC successfully advocated for significant utility reforms and worked closely with state Senate allies to ensure that the policy priorities determined by their coalition were incorporated in the legislation. These included important equity and justice provisions, a just transition for coal plant closures, and more representative diversity of the utility's governing

body. As a result, CVSC was the leading non-utility organization at the negotiating table as the bill advanced. They also created a working group to develop just transition language with environmental justice partners and community-based organizations.

Years of strategic work by CVSC has fundamentally transformed the state's energy sector and set South Carolina up for a clean energy transition. In 2018, they elected a pro-solar majority in the state House, in 2019, they unanimously passed the Energy Freedom Act and held the PSC to account for anti-solar decisions. In 2020, they secured commitments to close a coal unit and replace it with solar power, drove the selection of a pro-clean energy Public Service Commission, passed legislation to study increasing competition and clean energy, and built a strong and diverse coalition to advance clean energy.



This legislation has the potential to bring Santee Cooper into the 21st century, turning our publicly owned utility into a leader in the clean energy future our state deserves. We appreciate the hard work lawmakers put in and are optimistic this reform package will deliver wins for customers, the state, and the environment.”

**Natalie Olson, campaigns director, Conservation Voters South Carolina, quoted in The State**



*CVSC Executive Director John Tynan and Deputy Director Rebecca Haynes with the South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster*





# VIRGINIA

## Virginia's Clean Energy Progress

- **GREENING TRANSPORTATION:** Virginia adopted clean cars standards, advanced electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and required transportation electrification to be included in the state's comprehensive energy plan. Governor Ralph Northam also signed on to a multi-state voluntary agreement to electrify medium- and heavy-duty vehicles by 2050.
- **FACILITATING CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT:** Virginia continued to simplify paths to clean energy with legislation expanding access to solar power for schools and local governments and streamlining the permitting and regulatory processes for energy storage.
- **UTILITY BILL RELIEF:** An existing state program that caps utility bills for low-income Virginians was improved to ensure that the clean energy transition does not overburden these customers. This will save eligible customers hundreds in annual electricity costs and potentially allow outstanding bills to be forgiven.
- **REDUCING CARBON:** Virginia mandated emissions monitoring and reporting and established a task force to research and recommend effective carbon sequestration methods. Residential building codes were also updated to meet the standards outlined in the International Energy Efficiency Code, which establishes minimum requirements for energy efficiency in buildings.
- **GAS PERMIT REJECTED:** A critical permit for a proposed gas compressor station was rejected by the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board. The project was part of the planned extension of the highly contested Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). The decision was largely due to environmental justice concerns and pipeline opponents are hopeful that it is the beginning of the end for the MVP.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE: Virginia League of Conservation Voters

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters (VALCV) runs a strong legislative program and responded to the challenge of advocating in a pandemic with a robust strategy of public engagement and mobilization through coordinated digital advertising, outreach and advocacy. These efforts reached nearly 1 million Virginians in key districts, elevating the importance of strong climate action and resulted in hundreds of constituent contacts to decision makers. VALCV also worked closely with top legislative leadership to build support and consensus ahead of key votes.

VALCV has been deeply engaged in the grassroots-led efforts against the Mountain Valley Pipeline, working with partners across the state to educate the public and build a powerful movement in opposition. VALCV pushed robust public comment and especially worked to elevate the urgent environmental justice concerns of the project. They dedicated organizing capacity to center and amplify the voices of the impacted community which helped secure a critical win — successfully blocking a major permit on environmental justice grounds.



*VALCV joined Delegate Josh Cole and several of his colleagues in the House of Delegates in Fredericksburg to discuss clean transportation, solar energy, and energy efficiency. Cole was critical to securing the sustainable climate and transportation policy passed by the Virginia legislature.*



In 2021, Virginia secured its place at the front of the pack of states working to address the climate crisis and transition to a clean energy economy, efforts that will cut harmful pollution in frontline communities, create jobs and secure a healthier future for our kids and grandkids.”

