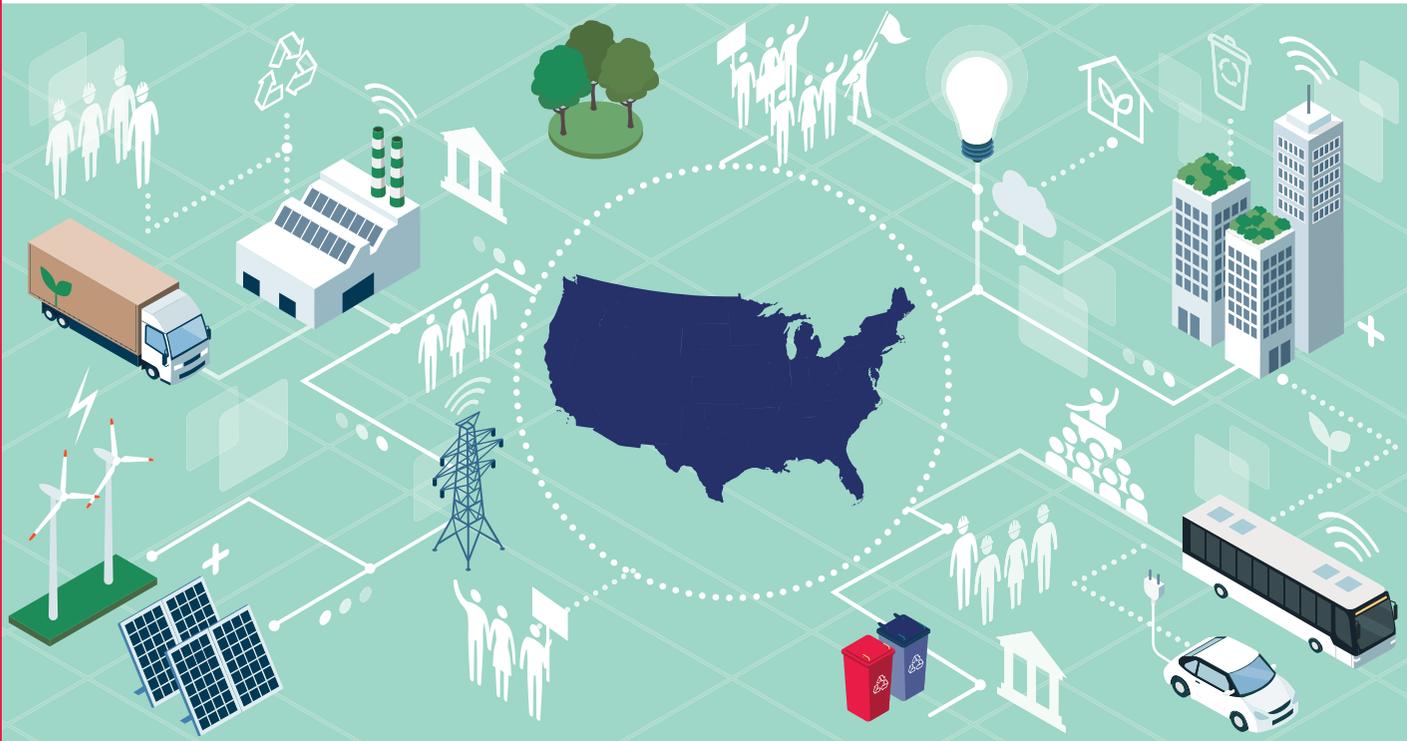


Advancing Clean Energy in the States



 **CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL**

 **LCV**
Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For



ADVANCING CLEAN ENERGY IN THE STATES:

CREATING BLUEPRINTS FOR A **HEALTHIER** FUTURE

Through the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) and our more than 30 state affiliates' (together, the Conservation Voter Movement) Clean Energy for All and Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaigns, we have translated growing grassroots energy into a powerful force demanding our leaders respond with the urgency and vision necessary to solve the climate crisis. And, with the encouragement from communities and advocates, state and local officials are leading our country's clean energy progress.

2019 was one of the most impactful periods of climate action in our nation's history—states all across the country committed to 100% clean energy, carbon pollution limits, and electric school buses, and as a result, 1 in 3 people in this country now live in a place committed to 100% clean energy.

This year, however, we're faced with a different world. Coronavirus has upended lives across the globe, and is highlighting the deep and long standing racial inequities in our country. That means Black people are dying at a disproportionately high rate, the Latinx community is suffering the highest rates of job and wage loss, and Indigenous communities like the Navajo Nation are becoming infected at shocking rates while lacking the resources for a requisite response. We know the same to be true of the climate crisis—communities of color face greater impacts of climate change and toxic pollution. The pandemic has put racial, social and environmental inequities in stark relief, and it's more clear than ever that we cannot return to the exploitative and unjust fossil fuels of our past.

Now is our opportunity to create good, family-sustaining jobs, reduce the legacy of toxic pollution in frontline communities, and ensure no community is left behind in the transition to a clean energy economy. Many of the policies described in this report begin to lay that groundwork—from securing equitable and cleaner transportation solutions in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and New York, ensuring workforce transition policies around the closure of New Mexico's last remaining coal plant to establishing a social cost of carbon in Virginia. This is our opportunity to provide clean energy for all.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

