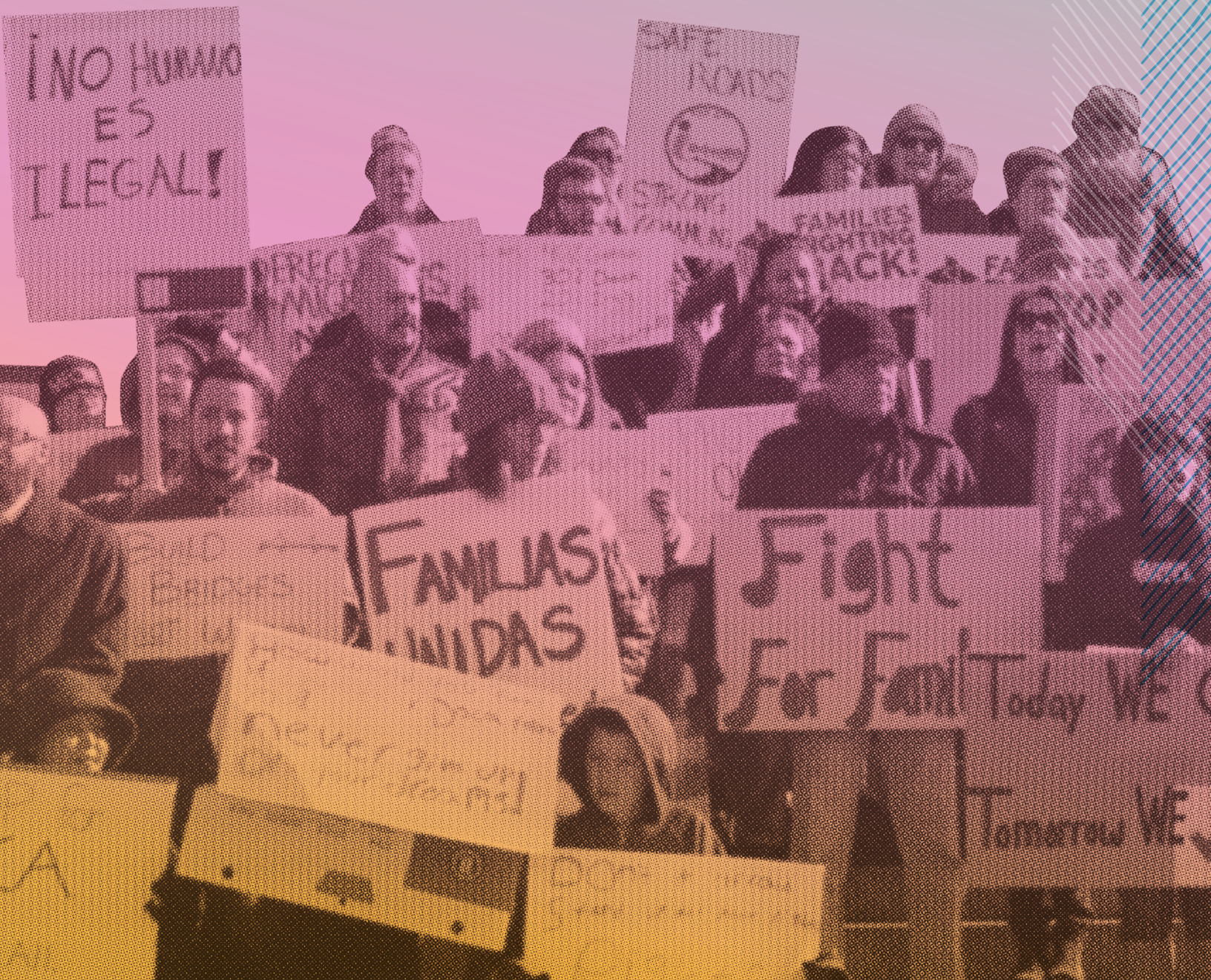


THE Climate + Clean Energy EQUITY FUND

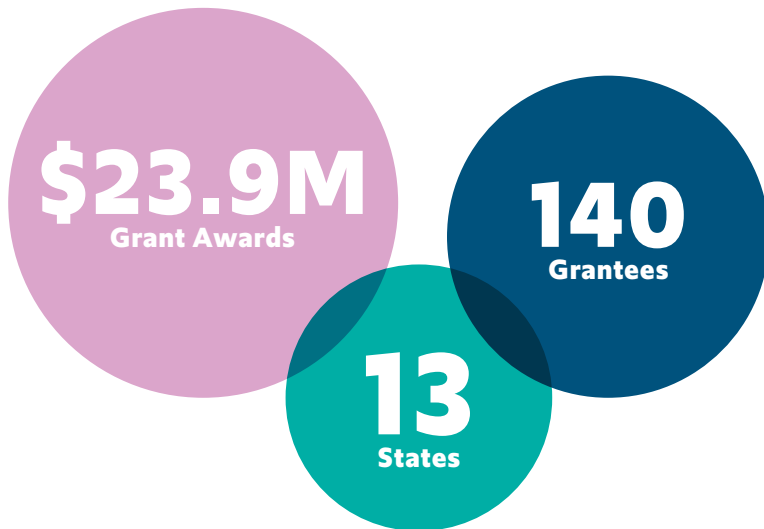


2022 Year in Review

A year of success and leadership at the forefront of efforts to build a diverse and powerful movement for climate equity.



2022 Grantmaking Summary



Ongoing Leadership in Advancing Climate Equity

Since launching in 2016, the Equity Fund has raised more than \$127 million to support more than **140 community-based organizations in 13 states** with grants and programs to wage and win equitable climate campaigns and policies. With our innovative model integrating grantmaking with complementary technical assistance and programmatic support, the Equity Fund has built a powerful network of grantees and ensured they have the resources and capacities needed to provide exemplary leadership for climate equity.

In states across the country, this work has proven successful in building a powerful multiracial community-driven movement to forge and implement climate equity policy solutions.

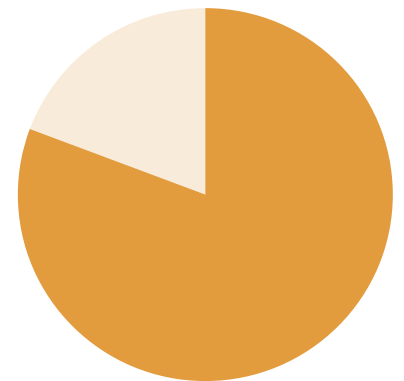