**Lee Francis, deputy director, Virginia League of Conservation Voters**



VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF  
CONSERVATION VOTERS



# WASHINGTON

## Washington's Clean Energy Progress

- **CLIMATE COMMITMENT ACT:** Washington established an economy-wide cap and invest program — the strongest carbon pricing program in the nation — to meet the state's emissions reduction targets with landmark environmental justice components, directing benefits to communities most impacted by pollution and climate change. The program will generate tens of millions of dollars each year, which will be reinvested to help further reduce emissions.
- **REDUCING TRANSPORTATION EMISSIONS ON THE WEST COAST:** Washington's new clean fuel standard requires the state to incrementally reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuel. The state also approved rules mandating increasing sales of zero-emissions vehicles, including adopting California's advanced clean trucks rules. Now the entire West Coast has transportation fuel and emissions standards and mandates for the sale of zero-emissions cars and trucks.
- **CENTERING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:** Washington formally defined environmental justice in state law and created an environmental justice council to develop policy and initiatives. The legislation directs state agencies to include environmental justice considerations in their work and engage impacted communities in decision making.
- **SHUTTING OUT OIL AND GAS:** A proposal to build the world's largest methanol refinery in Washington was defeated. Seattle banned gas in all new commercial buildings and apartments and neighboring city Tacoma banned gas in all new city buildings.
- **FIGHTING A FOSSIL FUEL LEGACY:** Whatcom County — home to two of Washington's five oil refineries — unanimously banned bulk fossil fuel terminals, the first refinery county in the nation to do so and the City of Tacoma adopted similar rules shortly after.

## THE CVM DIFFERENCE: Washington Conservation Voters

Washington Conservation Voters (WCV) leads an effective strategy to cultivate legislative climate leadership. The organization briefs legislators on climate priorities and bills and communicates consistently with legislative leadership and the governor's administration to keep their attention on the environment. WCV supports and elevates candidates who center environmental justice and holds elected officials accountable through tracking and amplifying legislative progress to the public. This year, WCV launched the Evergreen Future campaign to advance four policy pillars — climate action, environmental justice and public health, clean water and healthy forests, and holding corporate polluters accountable. As of the end of 2021, 54 elected officials and governor Inslee have signed on and committed to these priorities.

WCV's field team leads robust community outreach in key districts and maintains a steady drum beat of public support for climate issues. They continue to engage with communities across the



When carbon pricing bills were first proposed this year, we got to work listening to Tribal Nations, Black-led movement groups, and overburdened communities in order to strengthen and pass a strong carbon pricing policy that met their needs and the goals of our state for people and the planet. Future generations will look back at this moment and know that we valued their futures by passing the Climate Commitment Act.”

Alyssa Macy, CEO, Washington Conservation Voters and Washington Environmental Council

state to build political power and ensure that all Washingtonians are included in the decision making process around climate. WCV has intentionally made an effort to engage communities in Central and Eastern Washington where they are one of the few environmental advocacy organizations with a presence, and partnered with Latino communities and Tribal Nations to advance equitable climate solutions.

The Climate Commitment Act was the culmination of more than a decade of advocacy and relationship building. By implementing lessons learned from efforts to put a price on carbon, the law reduces emissions and secures direct benefits to communities most impacted by the climate crisis. The historic victories achieved in Washington in 2021 were made possible by a powerful and effective coalition that evolved from these years of efforts. The result is a compelling example of both bold and equitable policy solutions needed to tackle the climate crisis in a way that uplifts those most impacted, and the kind of transformative process necessary to shape them.



Washington Conservation Voters CEO Alyssa Macy addresses Environmental Lobby Day participants from 48 of Washington's 49 legislative districts (pre-pandemic)

# More Clean Energy Progress

## Alabama

Conservation Alabama Foundation and partners publicly launched the Energy Freedom Alabama coalition and campaign, advocating for third-party solar leasing in the state, which would increase access to solar power by removing the barrier of upfront costs. The coalition plans to introduce legislation in the upcoming 2022 legislative session.



We believe that Alabamians deserve the right to purchase energy from anyone they want, and third-party ownership and leasing makes that practical and affordable. This is already the case in dozens of states including our neighbors in Georgia and South Carolina, and it's time that we make energy freedom a reality here in Alabama.”

**BRADLEY DAVIDSON**, *executive director, Conservation Alabama Foundation*

## Alaska

The Alaska Center helped elect six new pro-clean energy directors to four utility boards, including their very own government affairs director, Louie Flora. After securing legislation that mandates greater coordination between Alaska's major utilities, these board wins are creating a network of pro-clean energy allies to move the state's largest grid region toward a clean energy future.

Additionally, the Alaska Center helped expand solarize programs in Fairbanks and Anchorage, engaging hundreds of residents, supporting job growth, and expanding equitable access to solar for Alaskans.



Solarize programs in the Interior and Anchorage are proof that community-led solar initiatives are the way to expand clean energy access to communities most impacted by the climate crisis. These initiatives are here because our people want them to happen. When frontline communities lead, we see what true clean energy, democracy, and climate action looks like.”