THE CVM ADVOCATED FOR CLEAN ENERGY



52,483
WEBINAR
ATTENDEES



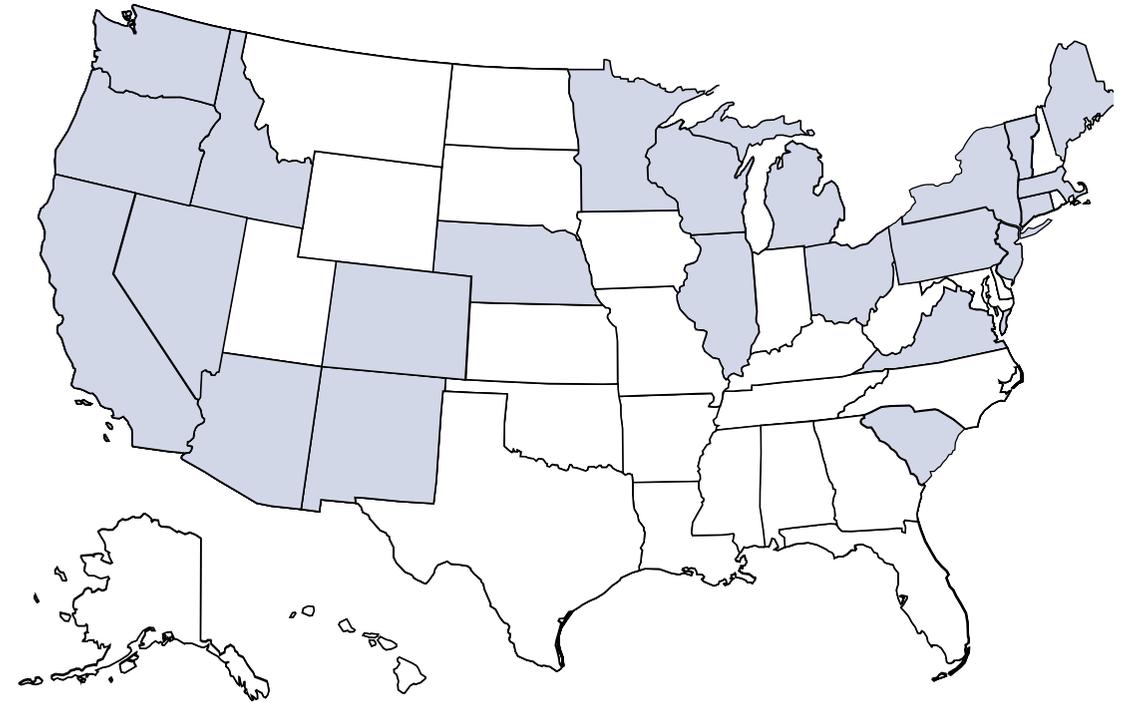
3,171
MEETINGS



152,367
GRASSROOTS
ACTIONS

1 IN 3 PEOPLE
NOW LIVE IN A PLACE THAT HAS COMMITTED TO
100% CLEAN ENERGY

2020 CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL PROGRESS



23 STATES in the CVM made Clean Energy for All progress

ARIZONA

ARIZONA'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- In partnership with Chispa Arizona, Phoenix Union School District rolled out its very first electric school bus in Arizona, which is the initial step towards electrifying the entire fleet and protecting children from harmful diesel emissions.
- A number of Arizona utilities also made progress towards cleaner energy. After much public pressure, Arizona's largest utility, Arizona Public Service (APS), announced they would eliminate carbon emissions by 2050 and close their coal-fired plants ahead of schedule. While APS' voluntary goal announcement is a good step forward, Chispa Arizona is mobilizing public pressure on the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to codify a 100% clean energy standard by 2045 and ensure policies for just transition, especially given the impact of coal-plant closures in communities of color. And, two solar advocates were reelected to the board of directors of Arizona utility Salt River Project, which sets rates and policies that shape clean standards in the state.



In partnership with Chispa Arizona, Phoenix Union School District rolled out its very first electric school bus in Arizona.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

Nearly 300,000 Arizona students ride school buses every day, most of which run on diesel fuel that generates toxic emissions and endangers the health of students and communities.

For three years, community members, in partnership with Chispa Arizona, worked to bring electric school buses to Latinx and communities of color across the state. Thanks to the community's tireless advocacy—including a group of South Mountain High School students who attended every school board meeting for an entire year—Arizona is on the path to electrifying the state's school bus fleets, starting with Phoenix Union High School District.



Over 50 supporters attended an ACC hearing in support of a 100% clean energy standard that will mean cleaner air for their communities.



Our community-led programs are proof that our grassroots efforts are paying off. If we continue to engage and support our students, parents, and community, then we will be on a path to converting dirty diesel buses to clean electric buses across Arizona.”

Chispa Arizona Senior Organizer Teo Argueta



COLORADO

COLORADO'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- In order to help meet clean energy targets set forth by the Climate Action Plan that Colorado instated last year, Conservation Colorado advocated for a number of policies that would hold corporate polluters accountable and address sources of toxic air pollution that expose local communities to inordinate health risks. When the Legislature briefly reconvened during the pandemic, they passed three bills targeting environmental and economic injustice, taking concrete steps to rebuild Colorado better.
- Xcel Energy, the state's largest utility submitted its Transportation Electrification Plan. Conservation Colorado and its partners urged the utility held workplace presentations and community workshops to gather input from different communities, particularly low-wealth communities. The plan invests \$102 million in electrification infrastructure over the next three years—including \$16 million specifically for low-income programs and also includes investments in electric school buses.
- As a part of Conservation Colorado and Protége's Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign, four school districts—Denver Public Schools, Roaring Fork Schools, Aspen School District and West Grand School District—were approved for state grants to purchase electric school buses, which will protect children from harmful diesel fuel.



Conservation Colorado joined partners to advocate for increases in public protection from toxic emissions.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

Colorado's Climate Action Plan has provided a rallying point for unprecedented coordination and unity within the Colorado conservation and climate community. Conservation Colorado, as a convener of Colorado Climate Action Now (Colorado CAN), a broad statewide coalition of 40+ organizations that are focused on economic justice and community leadership, played a critical role in making progress towards the state's goals. The coalition urged Xcel Energy to listen to Coloradans, especially low-wealth communities who are often left out of decision making, to help determine the utility's Transportation Electrification Plan, and they worked to improve the Colorado state electric vehicles plan, which cites the coalition's campaign for municipalities to sign onto ambitious electrification targets.