A sister fund, the Climate Equity Action Fund, has raised more than \$29 million to support community organizations' advocacy and political campaigns. Together, the technical assistance, policy expertise, and multiyear grantmaking support for grantee partners' organizing and nonpartisan civic engagement efforts have played a critical role in generating political will and public support to advance clean energy policy solutions in 13 states.

Over the past year, we have deepened our support for grantees by both increasing multiyear and general operating grants and expanding targeted programmatic support and technical assistance through our Policy and Communications Accelerator initiatives.

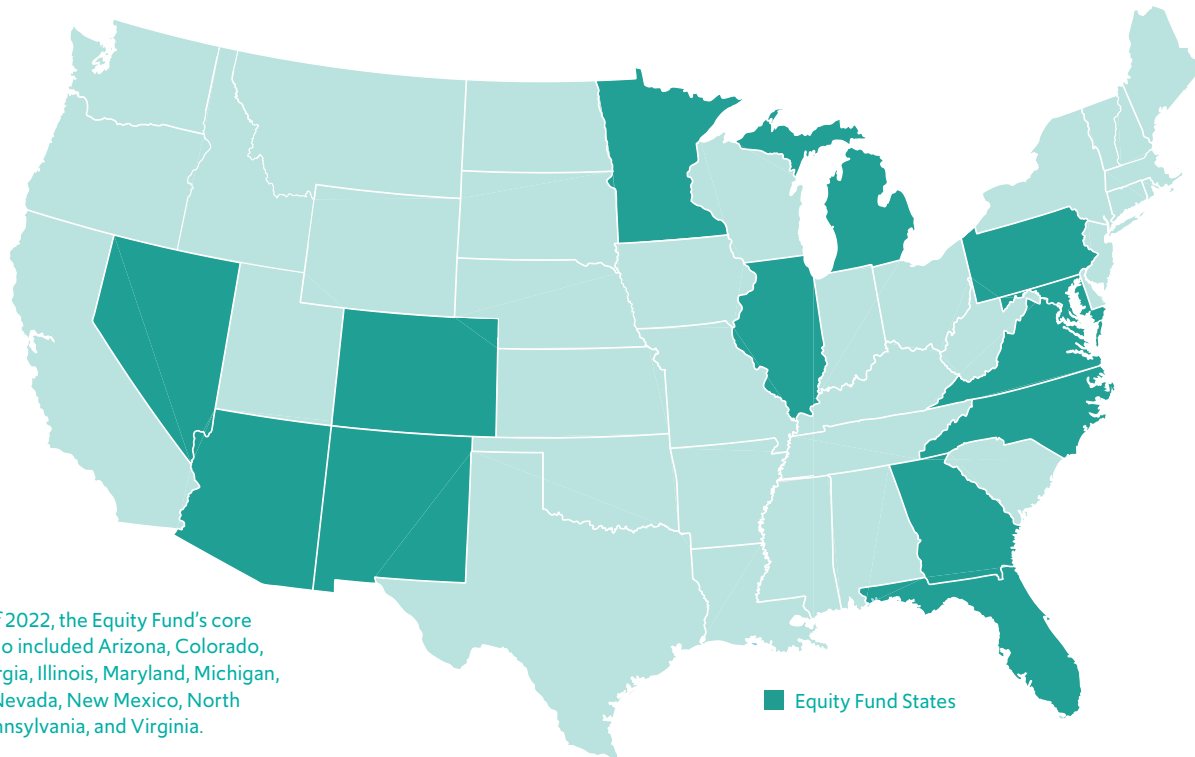
The success and impact of the Equity Fund and our grantee network are made possible by the support of our funding partners, several of whom deepened investments in the Equity Fund over the course of 2022. This support is essential to enabling the Equity Fund to scale programs, services, and support to the field.