**ALYSSA QUINTYNE**, *Interior Alaska community organizer, The Alaska Center Education Fund*

## Arizona

The Cartwright School District received the state's first 84 passenger electric school bus after years of community organizing efforts by Chispa Arizona. Chispa AZ worked with educators and parents to help the school district bring in more resources and secure the bus victory.

Chispa AZ and their partners also successfully stopped multiple bills that would have hindered clean energy progress in Arizona, building strong relationships with state legislators and establishing Chispa AZ's leadership in climate justice and clean energy policy advocacy.

“

It all started because we all want clean air. We always ask ourselves, 'What is there that I can do for Mother Earth?' or 'What is there that I can really do to make things happen?' With Chispa, I really found a way. I don't see myself doing any other type of work except something that will help our children and help our world and leave it better for our kids.”

**ANA LOAIZA-COMPEAN,**  
*community organizer, Chispa Arizona*





## Connecticut

Connecticut unveiled its first electric school bus after a four-year effort championed by the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV). CTLCV helped connect a lower-income community of color in the city of Middletown with resources to procure the bus through the state's Volkswagen Settlement program. The purchase was transformative because it puts the largest school bus leasing company in the state on the path to electrification.

The New England electric grid operator formally asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to end its contract with the proposed Killingly natural gas-fired power plant in eastern Connecticut. CTLCV has been fighting to prevent the project for years, and without the grid's commitment to use its power, the plant — already behind schedule on breaking ground — is less viable.

Connecticut was among the first states in the country to sign on to the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) at the end of 2020. While TCI did not make it through the legislature this year, the campaign elevated the connection between climate and health, and pointed to the need to make targeted transportation investments to address disparities in communities overburdened by air pollution and underserved by the state's transportation

system. In December 2021, the governor issued a Climate Executive Order that creates a community-based air quality monitoring program and establishes an Office of Climate and Public Health to address the intersection of climate change and health equity. The Executive Order also includes a statewide electric bus fleet and regulations for emissions from medium and heavy-duty vehicles.



Connecticut must begin to tackle persistent health disparities and address climate change. That is why I have been working with more than two dozen environmental, transit equity, racial justice, and social justice groups that have called on Connecticut legislators to incorporate key equity elements into all transportation planning decisions. And that will help me — and so many of the communities I work with — breathe easier in the coming years.”

**MARK MITCHELL, MD MPH**, *associate professor of climate change, energy and environmental health equity at George Mason University and founder of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice*

# Florida

Florida Conservation Voters (FCV) successfully supported coalition partners fighting against exclusionary siting and permitting processes in environmental justice communities. When the state legislature considered bills blocking local governments — and the communities they represent — from participating in utility and energy regulation processes, FCV and the Clean Energy for All coalition that they led secured an amendment that would allow a historic rural African American community, St. Paul, input in solar siting decisions. FCV also helped to eliminate or lessen critical provisions that would strip local governments of input on decisions regarding the use of fossil fuels.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, FCV organized partners as part of the "Connected in Crisis" campaign, asking lawmakers and utilities to offer protection and relief to customers struggling to afford their utility bills. The coalition helped pass a resolution urging utilities to extend the moratorium on utility shut offs for non-payment, and pressured the Florida Public Service Commission to order utilities to share data on disconnections.



The state of Florida stands more to lose from the impacts of the climate crisis than virtually any other state. It's also one of the most diverse, and most economically unequal states in the country. The political landscape here is hostile to the change, but we know that Florida needs a just transition to clean and renewable energy, and we know that our work is bringing that day of political transformation closer every day."

**ZACHARIAH COSNER**, *energy and climate policy advocate, Florida Conservation Voters*



## Georgia

Georgia Conservation Voters (GCV) encouraged the introduction of a resolution supporting 100% clean energy by 2050, the first time legislation has been introduced in the state to tackle climate change through clean energy.

A \$2.6 billion factory to make electric vehicle batteries is under construction in Commerce, Georgia — one of the biggest economic development projects in state history. The continued partnership between the state and battery manufacturer SK Innovation is helping to grow Georgia's position in the clean technology market. The plant is expected to start commercial production early next year and will employ thousands of workers.

“

Georgia does not have time to waste, we need to reduce our climate footprint, clean up our communities, and put our people to work with good green jobs today. An equitable clean energy transition gives our kids and communities a chance at the future. We must commit to 100% clean energy.”