As we face a global pandemic and confront deeply embedded structural racism, Conservation Colorado will continue to use its power to rebuild the state better—advocating for policies that will help protect communities, including low-wealth communities and communities of color, that are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, social injustice, and ongoing pollution and environmental injustice.



Protége advocated for electric buses, which have now been approved in four school districts.



Let us not be the first to leave future generations with worse health and a poorer environment, less equity and less security. Together, if we are innovative and centered in sharing these core values, we can find hope in a brilliant future."

Conservation Colorado Executive Director Kelly Nordini in a Colorado Sun Opinion Piece



ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS' PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker has committed to passing 100% clean energy legislation this year, and there is no better vehicle than the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA). With over 100 community meetings informing this legislation, it's built to achieve 100% renewable energy in Illinois by 2050, create a carbon free grid by 2030, reduce pollution from the transportation sector, and generate jobs throughout Illinois, while ensuring that the communities most affected by coal emissions feel the benefits of clean energy. CEJA also seeks to create Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs, a network of frontline organizations that would provide support for communities that have borne the brunt of environmental racism over the years.



Over 700 people from across Illinois advocated for CEJA in Springfield



Equity is a core pillar of the Clean Energy Jobs Act because environmental racism is at the core of the challenges we face. When we talk about these ideals, we must directly name the forces at play that put our communities at risk.”

Charma St. Louis from Peoria People's Project, a member of the Clean Energy Jobs Coalition, speaking at the CEJA lobby day rally

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

Four years ago, just after President Trump took office, the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition—which the CVM's Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) leads alongside hundreds of environmental justice, community, labor, public health and business organizations—helped to pass clean energy legislation. This legislation led the nation in its carbon impact, but, the coalition realized it did not do nearly enough to protect environmental justice communities.

So, the coalition, including IEC, adjusted their internal structure and priorities, and put communities and community-led organizations at the center of their work.

Before drafting the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA), the coalition facilitated over 100 community conversations—which covered nearly every legislative district in the state—and they invested resources in community-led organizations that locals trusted to represent their concerns and

solutions. The resulting Clean Energy Jobs Act has not yet passed the Legislature, but has gained wide-ranging respect—in early March, over 700 people from across the state advocated for CEJA in Springfield. As Illinois endures the coronavirus pandemic and rebuilds its post-pandemic future, this legislation's vision is one where protecting workers, communities, and the environment are the most important values of a thriving economy.



The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition held over 100 listening sessions, all across the state, to ensure CEJA was devised by and for Illinois' communities.





MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the Michigan Healthy Climate Plan, a groundbreaking executive order that makes Michigan a climate leader in the Midwest by setting goals to reach economy wide carbon neutrality by 2050, creating a Climate Solutions Council, and directing that all new state buildings become carbon neutral by 2040 and all existing state facilities reduce their energy use 40% by 2040.
- Governor Whitmer created the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification—a Michigan LCV first term priority—that will focus on innovation, infrastructure, and workforce development in the transportation sector. The Office recently announced the state would build, in partnership with the private sector, “the world’s most sophisticated roadway” featuring connected, electronic, and autonomous vehicles. Dubbed “CAVNUE,” the initiative is a first-of-its-kind corridor designed to experiment and innovate transportation for communities in Southeast Michigan.
- Conservation champion and clean energy expert Dan Scripps was promoted to chairman of the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)—a position that comes with steering authority over MPSC staff and culture. By the end of 2020, Governor Whitmer will make her third appointment to the three member commission, and Michigan LCV will work to ensure that appointee is the third clean energy champion on the Commission. The governor’s climate order charged the Commission with integrating environmental justice and emissions reductions into utility energy generation decision-making and resource planning.



Detroit's youth organizers gathered climate protestors at the Detroit climate strike, part of the worldwide climate strikes.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

Through the long-standing Michigan Energy, Michigan Jobs coalition, Michigan LCV partnered with environmental justice organizations, frontline, impacted communities, clean energy businesses and conservative organizations to force huge changes to DTE Energy’s long-term energy plan—reducing pollution, saving lives, and creating more clean energy.

For years, DTE Energy has slow-rolled the retirement of coal-fired plants and delayed aggressive investments in renewable energy—all while repeatedly jacking up rates for customers. Michigan LCV united with ratepayers fed up with sky-high energy bills, young climate activists demanding action to save the planet, and communities of color suffocating from the burden of air pollution to drive a focused campaign aimed at the Michigan Public Service Commission. Michigan LCV organized two different climate strike protests,

packed the room at MPSC public hearings, helped harness earned media, and amplified frontline voices through social media.

After months of pressure and an unprecedented 10,000 officially submitted public comments, the MPSC initially rejected and then significantly amended a plan from DTE Energy—the amended plan requires the energy giant to invest more in clean energy sources and closes polluting plants more quickly.

Michigan’s groundbreaking work to engage community leaders and impacted citizens in the regulatory process showcases the power of an aggressive, focused campaign to compliment strong direct legal intervention with MPSC. This work served as the perfect public backdrop for a simultaneous internal advocacy campaign with the governor’s team to strengthen and publicly release her climate change plan.



DTE Energy’s proposal to increase rates on everyone and gut affordable solar was thwarted because thousands of Michiganders—sick and tired of paying the highest rates in the Midwest—got involved and made their voices heard.”

Michigan LCV Executive Director Lisa Wozniak



NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

To meet the Omaha Public Power District's (OPPD) commitment to go carbon free by 2050, the OPPD board decided to transition their fleet of vehicles to all hybrid and electric by the end of the year and, by 2023, shut down the North Omaha coal plant, which is unjustly located in and disproportionately impacting a predominantly low-income Black community.



