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# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear CELI Community,

As we all turn enthusiastically towards the possibilities that this new year brings, we will most likely hold onto 2020's smallest joys and biggest lessons for a while longer.

Our brightest moments included bringing CELI's flagship Fellowship to Chicago, welcoming over 100 new Fellows across all three cities, and launching a Membership Program to expand the community that fuels the learning and connection at the heart of this dynamic organization.

And, we have only just begun our work together! 2020 closed out the warmest decade on record, and we witnessed extreme racial disparities at the intersection of COVID-19 and environmental racism impacts in communities of color. Within the clean energy economy, the legacy of systemic racism and gender oppression persists, and the lack of workforce diversity remains prevalent. The way that you approach the work that you do every day to devise solutions and seed new infrastructure is vital to building tomorrow's economy as a just, diverse, inclusive, and equitable one.

As we add two additional Fellowships to our community this year – a New York and a National Fellowship – and launch a new summer internship for BIPOC and underrepresented students, we are looking forward to reimagining with you what is possible.

We are pleased to share with you a brief summary of CELI's 2020 accomplishments in this annual report. With that, please also join me in extending a huge thank you to CELI's out-going executive director, Liz Ramsay Dalton; CELI's 2020 staff, Becca Ward and Rachel Kriegsman; the Leadership Team; CELI's Board; our donors – and all of you who worked so hard to support CELI to weather 2020.

Thank you for zooming in this past year and for keeping us close, even if we have to be physically distant for a bit longer!

**- Esther Morales**

## MISSION & VISION

CELI develops a new kind of energy leadership that is driving our transition to an equitable, decarbonized, and resilient clean energy ecosystem.

By establishing Fellowship programs across the country, CELI increases the capacity of local ecosystems to advance a clean energy agenda.

CELI also partners with companies, organizations, and universities to create educational programming and community building events for all ecosystem players.



## OUR APPROACH

The CELI Fellowship takes participants through a 5-month curriculum where energy systems literacy is as important as the principles of adaptive leadership, and building a community of practice.

CELI sees leadership development as the work of deepening our collective analysis and action to advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

CELI creates a community of learning that can last a lifetime.



# ADAPTING TO A VIRTUAL WORLD

Despite the unforeseen hardships that 2020 presented, CELI rose to the challenge and accomplished what it set out to do.

Most importantly, we launched our third CELI Fellowship in Chicago! Less than a week before our March 21st orientation, all three cities fully, and graciously, adapted to the virtual world. To all of our 2020 Fellows out there, we just want to say how incredible you are for piloting our first-ever, all-virtual cohort.

We closed out the Spring with a few moments of calm and centering through a virtual Yoga for Clean Energy (don't worry, we'll bring the 5k back as soon as possible), and entered the Summer with some deeper interrogation. Leading up to and throughout June 2020's racial reckoning, conversations with Fellows pushed CELI to identify places to strengthen and improve its strategies to contribute to equity outcomes. Our Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Council continued to build on the work of Leadership Team members over the last several years, to advise CELI on how to make even deeper progress towards integrating these values into all aspects of organizational operations, programming, and intended impact.

In August, we got creative and planned our biggest emPOWER yet. A 3-day, virtual event featuring more than 45 unique sessions, 60+ hours of content, and resources for anyone passionate about building a clean energy future together.

By October, with more than 50 energy education, leadership development, and community events on the books and over 7 months of quarantine, we kept our community in good spirits by hosting an online CELI Game Day. We wrapped the year with a national Holiday Party and Talent Show to highlight the incredible talents of our alumni and member community outside of clean energy, including spoken word, photography, music, and more!

Building on the strength of this 2020 resilience, the CELI team continued to lay the groundwork for our first-ever National Fellowship cohort in 2021 and our expansion to New York. We remain inspired by every hour that is spent collectively on building an equitable, resilient, and decarbonized energy future, together, and look forward to what 2021 has to bring.



# BY THE NUMBERS

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**3** Chapters: DC, Bay Area, Chicago

**23** New  
Corporate  
Partners

**105** New  
Fellows

**319** New  
Members

**50** Clean Energy  
Education  
Events

**177** Experts  
Speakers &  
Lecturers

**600** CELI  
Alumni

**65** Clean Energy  
Scholarships

**248** Individual  
Donors

**4192** People  
Engaged

# Thank You to Our Supporters

Reaching 2020 milestones would not have been possible without the support of our volunteers, individual donors, corporate sponsors, and philanthropic partners.

Each of you helped us reach thousands of clean energy leaders, experts, and emerging professionals.

Thanks to your dedication, CELI was able to build critical internal capacity, create new leadership development and clean energy education opportunities, and expand our programmatic reach.

Our deepest gratitude! Our work wouldn't be possible without you.