**KIM SCHOFIELD,**  
*Georgia state representative*

# Idaho

Conservation Voters for Idaho (CVI) secured multiple clean energy victories at the local level. The City of Boise announced that it will reach its 100% clean electricity goal by 2023 — seven years ahead of schedule — and passed the Climate Action Roadmap, a comprehensive and equity-focused plan for the city to become carbon neutral by 2050. Additionally, Boise updated its building code to require new homes with garages to include an outlet capable of supporting electric vehicle charging — an example that was then adopted by the city of Bellevue.

Bellevue became the third city to sign on to a resolution introduced by CVI and partners for Blaine County and its incorporated cities to transition to 100% community-wide clean electricity by 2035 and clean energy by 2045. These localities began developing a collaborative action plan to achieve these goals through a stakeholder group that includes CVI and formed a coalition to intervene in Idaho Public Utility Commission cases. Blaine County, its incorporated cities Ketchum and Hailey, and the city of Moscow further committed to the ICLEI150 Race to

Zero goals — a network of governments and institutions advancing climate action — reducing emissions 50% by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

Idaho Power proposed a robust new community solar program to allow individuals, businesses, cities, and counties access to clean energy. CVI has been engaged in the process for the utility to meet its 100% clean energy commitment.



We must address the climate crisis and its impacts now because our health and economy depend on it. There is no time to wait. Conservation Voters for Idaho understands that urgency, and like Boise, is committed to achieving a clean energy future built on health, equity, and a robust climate economy. I look forward to continuing to partner with CVI as Boise strives to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.”

**LAUREN MCLEAN**, *Boise mayor*

## Maine

Maine Conservation Voters advocated for legislation to advance climate action that centers equity. This included a first-in-the-nation bill directing the state's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to procure offshore wind and requiring project labor agreements for these contracts, which help ensure equitable conditions and wages for workers. Another bill formally made the PUC responsible for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and prioritizing climate in decision making and mandated the governor's administration to incorporate equity considerations into decision making at state agencies and define terms including environmental justice.

Through a combination of federal American Rescue Plan funds and securing climate funding in the state budget, Maine invested \$400 million in implementing Maine Won't Wait: A Four Year Plan for Climate Action to achieve the state's goals of net-zero emissions by 2045 and reducing emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Highlights include energy efficient affordable housing, municipal and public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, climate resilience and adaptation measures, and land conservation.



As legislative champions followed through on their promises to put climate, environment, and equity front and center, we saw victory after victory in Augusta this legislative session — including a first-in-the-nation commitment to procure floating offshore wind energy. Maine is once again leading the way on climate action.”

**KATHLEEN MEIL**, *director of policy and partnerships, Maine Conservation Voters*

## Michigan

Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV) continues to support Governor Gretchen Whitmer's order to shut down the Line 5 crude oil pipeline and revoke its easement to cross into Michigan. There are ongoing lawsuits as Endbridge continues to operate Line 5 without required permits, threatening the drinking water of nearly 40 million people. Whitmer announced that the state is also seeking to seize all profits from the pipeline past the shutdown deadline.

A MLCV board member was appointed as chair of the governor's Council on Climate Solutions and MLCV staff were selected to participate in the council's working groups. Whitmer's administration started updating Michigan's construction codes to meet the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code energy efficiency standards, and at MLCV's suggestion, Michigan created a green revolving fund for state buildings to reinvest energy efficiency and clean energy savings into new projects. Governor Whitmer also signed onto the Regional Electric Vehicle for the Midwest agreement to collaborate with neighboring states on building electric vehicle infrastructure in the region.

Lastly, Michigan utility Consumers Energy announced that it will shut down its remaining coal plants by 2025 — 15 years earlier than expected — and the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power dropped plans to build a gas-fired peaking plant on Harbor Island due to community opposition which MLCV helped organize.



There are many ways to significantly reduce carbon emissions here in the United States and we can be a leader. The technology and opportunities are currently available, we just need the will to use them.”

**JIM MACLNNES**, *chief executive officer and co-owner, Crystal Mountain Resort*

## Nevada

Nevada Conservation League (NCL) and Chispa Nevada successfully advocated for sweeping legislation to invest in building a large-scale transmission network across the state, which will allow Nevada to bring more clean energy onto the electric grid. The bill also sets a target date for Nevada to join a regional energy market, and includes plans for energy storage, energy efficiency programs and expanding electric vehicle infrastructure, with at least 40% of that infrastructure directly benefiting historically underserved communities. Chispa Nevada led the effort to define Historically Underserved Communities so that the communities impacted most by environmental pollution are prioritized.