OPPD Board of Directors unanimously passed the proposal to go 100% zero carbon by 2050.



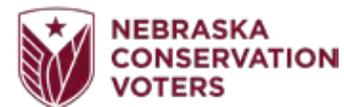
This goal to go carbon neutral represents the kind of leadership that is historic, forward-thinking and greatly benefits not just Omaha but all Nebraskans. It's exciting to see this board take action to make our electricity system cleaner and more affordable."

Nebraska Conservation Voters Executive Director Eliot Bostar

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

In 2018, Nebraska Conservation Voters (NCV) secured a pro-clean energy majority on the Omaha Public Power District Board of Directors. Throughout 2019, NCV encouraged the OPPD, which provides electricity to 45% of Nebraskans, to transition to zero carbon by 2050, and they did so by showing the board that their customers wanted clean, renewable energy. Over 1,100 people signed NCV's online petition, and at the OPPD board meetings leading up to the vote, more than 80 supporters packed the room to testify in support of the zero carbon goal. NCV held more than 50 meetings with utility leaders, public power board directors, organizational allies, and supporters, and knocked on more than 4,000 doors. NCV also published a survey showing that 54% of OPPD customers wanted 100% clean, renewable energy.

The North Omaha coal plant is going to be the first coal plant retired under the new OPPD zero carbon goal. Omaha is notorious for being one of the most segregated cities in the U.S., and North Omaha has a high density of lower-income Black residents. Targeting the North Omaha coal plant was prioritized because the location of this coal plant perpetuated racial injustice. Thanks to continued encouragement over the last two years, the OPPD will have shifted its energy portfolio from 13% clean energy to 40% by the end of the year. And now, Nebraska's three largest utilities (which control essentially all of Nebraska's electricity generation) rank among the top 10 publicly owned utilities that are purchasing wind energy in the nation.





NEVADA

NEVADA'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- Governor Steve Sisolak announced "Clean Cars Nevada," standards that once enacted would provide Nevadans with more choices for low- and zero-emission vehicles that will decrease carbon emissions and improve air quality in the state.
- Governor Sisolak appointed Dr. Kristen Averyt as Nevada's first-ever state climate coordinator. As she remarked on an Earth Day op-ed, Dr. Averyt pledged to set the path for strong climate action that prioritizes people whose health and wellbeing are most at risk due to climate change—people of color, older people, and low income people.



Chispa Nevada Youth Organizer Alexa Aispuro spoke about the climate crisis at the Las Vegas Women's March



Black, Indigenous and people of color throughout Nevada disproportionately live in neighborhoods with dirtier air, more extreme heat and fewer resources. It's why communities of color, particularly Latinx Nevadans and youth of color, view climate change as a top threat to our wellbeing, and are calling on our elected leaders to advance transportation equity and clean air in low-income communities and communities of color. Our families deserve to breathe clean air."

Chispa Nevada Youth Organizer Alexa Aispuro

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

Since Governor Sisolak signed a Solar Access bill into law, Nevada Conservation League (NCL) and Chispa Nevada have worked with community partners, the Public Utility Commission of Nevada, and legislators to ensure that the draft regulations support the primary goals of the legislation: expanding development of solar projects in communities that can't put solar panels on their rooftops, reducing the electricity bills of low-income Nevadans, and providing workforce development opportunities for Nevadans of color. NCL and Chispa Nevada have helped connect 50 Nevadans to public hearings on the implementation of this legislation.

NCL and Chispa Nevada joined other clean transportation advocates in co-hosting a Transportation Electrification Forum where participants learned about the benefits of electric vehicles, opportunities for Nevada to electrify transportation and transit options, and test drove new electric vehicle models. The forum featured Dr. Averyt, who Governor Sisolak has appointed as the state climate coordinator.



Chispa Nevada staff, Rudy Zamora and Alexa Aispuro, were featured in videos from the Transportation Electrification Forum. They highlighted the health benefits of electric vehicles and the need to place them in low-income communities of color.



NEW JERSEY

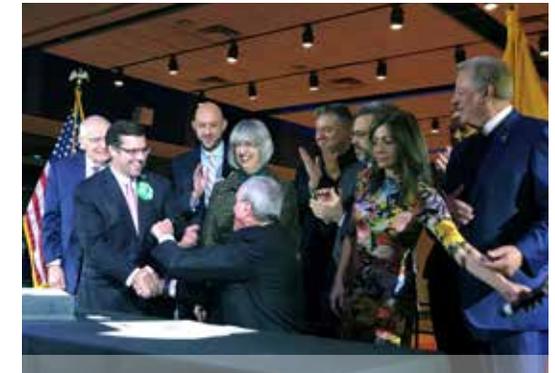
NEW JERSEY'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- New Jersey LCV and New Jersey environmental justice leaders—such as the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, Ironbound Community Corporation and Clean Water Action—celebrated Governor Phil Murphy's signing of S232, New Jersey's cumulative impacts legislation. The bill requires the state to identify communities facing disproportionate impact from toxic pollution and deny permits for facilities that would further overburden those communities with pollution.
- Governor Murphy unveiled a comprehensive Energy Master Plan that provides a strategy for achieving 100% clean energy by 2050 while creating new jobs.
- Governor Murphy signed the nation's strongest electric vehicle bill into law, which, among many things, sets NJ Transit, the third-largest public MTA in the country, on a timeline to nearly electrify its fleet by 2040. By 2032, the law ensures that all new bus purchases will be electric, it sets a framework for a statewide public fast-charging network, and it makes electric vehicles more accessible by providing up to a \$5,000 rebate.
- Governor Murphy committed New Jersey to 7,500 megawatts of offshore wind energy, and in June 2020, unveiled the New Jersey Offshore Wind Port, which builds on New Jersey's offshore wind goals while creating massive manufacturing infrastructure project that will provide good local jobs.
- Governor Murphy released his strategic funding Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) investment plan, outlining that funds from the plan would be invested in environmental justice communities and electrifying transportation in low-income communities.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

