



Clean **Energy** Action
CITIZEN POWER

Accelerating the Transition to the Post Fossil Fuel World

2019-2020 Biennial Report

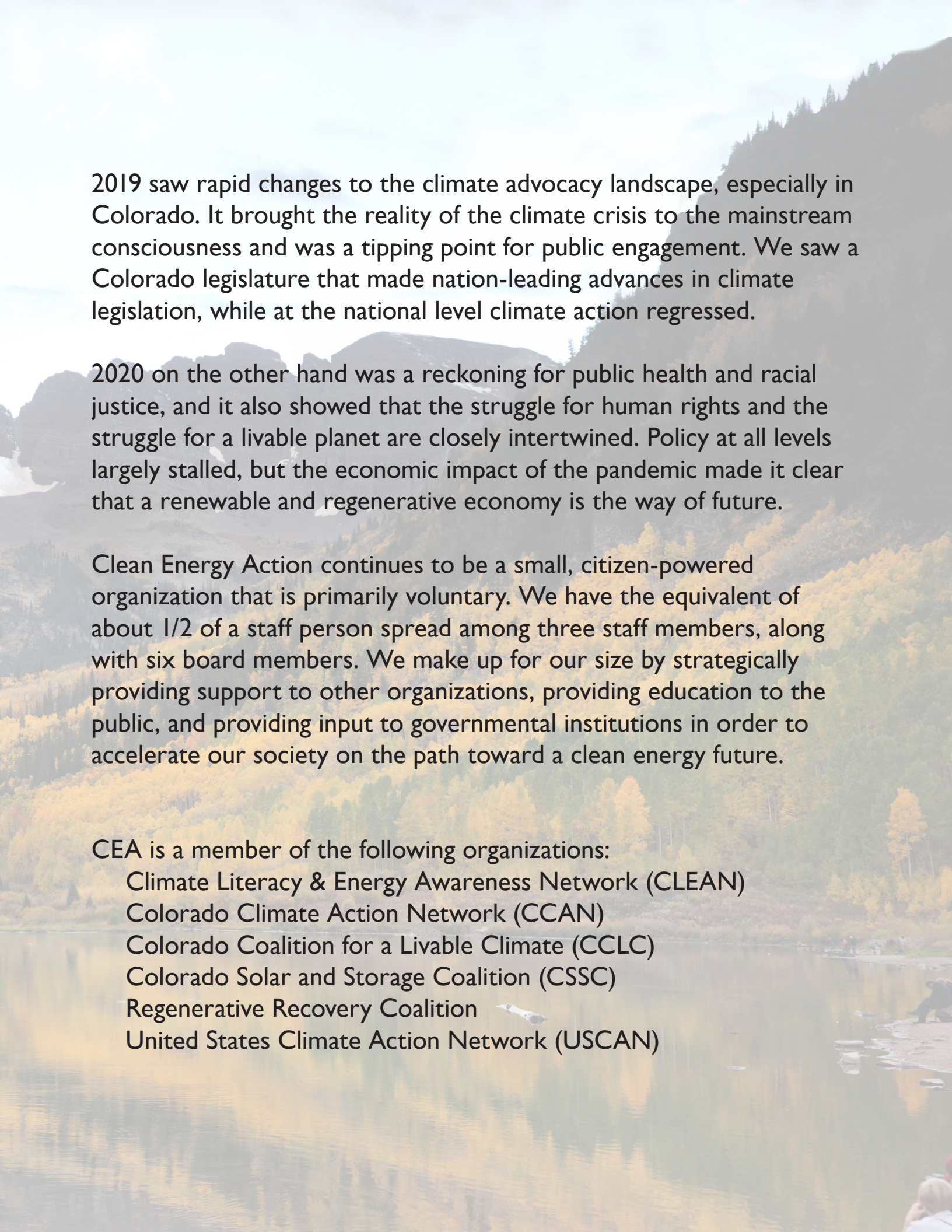
Welcome!

Thank you for being part of the movement towards creating a more sustainable planet!