54%
Grantees Led by
Women of Color



79%
Grantees Led by
Directors of Color



At the end of 2022, the Equity Fund's core state portfolio included Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Strategic Grantmaking: Funding That Builds a Diverse and Powerful Climate Equity Movement

In 2022, we sustained and expanded our robust multiyear grantmaking and support programs throughout our 13 focus states. Our approach centered on providing essential resources and fostering community-rooted infrastructure to empower grassroots organizing groups. Through strategic grantmaking, we allocated a total of \$23.9 million to 140 grantees representing diverse rural, suburban, and urban communities vital to ensuring public and political will to accelerate climate action and advance equitable implementation of federal and state policies.

We awarded grants that continued building support for nonpartisan voter education, Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts, and Policy Fellowships. Recognizing the significance of effective climate communication, we enhanced communications capacity through the Communications Accelerator and the Climate Disinformation War Room. Furthermore, we established rapid response funds dedicated to hurricane relief and post-disaster organizing in Puerto Rico and Florida, while also supporting nonpartisan voter turnout for the Georgia runoff election.

Our support enabled grantees to make significant progress in both offensive and defensive climate equity victories. Together, we have made significant progress in ensuring that “climate action” encompasses not only environmental aspects, but also crucial material benefits for communities, including economic development, workforce empowerment, housing, health, and more. Our continued commitment to funding, directing resources, and adding expertise has enabled the formation of powerful multistakeholder coalitions and impactful campaigns, ultimately creating positive change at the local level.

2022 Highlights From Grantee-Led Policy Wins

MARYLAND: Reduced carbon emissions and promoted sustainable practices through the **successful passing of the Climate Solutions Now Act**, a groundbreaking and proactive climate legislation in the United States.

COLORADO: Strengthened public health and environmental safeguards by **enacting the Public Protections From Toxic Air Contaminants bill**, ensuring the reduction of harmful air pollutants and prioritizing the well-being of communities.

FLORIDA: Protected access to **clean energy for low-income communities** by blocking legislation aimed at eliminating incentives for the installation of and investment in infrastructure for distributed and community solar projects.

PENNSYLVANIA: Created new, **quality jobs and job-training programs by ensuring bipartisan support for the Whole-Home Repairs Program** to guarantee affordable weatherization and home repairs.

Policy and Communications Accelerators

Accelerating grantees' leadership to advance policy change, ensure equitable implementation, and deliver effective strategic communications

Both our Policy and Communications Accelerator programs develop the capacities of working-class communities and communities of color to win equitable climate and clean energy policies at the state and federal levels.

Policy Accelerator

Our **Policy Accelerator** is a multifaceted program that provides project grants and programmatic and technical support to equip leaders from Black, Native, Latinx, and AAPI communities (including rural communities) with the tools, capacity, and knowledge to drive impactful policy change that reflects their communities' priorities. The program provides a robust set of tailored resources and support to grantees, including personalized coaching, expert technical briefings, research, policy analysis, and advocacy support, which has effectively positioned them as leaders in state and local efforts to design, advance, and implement climate equity policies.