New Jersey LCV was the first environmental organization to endorse Governor Murphy at his 100% Clean Energy Press Conference and since that day, New Jersey has experienced a whirlwind of success. New Jersey LCV advocated for New Jersey's Clean Energy Act, which increased the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) to 50% by 2030, launched a community solar program, and catalyzed the state's nation-leading offshore wind commitments. New Jersey also expanded low-income weatherization and energy efficiency programs, and the governor signed the most ambitious transportation electrification bill in the country, which sets New Jersey Transit on a path to electrify all of the state's buses by 2040. New

Jersey LCV looks forward to working with Governor Murphy, his administration, and the Legislature to make New Jersey the greenest state in America.



New Jersey LCV's Ed Potosnak, with Governor Murphy, BPU President Fiordaliso, First Lady Tammy Murphy, Al Gore and other advocates at the executive order signing that increased New Jersey's offshore wind goals to 7500 megawatts by 2035.



As we're being reminded from the pandemic, denial and delay are harmful—whether the threat is from a rapidly spreading virus or the slower moving but still very dangerous impacts of pollution.”

New Jersey LCV Executive Director Ed Potosnak in a New Jersey Star Ledger opinion piece



NEW MEXICO

NEW MEXICO'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission unanimously voted to shut down the San Juan Generating Station—one of the state's remaining coal plants. In the transition plan, the plant's workforce is supported with job training and economic relief, and the Commission has determined that 100% solar and battery storage will replace the plant's energy production.
- Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed into law a new solar tax credit, helping to bring clean energy to more New Mexicans.
- Governor Lujan Grisham signed a law that will modernize the state's electric grid, keeping New Mexico at the forefront of the clean energy revolution.



CVNM's Roberto Aponte delivers comments to the Public Regulation Commission for replacement power and abandonment proceedings



Ask yourself, who is suffering so that you can turn on your lights?"

Public comment at the New Mexico Public Resource Commission hearing

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

Conservation Voters New Mexico (CVNM) and their allies—like the Native American Voters Alliance, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light, and the San Juan Citizens Alliance—spent months conducting outreach, making phone calls, and hand-delivering hundreds of community comments to the Public Regulation Commission, supporting the San Juan community in their pursuit of healthier, cleaner air.

The Public Regulation Commission followed the community's lead and shut down the state's last coal-fired plant, a decision that was also driven by New Mexico's Energy Transition Act, which passed last year and requires 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045. Between the Energy Transition Act and the Public Regulation Commission decision, nearly \$40 million will be disbursed to support the communities impacted by the plant's closure.



CVNM's Ben Shelton joins bill sponsor Representative Roybal Caballero on the New Mexico House Floor as an invited expert witness to urge support for legislation advancing community solar.



NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- Governor Andrew Cuomo reformed New York's approval process for solar and wind projects, revamping a long, drawn out process. Streamlining this process is critical for New York to reach the ambitious goal—70% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% clean energy by 2040—it set forth in last year's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Not only will these new procedures provide healthier air for communities all across the state, with a focus of identifying renewable energy sites that will reduce pollution in environmental justice communities, it also directs state agencies to create workforce training programs in environmental justice communities, focusing on under-employed populations.
- After years of organizing by immigrant delivery workers and transportation advocates, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to legalize e-bikes and e-scooters, making it easier for New Yorkers to get around without cars while also protecting delivery workers from targeted harassment.
- New York LCV and New York LCV Education Fund helped organize and launch an electric bus coalition dedicated to electrifying New York City's 10,000 school buses by 2040. As a part of Chispa's Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign, New York LCV Education Fund put together a clean bus guide, providing fact sheets, tips, and resources for community partners in New York state to start building momentum locally for school bus electrification.
- The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act created a Climate Action Council tasked with devising a plan to achieve the law's required emissions reductions. New York LCV President Julie Tighe was named to the Transportation Advisory Panel.
- New York City convened a working group to implement a law that will retrofit the city's buildings to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The New York LCV Policy Director Patrick McClellan was named to the working group.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

For years, New York LCV and allies—including labor unions, environmental justice organizations and the real estate industry—have been trying to reform the state's approval process for renewable energy projects. This broad coalition regularly met with lawmakers to advocate changing the siting process, a forum on the proposal was held at the state Capitol, ads ran in publications read by influencers, legislators, and staff, and 1,425 New Yorkers wrote to the governor and legislators, making their support known.

The Legislature and governor listened to New York communities, and passed the new rule, under which New York's transition to clean energy will become more seamless, opening up thousands of green jobs all while keeping New Yorkers healthy.



New York LCV President Julie Tighe joins New York City Transit for the launch of the MTA's first all-electric articulated bus.



As the economy starts moving and we try to get people in jobs, this is an area where we can help communities, where we can get people to work at green jobs and we can start tackling climate change. The renewable energy siting process was broken, but now it will work better so we can meet our goals.”

New York LCV President Julie Tighe





OREGON

OREGON'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- Through an executive order, Governor Kate Brown instituted a groundbreaking climate action plan that will help Oregon's businesses, buildings, and transportation systems transition to clean energy, saving money and creating new jobs. The plan forces polluters to reduce carbon by 45% by 2030 and requires that the state's environmental justice task force engage communities most burdened by pollution in the rulemaking process, ensuring that communities are shaping solutions.



After Republican lawmakers held up the democratic process and refused to show up for work, Governor Brown took charge and signed an historic executive order for climate action—one of the boldest climate executive orders in the nation—as the next generation looked on.



If we don't step up now, nobody's going to be there to step up for us."