We have been very busy in recent years and are pleased to report that as a result of the work of Clean Energy Action and our allies, we have virtually every utility in Colorado on a path to 80-100% carbon reduction by 2030. We've come a *loooong* way from our beginnings, when we were told over and over again that it was “impossible” to run a utility on renewable resources. **We are, frankly, proud and ever so grateful for all you've done to help make this possible, from attending events, to testifying at the Public Utilities Commission, the Legislature, and your local councils and boards, and spreading the word to your churches, workplaces, friends, and family.**

While most of our work is done “behind the scenes”, in consultation with allies around the state and country, here is a summary of what we've been up to for the last two years.

Leaders are best when people barely know they exist, when the work is done, the aim fulfilled, the people will say:
“We did it ourselves.”
(Modified from Lao Tsu)



2019 saw rapid changes to the climate advocacy landscape, especially in Colorado. It brought the reality of the climate crisis to the mainstream consciousness and was a tipping point for public engagement. We saw a Colorado legislature that made nation-leading advances in climate legislation, while at the national level climate action regressed.

2020 on the other hand was a reckoning for public health and racial justice, and it also showed that the struggle for human rights and the struggle for a livable planet are closely intertwined. Policy at all levels largely stalled, but the economic impact of the pandemic made it clear that a renewable and regenerative economy is the way of future.

Clean Energy Action continues to be a small, citizen-powered organization that is primarily voluntary. We have the equivalent of about 1/2 of a staff person spread among three staff members, along with six board members. We make up for our size by strategically providing support to other organizations, providing education to the public, and providing input to governmental institutions in order to accelerate our society on the path toward a clean energy future.

CEA is a member of the following organizations:

- Climate Literacy & Energy Awareness Network (CLEAN)
- Colorado Climate Action Network (CCAN)
- Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate (CCLC)
- Colorado Solar and Storage Coalition (CSSC)
- Regenerative Recovery Coalition
- United States Climate Action Network (USCAN)

Testimony

Colorado State Legislature
Boulder City Council
Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Colorado Air Quality Control Commission

National Policy Initiative

Advanced national policy with USCAN and CLEAN
Numerous consultations and virtual meetings with groups from other states

Media

Published various white papers
Sent monthly newsletter
Maintained FaceBook and Twitter presence

Climate Community Support

Stop Fracking Our Future - 350 Colorado
Protect Our Children at Bella Romero Academy - 350 Colorado
Colorado Climate Strike - Wild Earth Guardians and other youth organizations
Regenerative Recovery Coalition - Alliance Center
Pueblo Local Power Campaign - Bring Power Home 2020
No on 2C - Empower Our Future
Signed on to numerous campaigns, petitions, and letters at the local, state, and national level

Finances

As you can see in the tables below, your unfailing support of Clean Energy Action is what allows us to exist as an organization and drive change toward a cleaner, and more equitable, society.

As you might also notice, there was a large increase in staff expenditures this year. Most of that was due to our decision to ask founding member Alison Burchell to take on a new role. With the elections last November and a possible shift in national leadership, we saw an opportunity to influence national policy, and with the election of President Biden the move has paid off. Alison has worked tirelessly with USCAN and CLEAN to bring CEA's collective knowledge to bear on the Biden Administration's climate and energy staff selections and policy agendas.

We have been fortunate enough to have a financial buffer to take advantage of this unique opportunity. Your continued support is allowing us to maintain this important work, which we anticipate to be highly constructive through 2021.

2019 Financial Report		2020 Financial Report	
Beginning Balance	\$44,727.54	Carryover Balance	\$43,570.63
Revenue	\$18,785.76	Revenue	\$17,519.29
Public Support	\$18,769.81	Public Support	\$17,514.73
Interest	\$15.95	Interest	\$4.56
Expenditures	\$17,012.67	Expenditures	\$35,855.33
Staff	\$12,092.40	Staff	\$27,055.73
Fundraising	\$301.74	Fundraising	\$164.97
Operations	\$4,106.53	Operations	\$5,564.43
Contributions to Other Organizations	\$100.00	Contributions to Other Organizations	\$1,200.00
Travel & Meetings	\$117.00	Travel & Meetings	\$250.00
Campaigns & Events	\$200.00	Campaigns & Events	\$1,450.20
Ending Balance	\$43,570.63	Ending Balance	\$28,659.59