Highlights from grantee-led policy campaigns in 2022 include **passing the Climate Solutions Now Act** in Maryland, one of the most aggressive climate laws in the US; **enacting the Public Protections From Toxic Air Contaminants** bill in Colorado; **successfully blocking legislation that restricted equitable access to solar energy** in Florida; and ensuring **bipartisan support of the Whole-Home Repairs program** in Pennsylvania.

With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), our Policy Accelerator staff ensured our grantee partners were well informed about federal policy provisions and began coaching grantees to develop local strategies to advance equitable implementation.



INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT (DC,MD,NOVA)

Grantee Spotlight

Forging a Just Transition to a Zero-Emissions Future

As the foremost immigrant organization in the mid-Atlantic region, **CASA** is a national leader in supporting immigrant families and ensuring that all individuals have the core supports necessary for full participation in society. Now a national immigrant powerhouse, CASA creates change with its power-building model that blends human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of members' needs, dreams, and aspirations.

CASA members played a crucial role this year in advocating for **Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA)**. They advocated for an expanded definition of environmental justice communities in the legislation and were able to add more criteria, including race, ethnicity, immigration status, income, and measures of air and water quality. This landmark legislation set Maryland's official climate goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2031 and achieving net zero emissions by 2045. CASA's focus on equity ensures that those communities most affected by climate change are included in the solution and can benefit from the transition to a cleaner future.

Beyond many successful public policy victories, additional 2022 highlights from the Policy Accelerator program include:

- + **Developing template comments** addressing dockets related to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's IRA implementation, which our grantee partners can utilize as a basis for their own comments or as sign-on letters to amplify their collective voice. These templates facilitate their engagement in the regulatory process and ensure their perspectives are heard.
- + **Utilizing insights from our 2021 report** that outlines key principles for ensuring the implementation of the Biden administration's Justice40 pledge.
- + **Convening a Federal Kitchen Cabinet** consisting of nine grantee partners well positioned to advise on our federal priorities and strategies. The Kitchen Cabinet offers informed input, helps guide federal interventions, and collaborates on how to best make use of this moment, when there is both increased public and political will for climate action and a large volume of federal funding flowing to states. The Federal Kitchen Cabinet has supported grantees in identifying funding opportunities at the federal level and thinking through creative ways to block harmful technologies and false solutions from gaining credibility or momentum at the state level. Through sharing experiences and expertise, we collectively navigate this unique moment and seize emerging opportunities.
- + **Launching the Climate Equity Policy Fellows program**, which funds, places, and trains policy fellows within grantee organizations. The pilot cohort included fellows housed in grantee organizations in Virginia and New Mexico and provided significant additional policy capacity to our grantee coalitions to advance community priorities in state and local policy decisions. Our training of policy fellows includes extensive coaching and support, accompanied by funding for these three-year policy positions.
- + **Assessing high-leverage opportunities for community-led, equitable implementation campaigns.** With hundreds of billions of federal investments poised to be available in the last quarter of 2022, we launched an initiative to identify and assess high-impact pilot projects and campaign for equitable implementation that would exemplify the benefits of prioritizing community leadership in federal implementation. This work included our launch of the **Federal Funding Tracking Tool**, an unparalleled database mapping the extensive federal investments that we use to coach and support grantees to identify potential funding sources for local campaigns and implementation work. This will be a major focus of our work in 2023 and beyond.



9TO5CO

Grantee Spotlight

Protecting Clean Energy Opportunities Through Collective Action

Catalyst Miami is a community-driven organization that seeks to empower and advance justice for Black and Brown communities in Miami-Dade County. They work to enhance civic engagement through advocacy and leadership training and increase the resilience of our environment and communities through people-led strategies. These efforts feed into each other, contributing to the unified, influential, multigenerational movement required to bring about systemic change. In 2022, a coordinated advocacy campaign from Catalyst Miami and other Equity Fund grantees, including Florida Student Power Network, Florida For All, Florida Immigrant Coalition, and Florida Rising, led to the **governor's veto of a bill that would have dismantled the state's net energy metering program**. Catalyst Miami used its Catalyst to the Capital program to get 30 grassroots members to the state's capital to oppose the anti-solar bill.