Yusuf Arifin, 14 year old climate activist in Oregon

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

For years, Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) activists have been demanding climate action in Oregon—marching through the streets, rallying on the Capitol steps, writing letters, signing petitions, and meeting with legislators. Last year, rather than debate widely popular climate legislation, Oregon Republicans abandoned their state and ran across state lines in an outrageous effort to block voting on the bill, which undoubtedly would have passed the Legislature that Oregonians elected to represent their needs.

This year, after Oregon lawmakers relaunched legislation that would limit carbon pollution, over 1,000 people joined OLCV and Renew Oregon to show lawmakers their overwhelming support for the initiative. Additionally, Oregon youth from all across the state, including representatives from Latinos Unidos Siempre, Klamath Youth Tribal Council and Gresham Youth Advisory Council held a climate strike at the Capitol, showing their support for the legislation.

Yet again, Republican legislators abandoned their duty to vote on the legislation by fleeing the state and thus running out the clock on the legislative session for the second year in a row. So, Governor Brown listened to Oregonians and took matters into her own hands, announcing a groundbreaking executive order to tackle climate change.



Youth activists rallied outside the Oregon State Capitol in 2019, calling on lawmakers to stand up for their futures by ending the Republican walkout and passing the Clean Energy Jobs bill.





SOUTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- The South Carolina House unanimously passed a resolution calling on the state-owned utility, Santee Cooper, to completely transition to 100% clean energy by 2050, include a just transition as a cornerstone of this process, and increase transparency and accountability for all energy decisions in South Carolina.
- South Carolina's Public Service Commission, which regulates the state's utility companies, made an egregious anti-solar ruling in late 2019. Then, following Conservation Voters South Carolina's (CVSC) intensive education and outreach campaign to lawmakers, media, and voters, the Commission partially reversed course and provided a pathway for the solar industry to continue to grow in South Carolina, which will mean continued growth of good paying clean energy jobs and cleaner air across the Palmetto State.
- As a result of the pandemic, the South Carolina Legislature passed a budget continuing resolution that authorized the state-owned utility, Santee Cooper, to close a coal-fired power plant and develop 500 megawatts of solar, a 300% increase to the utility's current solar generation. This stunning clean energy progress was especially notable because the budget continuing resolution focused only on items of the utmost importance to South Carolina's continued recovery from coronavirus.
- The South Carolina Legislature selected four new qualified members for the state's Public Service Commission, which decides everything from state energy rates, to policies regarding shutoff moratoriums, to providing critical oversight of utility monopolies. With these new commissioners in place, the Commission is poised to advance clean energy and help fulfill the recently enacted Energy Freedom Act.



At a town hall, CVSC pushed back on an anti-solar ruling by the Public Service Commission.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

Conservation Voters South Carolina connected people across the state with opportunities to hold utilities accountable and supported lawmakers in doing so too—all to help fulfill South Carolinians' desire for clean air and healthier communities.

CVSC led efforts in coordination with a Republican clean energy champion to introduce a resolution calling on the state-owned utility, Santee Cooper, to justly transition to 100% clean energy. The resolution unanimously passed the state House and built on CVSC's successful 2019 advocacy for solar legislation that passed the Republican-controlled Legislature.

When the COVID-19 pandemic cut the South Carolina legislative session in half, CVSC and partners quickly pivoted to tangible, short-term outcomes—namely pushing the closure of Santee Cooper's dirtiest and most expensive coal plants and the construction of up to 1500 megawatts of solar. CVSC and partners secured legislative

authorization for the coal plant closure and solar construction in the must-pass budget continuing resolution—a bill that contained only priority issues for the state in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Additionally, in late 2019 when South Carolina's Public Service Commission made an egregious anti-solar decision regarding large-scale solar rates, CVSC mobilized over 800 ratepayers, bringing their voices together in a joint filing with the Commission. CVSC also organized two town halls where lawmakers and attendees voiced concerns. In the end, the Commission listened, revising the ruling and providing solar the opportunity to compete in the growing energy marketplace in South Carolina.

Over the last year, CVSC has elevated the importance of elections to the Public Service Commission, ensuring that the General Assembly selected qualified candidates who will help make the state's clean energy policies a reality.



South Carolina utility regulators reversed course...because of public pressure and the solar industry + environmentalist pushback—not just on carbon reduction grounds, but because it's plain bad business. That's a pretty big deal.”

Solar Builder Magazine's take on the reversal of Dominion Energy's rate decision



VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- The Virginia Clean Economy Act—the state's historic plan to address climate change—became law. This means, among many things, that Virginia's electricity will be 100% carbon-free by 2045 and, critically, it prioritizes input from the people most impacted by toxic pollution and climate change when making electric energy decisions, protects low-income ratepayers, and addresses the social cost of carbon.
- The Virginia General Assembly voted to officially join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a multi-state cap-and-invest program, which will help Virginia curb pollution while increasing revenue for safeguarding frontline communities from flooding and improving energy efficiency for low-income Virginians.
- As a result of the Virginia Clean Economy Act's ambitious clean energy goals, Dominion energy declared that it no longer plans to invest in additional natural gas plants. Furthermore, after years of fierce opposition, they announced in early July the cancellation of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, a joint venture with Duke Energy that would have threatened clean air and water for countless Virginians and disproportionately impacted communities of color.
- The Virginia General Assembly banned offshore drilling and oil and gas infrastructure in state waters.
- The Virginia General Assembly banned fracking in eastern Virginia, protecting the drinking water of 4 million Virginians.
- The governor's office now has a permanent Environmental Justice Council and a Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and environmental justice is now explicitly listed in the mission of Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality.