Nevada closed a loophole that allowed people to exploit a rule meant to exempt Classic Cars from mandatory annual smog checks, a priority for Chispa NV. Previously, drivers of older, heavier-polluting everyday vehicles could register their car as a Classic Car to skirt emissions regulations. The state also directed Clark and Washoe counties to create programs to repair or replace older vehicles for lower-income car owners, helping to ensure that everyone can meet the smog requirements.

NCL and partners stopped a harmful bill that would have ensnared Nevadans in a decades-long contract to fund the construction of unnecessary and expensive new gas infrastructure, which would have cost ratepayers billions of dollars. Additionally, Governor Steve Sisolak announced a covid-19 recovery plan, which included significant clean energy storage goals.



Nevada's legislature continues to make strides to further secure its position as a leader in climate action, conservation, and clean energy — all key priorities for Nevada voters. In this session, legislators put a clean energy economy in reach for Nevada, voting to approve significant investments in clean energy transmission and electric vehicle charging infrastructure, while prioritizing historically underserved communities — crucial to helping meet the state's climate goals of 100% clean energy by 2050.”

**PAUL SELBERG**, *executive director, Nevada Conservation League*

## New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Climate Action team and their partners successfully advocated to raise the cap on net metering from 1 MW to 5 MW for local governments and schools. Net metering is a financial mechanism that credits customers who have solar panels for the excess electricity they generate and puts it toward their electricity bill. This makes solar panels affordable and is a primary incentive to go solar. Expanding net metering allows for the development and construction of larger renewable energy projects that will help control energy costs, create economic opportunity and jobs, and protect our environment.



The expansion of net metering in New Hampshire will result in municipalities and school districts being able to build larger renewable energy projects that will deliver strong benefits to Granite State citizens. More renewable energy projects will help meet the challenges that New Hampshire faces from the impact of climate change while providing economic opportunity and jobs.”

**ROB WERNER**, *New Hampshire state director,  
League of Conservation Voters*





## New Mexico

New Mexico passed and signed into law an unprecedented 11 bills that Conservation Voters New Mexico (CVNM) supported this legislative session, including creating a community solar program, repealing provisions that prohibited the state from adopting stronger environmental regulations than the federal government, expanding the sustainable building tax credit, and becoming the first state to offer incentives for LEED Zero.

New Mexico also established a sustainable economy task force to develop a roadmap for the state to transition away from its reliance on fossil fuel extraction. The plan will support workforce training and development and ensure pathways for rural BIPOC communities to access renewable energy training and jobs.

New Mexico's Oil Conservation Commission also unanimously adopted a regulation that requires oil and gas operations to capture 98% of their methane waste by the end of 1016.



2021 has set New Mexico up well to take the next step in national climate leadership. As an oil and gas producing state with strong Democratic leadership, the nation is rightly looking to New Mexico to blaze the trail in creating an equity and community focused energy transition away from the fossil fuel economies that defined the last 70 years.”

**BEN SHELTON**, *political & policy director,*  
*Conservation Voters New Mexico*

## North Carolina

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper signed an executive order establishing goals to achieve 2.8 GW of offshore wind by 2030 and 8 GW by 2040. The North Carolina League of Conservation Voters (NCLCV) have built a strong relationship with Cooper, who joined Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and Virginia Governor Ralph Northam in 2020 to form the SMART-POWER pact to make the Southeast-Mid-Atlantic region a leader in offshore wind development.

NCLCV and their partners engaged in regulatory processes, including successfully pressuring the North Carolina Utilities Commission to hold a technical hearing on Duke Energy's latest 15-year Integrated

Resource Plan — their projected generation mix and cost scenarios — for the first time since 2009. The coalition also encouraged the state's Environmental Management Commission to advance a petition to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and begin the rulemaking process.



I'm honored to help support the NC League of Conservation Voters because they're making a real difference. We'll tackle climate change, advance my Clean Energy Plan, and build a stronger economy with clean energy jobs."

**ROY COOPER**, *North Carolina governor*

# Ohio

Seven new cities joined the Power a Clean Future Ohio campaign, committing to equitable, community-driven climate action at the local level. The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) supports the initiative with partners, helping to get 17 total cities to sign on to date.

Voters in the City of Columbus passed a ballot measure to create "Clean Energy Columbus," a program to provide the entire city and its residents with 100% clean energy by 2023. The Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund was deeply involved in securing this win and it passed with overwhelming support with almost 76% of the population voting in favor.