Looking to the Future

CEA hopes that 2021 will see enough clean energy progress to make up for our rough 2020 and, at the national level, to make up for the last four years! Here are some of our goals for this year:

Local

Support communities battling Suncor - the Suncor oil refinery in Denver has continually failed to meet environmental standards and its emissions compromise the health of nearby residents

State

Accelerate the closing of coal plants - there is still one, Pueblo Unit 3, slated to close past 2030

Educate the public about the Public Utilities Commission - PUC decisions have a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of residents, especially those in marginalized communities

Advance Community Choice Energy (CCE) - the CCE study bill was pulled from last year's session, but was reintroduced this year

National

Shape national policy - we will continue to be heavily involved with USCAN and CLEAN to help the Biden Administration set its climate agenda.

All

Center environmental justice - the past year has made it abundantly clear that marginalized communities continue to be disproportionately harmed by the choices we have made as a society. CEA will be devoting more of its efforts to seek out and amplify the voices of those communities and the organizations that represent them in our work.

Meet Our Board

Brian Highland, Board President

Brian was motivated to devote more of his energy to combat climate change after the IPCC's sobering Special Report came out in October 2018. He feels that while advancing policy is crucial, it is equally important to approach the challenge through a lens of equity so that marginalized communities are not left behind.

Besides policy, Brian is also excited about the rapid advancements in technology that can get us to a carbon-free future. He works as a software engineer for HOMER Energy by UL, writing microgrid feasibility software.



Leslie Glustrom, Senior Advisor

Leslie Glustrom's involvement in climate change and clean energy issues is driven by the fact that there is only one planet we know of that sustains the miracle known as life.

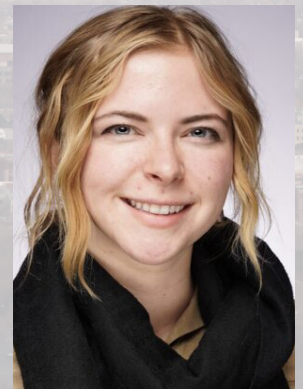
Leslie is trained as a biochemist and has spent over 30 years working at the interface of science and society in a variety of roles including science writing, teaching, policy analysis. In addition, she has a long history of activist work on a variety of environmental issues.

In 2004, Leslie resigned from her job managing a biochemistry research lab at the CU Boulder to work full time on climate change. She is a founding member of Clean Energy Action, served as the Director of Research and Policy for several years and is now the board's Senior Advisor. She has spoken throughout the country on the environmental and economic imperative of accelerating the transition to a world without fossil fuels and has won many awards for her work.

Marguerite Behringer

Marguerite Behringer is a passionate research scientist, community leader, and problem-solver. Trained in ecology and evolutionary biology/environmental studies, Marguerite became passionate about transforming capitalism for societal benefit during her fellowship with Hunter Lovins. She currently works as an energy consultant, generating custom analyses of innovative electricity market designs, business models, and technology for a variety of public and private clients. She is especially interested in promoting local economies, distributed energy, efficient/affordable housing, environmental justice, and multidisciplinary sustainability planning.

At home, Marguerite pursues a sustainable lifestyle in a housing cooperative she helped create in 2017. She is incredibly proud to be part of CEA and continue its legacy of impact.





Josie Strutz

Josie Strutz moved to Colorado in the Summer of 2015, and since living in the Colorful State has fallen in love with everything “Colorado”. From mountain biking to hiking, Josie is eager to spend as much time exploring as she does working to combat climate change through her career in the solar industry.

Josie graduated from The George Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in Systems Engineering, and has worked in a variety of roles within the clean energy industry. Beginning her career with Solar Energy International, she has since explored working in solar panel manufacturing, residential solar, and is currently employed at Pivot Energy as a Project Engineer and Analyst.

Josie’s work is centered around production modeling and project pricing. When she is not working she loves to spend time with friends and family, play outside, and listen to groovy tunes.