Virginia LCV joined a rally for the Clean Economy Act

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

In 2019, Virginia LCV ran its most sophisticated electoral campaign ever—centered on direct communication with voters—and they helped flip Virginia's General Assembly to a climate action majority. With this new Legislature, Virginia LCV immediately pivoted toward letting lawmakers know that they had a climate mandate and that voters expected a bold and equitable policy addressing the climate crisis—the Virginia Clean Economy Act.

With many important allies, Virginia LCV ensured that lawmakers heard their constituents' support for the Clean Economy Act over the phones, the airwaves, and social media. Virginia LCV, its Climate Action Team and partners ran a robust campaign that included detailed polling, mail pieces to over 20,000 voters in 11 state legislative districts, more than 1,000 phone calls and a tv ad that ran on CNN and MSNBC. As the state sprinted to the end

of its legislative session in March, they listened to Virginians and passed the Clean Economy Act just in the nick of time, as the session came to a close. In April, as Virginia battled the coronavirus, which is known to be exacerbated by pollution, Governor Ralph Northam signed the initiative into law, securing cleaner air for all Virginians.



Virginia LCV advocated for state lawmakers to pass the Clean Economy Act



I had an incredible, eye-opening experience at the Clean Energy Lobby Day this past January. Until I participated, I had never realized how much of a direct impact I could have on bills that could be passed to advance clean energy."

Richmond High School Student Sam Hanczaryk after attending Virginia LCV's Lobby Day



VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS



WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON'S PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HEALTHIER AIR

- Governor Jay Inslee signed the Climate Pollution Limits Act into law, which updates Washington's decade-old greenhouse gas emission goals so they are aligned with current science and better reflect the urgency of the climate crisis. The law includes an expectation that state emissions reduction will occur through policies that are equitable and invest in Washington's workers.
- Washington expanded their clean car law to adopt California's zero emission vehicle program regulations.
- Washington adopted a law that expands equitable access and investments in renewable energy through community solar projects.
- The state adopted a law that will spur building efficiency and resiliency through access to low cost loans.



WCV at the 2019 Global Climate Strike



Washington needs to be a place that roots our decisions in the best available science. Now, our Legislature must invest in equitable climate action, including passing a clean and just transportation package and a Clean Fuel Standard."

CEO of Washington Environmental Council and Washington Conservation Voters Alyssa Macy

CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL: THE CVM DIFFERENCE

As a founding member of the Climate Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, a coalition grounded in environmental justice principles that advocates for bold climate action, Washington Conservation Voters (WCV) and their partners worked together to strengthen and turn the Climate Pollution Limits bill into law. Now the state's more ambitious greenhouse gas emission goals better align with science and reflect the urgency of the climate crisis.

To meet these goals, WCV continues to push for a Clean Fuel Standard and is advancing priorities around a transportation package, both of which will reduce pollution, which disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color, making these matters of justice. While the coalition

is still working toward cleaner transportation, they helped normalize equity and sustainability as a part of the transportation conversation, and secured a budget proviso to pilot applying a more robust set of criteria to transportation projects to daylight impacts around accessibility, environmental justice and equity.

As we face the coronavirus pandemic and economic recession, pursuing change that dismantles the racist systems that perpetuate unjust impacts—both for coronavirus and the climate crisis—remains a top priority. WCV launched a new 4-year campaign, the Evergreen Future to push elected officials across the state to support bolder and more just environmental action.



2020 Environmental Lobby Day

**WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION
VOTERS**

MORE **CLEAN ENERGY PROGRESS** IN THE STATES



CALIFORNIA

Despite the pandemic interrupting the California Legislature's work, the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) continued to push clean energy progress. When the Legislature returned to work, CLCV's No Rollbacks campaign helped stop attempts to undermine transportation-related clean air standards. Furthermore, amid devastating wildfires, CLCV and allies called on Governor Gavin Newsom to take bold climate action. As a result, Governor Newsom announced an executive order that will transition the state to 100% clean cars by 2035. He also asked the Legislature to send him a fracking ban, which three state lawmakers have committed to introduce. A fracking ban would be a step toward addressing the injustice that people of color too often experience because toxic pollution and its sources are disproportionately located in communities of color. And, after much advocacy from CLCV and their partners, the governor signed a law that will make the air in public schools safer by updating heating and cooling systems, and the law prioritizes doing so in schools that are located near freeways or industrial facilities, where air pollution is particularly problematic.



CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) joined a regional coalition, New England for Offshore Wind. As the first organization from the state to join the coalition, they have been recruiting additional partners to join the initiative, helping to build support that represents a broad cross-section of Connecticut. As part of the Commission on Environmental Standards, CTLCV is ensuring that proper protections for wildlife are included in all offshore wind procurements. Amassing this voice is important, especially as the state looks toward future offshore wind projects beyond the two already in the works in New London and Bridgeport.