Last year, Portsmouth was named an All-American City by the National Civic League - one of ten chosen across the country. It was an effort I was proud to work on and I am excited for the work ahead with Power a Clean Future Ohio to identify opportunities that our city can seize to build a better economy that protects our environment, saves residents on the electric bills, and plants the seeds for clean energy job creation in the region."

**SEAN DUNNE**, *councilmember,*  
*Portsmouth City Council*



# Pennsylvania

Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania (CVPA) successfully blocked several bills opposing the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and continues to participate heavily in the state's process to consider RGGI.

In partnership with labor organizations, CVPA advocated for the state's Department of General Services to rework union contracts for solar projects to ensure fair labor standards and practices. They also worked with key legislators to establish a round table of environmental organizations and trade unions to work with the legislative Blue-Green Caucus.

Lastly, CVPA successfully called on the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to extend no-shut-off notices for people struggling to pay their utility bills, and increase public education to let customers know how to contact their utilities for assistance.



Conservation Voters of PA has played a critical role in informing the public and policy makers in all levels of government about important climate initiatives, desperately needed environmental reforms, and associated health impacts. CVPA engages with the public in effective ways to increase resident input and participation in our democracy, and they hold the feet of elected officials to the fire with demands for accountability. Their role has never been more critical.”

**SENATOR KATIE MUTH**, *Pennsylvania state senator*

## Vermont

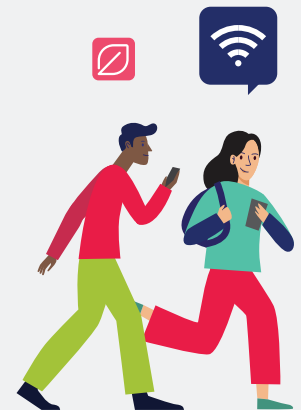
Vermont adopted its first ever Climate Action Plan this year and Vermont Conservation Voters (VCV)'s associated c3 organization, the Vermont Natural Resources Council, was appointed to the state's climate council, which wrote the plan and is responsible for its implementation. VCV successfully pushed for expanded, diverse and compensated membership on the five council subcommittees and worked closely with the Just Transitions Subcommittee to help shape their plan recommendations.

VCV also secured the most significant climate and clean energy commitments in the state budget to date, including allocating money to implement the Climate Action Plan, fund expanded transportation climate initiatives, and help people weatherize their homes and access clean energy and energy efficiency programs, especially in low-income communities.

“

Vermont Conservation Voters' work — in partnership with the Vermont Natural Resources Council — helps to ensure the voices of Vermonters are informing critical local, state and regional conversations. VCV works to empower local leaders to speak up, stand up and step up into leadership positions. This is essential, and an important complement to community groups like ours, who see firsthand that the right policy framework is essential to real climate action.”

**LINDA GRAY**, *member,*  
*Norwich Energy Committee*



# Wisconsin

Wisconsin Conservation Voters (WCV) successfully organized and advocated for 100% clean energy commitments from Brown County and from one of its cities, De Pere, which they helped write. At the end of 2020, the city of Wauwatosa committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and this year, to help move toward that target, the city built a solar array on top of the city hall building, which is estimated to reduce their energy costs by \$40,000 annually. The city of La Crosse is writing a Climate Action Plan to achieve community-wide carbon neutrality and 100% clean energy by 2050; WCV encouraged the city to adopt these goals and is engaged in the plan development process. WCV also worked with students at Lawrence University to present and pass a 100% clean energy resolution through their Student Government Association.

In addition to their local level priorities, WCV achieved victories at the state level as well. Governor Tony Evers' proposed budget incorporated many of the recommendations from the state Climate Change Task Force on which WCV Executive Director Kerry Schumann serves as a member. These budget recommendations included creating an Office of Environmental Justice

and dedicating funding for local and tribal communities' clean energy and conservation efforts, provisions that WCV worked with members, partners and legislators to advance. The Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) also started the process to research and develop a roadmap for the state to transition to zero-carbon electricity.



As a first term County Supervisor, my ability to champion and wrestle a clean energy resolution through multiple iterations to final passage in Brown County was made possible by the incredible organizing done by Wisconsin Conservation Voters.”

**AMANDA CHU**, *District 3 supervisor,  
Brown County Board*



Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

For more information or to get involved,  
visit [www.CleanEnergyforAll.org](http://www.CleanEnergyforAll.org) or [www.LCV.org](http://www.LCV.org)

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