Emily Swallow

Originally hailing from the midwest, Emily has been in Colorado for over a decade and feels so fortunate to call it home. Emily holds a BA in History from CU Boulder and an MA in Teaching Diverse Learners from University of Northern Colorado. Emily spent six years as a social studies teacher before transitioning to her current role in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education.

Emily has been passionate about environmental and social justice issues for as long as she can remember. As a teacher, she works hard to educate and empower her students to use civic action to promote positive change, but only recently has she stepped up her own activism efforts. In the summer of 2020, as megafires burned the west and protests for racial justice intensified, Emily decided that she needed to do more in the fight for a better world. She believes that because the climate emergency and structural inequalities are inextricably tied, thoughtful and creative approaches can address both issues simultaneously while lifting all of us up. Emily is committed to continually educating herself on current climate science and policy and to doing her part in responding to the climate emergency.

In her free time, Emily enjoys running and hiking on Colorado’s beautiful trails, trying new vegetarian recipes, and listening to many, many podcasts.



Conor May, Former Executive Director

Conor stepped down from his position as Executive Director and joined the CEA board in 2021. He was the Executive Director during all of 2019 and 2020. Conor joined CEA in January of 2017, which led him to enroll in the University of Colorado Law School in 2018, where he will soon complete a law degree focusing on environmental, economic, and technology policy.

Conor moved from Durango to Boulder in 2010, and received his undergraduate degree from CU in history and political science. Prior to attending law school, he worked as an administrative assistant at the Boulder Public Defenders Office. Conor is a member of the Colorado Journal of Law & Technology, and works with the student organization Environmental Law Society, and works with Boulder-based Empower Our Future.

Past Board Members - We thank the following people also served on the board during 2019/2020:

**Duncan Gilchrist | Charlie Haimbaugh | Nate Sloat | Karen Conduff | Molly May
Devon Reynolds | Lizzy Waters | Carolyn Williams-Orlando**

Meet Our Staff

Luke Charbonneau, Operations Director

Luke earned his undergraduate degree in Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences from the CU Boulder in Spring of 2019. A universal perspective of how special our Earth truly is as been cemented in Luke's mind and is a cornerstone of his passion for advancing a sustainable planet.

Luke is a lifelong fan of hiking, snowboarding, hammocking, being beside a river, and just about every other mountainous activity you can think of. This adoration of Colorado's beautiful outdoors and the desire to preserve it are pillars of Luke's involvement with clean energy. Luke is happy to be working with such a progressive nonprofit and plans on continued contribution to Clean Energy Action success.



Christopher Warren, Communications Director

Chris is a lifelong resident of Colorado. He graduated from CU with a BFA in 2013, and has worked as an artist, designer, and filmmaker in the Front Range since then. He is currently working as a muralist around the west, and is represented by Walker Fine Art in Denver.

Chris's interest in non-profit work began at a young age, with his mother working for nonprofits his whole life, and his father serving on nonprofit boards. Chris was on his first non-profit board in high school, sitting on the board of the Durango Independent Film Festival. He is currently Board Vice President of the North Boulder Arts District.

Having lived in Boulder for over 10 years now, Chris sees nonprofit advocacy as an important way to engage with, and improve, this community.

Alison Burchell, Outreach Director

Alison is a professional geologist with a dual B.S. in Chemistry and Environmental Planning and graduate degrees in Volcanology and Isotope-Geochemistry. Following a fellowship with the U.S. Dept. of Interior and US Geological Survey, she established a private consulting practice on issues including: crustal processes, reef and wetland preservation, land-reclamation, siting analysis for renewable energy projects and stakeholder facilitation. She also holds advanced certificates in Multispectral and Radar Remote Sensing Analysis, Database Design, GIS, Scuba and EPA hazardous materials detection and sampling.



Since moving to Boulder, Alison has served on several state and local working-groups and non-profit boards tasked with promoting public education, developing public policy or modeling and mitigating a range of environmental problems. She is a member of the City of Boulder – Energy Future Task Force and co-founder of Clean Energy Action, Renewables Yes and Empower Our Future.