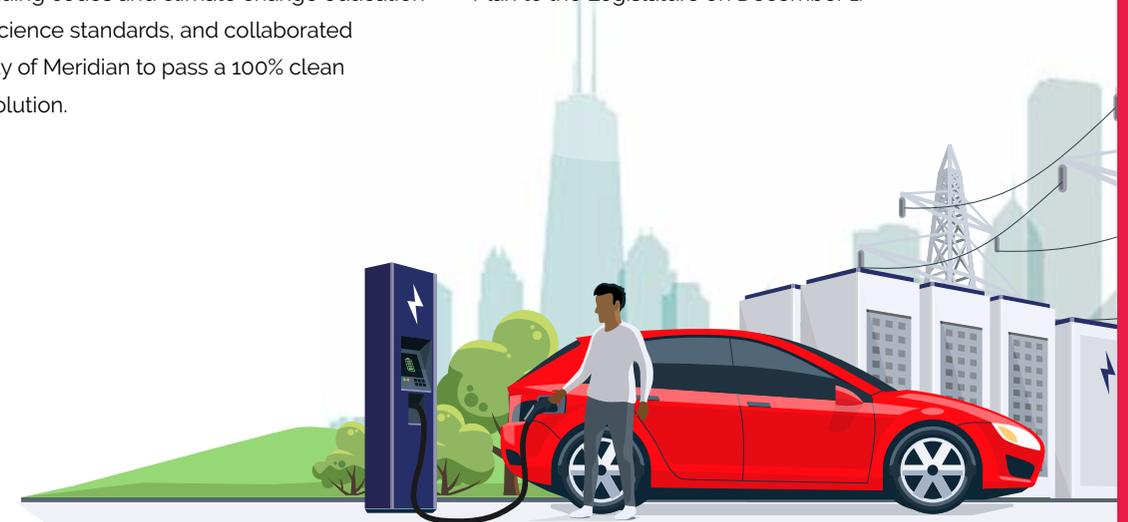
IDAHO

Boise Mayor Lauren McLean, who Conservation Voters for Idaho (CVI) endorsed, unveiled the City of Boise's new Climate Action Division, with significant new funding for solar and energy efficiency projects, environmental justice initiatives, staff positions, and more. Boise City Councilmember Patrick Bageant, who serves on CVI's board of directors, successfully added funding for a publicly available Greenhouse Gas Inventory and continued fleet electrification. Additionally, CVI helped protect multiple sustainability positions around the state from COVID-19 related budget cuts, successfully defended energy standards in Idaho's building codes and climate change education in Idaho's science standards, and collaborated with the City of Meridian to pass a 100% clean energy resolution.



MAINE

The Maine Climate Council received recommendations from six sector-specific working groups during virtual public meetings in June. Maine Conservation Voters (MCV) was selected to serve on three of those working groups, which emphasized strategies to reduce energy costs, create jobs, and advance equitable climate action that also addresses concurrent public health, economic, and racial justice crises. MCV is also convening an emerging coalition—Climate Maine—to advocate for a strong Climate Action Plan and build broad public support for its near- and long-term implementation. The council will deliver the Plan to the Legislature on December 1.



MORE **CLEAN ENERGY PROGRESS** IN THE STATES



MASSACHUSETTS

As a leader of the New England for Offshore Wind coalition, the CVM's Environmental League of Massachusetts is pushing to ensure that low-wealth communities and communities of color benefit from the region's growing clean energy industry. In the past, people of color in the state have been left out of industry waves—like biotechnology—and the coalition, which includes endorsements from Coalition for Social Justice and Clean Water Action, is determined to end this pattern of troubling inequity. The coalition partners believe strongly that innovation, prosperity, and equity can go hand in hand.



MINNESOTA

Great River Energy, which produces electricity for most of Minnesota's rural electric co-ops announced closure of its final coal plant, completing a 95% reduction in carbon emissions. The state's largest network of municipal utilities, the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), announced it will deliver 80% carbon free energy by 2030. These add to Xcel Energy pledge to produce 100% clean energy by 2050.

In addition to these utility wins, Conservation Minnesota is running a public education campaign and advocating for adoption of Governor Walz's "Clean Cars Minnesota," a pathway to reduce carbon and other harmful emissions, and require a greater selection of electric vehicles offered at dealerships. A rulemaking process is now moving forward, which means Minnesotans can look forward to cleaner air.

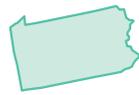


OHIO

With a state Legislature and governor in Ohio that are both hostile to clean energy progress, the Ohio Environmental Council helped to create Power a Clean Future Ohio (PCFO), a coalition of state environmental and community organizations that are working with municipal leaders to implement carbon-reduction plans that center on their communities' specific needs. And, the coalition has already found success—nine communities from across the state have joined as official PCFO cities, the city of South Euclid passed a resolution committing to 100% clean energy for municipal buildings by 2025 and community-wide by 2035, and the City of Columbus has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050.



MORE CLEAN ENERGY PROGRESS IN THE STATES



PENNSYLVANIA

In late 2019, Governor Tom Wolf committed to joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-state cap-and-invest program, which will help Pennsylvania curb pollution while increasing revenue to support local climate solutions. Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania (CVPA) has been supporting efforts by environmental justice organizations and other community organizations calling for additional comment periods to ensure the needs of communities impacted by fossil fuels are addressed in how RGGI is designed in Pennsylvania. Alongside coalition partners, CVPA successfully obtained a veto on a bill that would have stopped the Department of Environmental Protection from enacting the rule.



VERMONT

Vermont Conservation Voters has helped lead a coalition of 29 other Vermont organizations—representing business, low-income, youth, public health and other interests—to advocate for the Global Warming Solutions Act, which turns long-held climate goals into requirements and creates accountability that will ensure the state makes just, job-creating climate progress. While the Vermont House and Senate both overwhelmingly passed the bill, Governor Phil Scott vetoed it. However, the Legislature successfully overrode the veto, officially putting in place this essential framework for a resilient, equitable economic recovery.



WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Conservation Voters and other environmental groups offered significant help to the state's local governments with the release of their clean energy toolkit, which outlines steps local officials can take to develop plans for implementing clean energy. Among many topics, the toolkit includes ideas and resources for implementing and financing clean energy projects and creating equitable carbon reduction strategies, and explores the benefits clean energy can provide in schools. The City of Menomonie and the Green Bay school district passed 100% clean energy commitments, 100% clean energy plans are moving in Brown County and

Wauwatosa, and proposals are being developed in Dunn County, Altoona, De Pere, Shorewood, and West Allis. Wisconsin Conservation Voters also has a seat on the governor's Climate Change Task Force, where they are working to develop a statewide strategy on climate change, and they have hosted numerous virtual events about clean energy, including one with Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes that focused on racial justice and climate change.





CREATING BLUEPRINTS for a HEALTHIER FUTURE





Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

For more information or to get involved,
visit cleanenergyforall.org or LCV.org

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