Communications Accelerator

Our **Communications Accelerator** program advances pilot projects and initiatives designed to equip and build our grantees' strategic communications capacity. These efforts strive to create an enabling environment of public support and political will to advance state and local policy change and implementation opportunities. They include:

- + Supporting organizations to educate and mobilize voters more effectively;
- + Creating and distributing content that counteracts the media narrative propelled by the fossil fuel industry;
- + Deploying high-quality content to combat disinformation campaigns that target voters of color;
- + Supporting cultural organizing in communities of color through the production of art, film, and music; and
- + Enhancing communications and messaging strategies that advance state- and local-level climate and clean energy policies and opportunities.

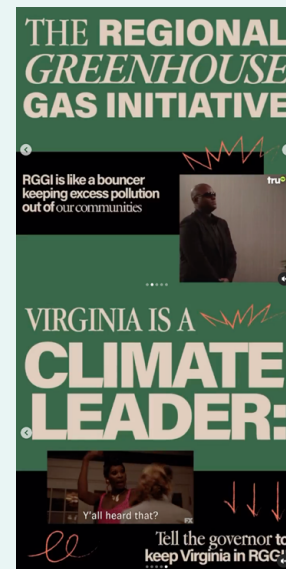
To both counteract and proactively address the fossil fuel industry's propaganda, the **Climate Disinformation War Room (CDWR)** has expanded from its inception in four states to now serve all 13 Equity Fund focus states. Launched in collaboration with A/B Partners and WinBlack, the CDWR is engaged in crafting, testing, and disseminating climate information that centers people of color in stories of renewable energy and climate justice. Simultaneously, the project identifies and responds to disinformation aimed at these communities by the fossil fuel industry and its allies. The CDWR provides access to culturally relevant social media content and toolkits to support our grantee partners in their campaigns to counter disinformation.

Our **Climate Disinformation War Room funder briefing** in January 2022 showcased how this vital infrastructure contributes to creating a supportive context for policy wins and implementation. Grantee speakers from the **Center for Civic Policy** and **Florida Rising** talked about their unique experiences with climate disinformation in their communities and how this project is helping them share the narrative of their constituents.

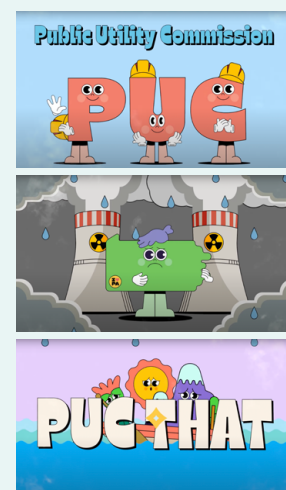
Projects From the Climate Disinformation War Room



Rating New Mexico TikTok videos exploring the toll climate change has taken on iconic New Mexico landscapes and traditions.



Instagram explainer about the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** and why Virginia should stay in it.



Public education and advocacy video **What the PUC?** describing the often unseen or misunderstood role of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in determining energy policy in the state.

Strategic Advising for Donors and Philanthropic Partners

The Equity Fund plays a crucial role in advising climate philanthropists, economic opportunity and workforce development funders, and civic engagement funders on effective strategies and strategic grantmaking approaches. In 2022, this work included:

- + Individualized philanthropic advising and funder education with staff and boards of trustees;
- + Connecting foundations and donors with power-building organizations across the country; and
- + Hosting briefings and roundtables and providing regular newsletters.

Beyond individualized advising, we share our insights and experiences with philanthropic partners to support and coordinate funding strategies that prioritize equity in climate policy solutions.

As part of our **Strategic Advising to Donors** and to sharpen our own strategy, in 2022 we took on a research and evaluation effort to deepen our understanding of the challenges faced by Native-led climate organizations and to define our strategy for giving to these organizations. This effort resulted in a robust report, [***Honoring and Resourcing Native Communities to Lead the Climate Fight: A Call to Action for Philanthropy***](#). The report offers valuable recommendations for the broader philanthropic community to address these identified barriers effectively.

In conjunction with the report, we co-hosted a briefing with NDN Collective and Native Americans in Philanthropy and published [***a synopsis***](#) that provides additional insights into the specific climate impacts experienced by Native communities, underinvestment in Native-led climate strategies, and best practices for Native-focused grantmaking.

Connecting and collaborating with philanthropic partners is vital to advancing our mission. We provide an open, educational space for our funding peers, while working to catalyze more equity-focused climate philanthropy investments.



9TO5CO

Grantee Spotlight

Advancing Climate Justice Through Community-Based Research

9to5 Colorado is a national membership organization focused on advancing working women's issues and advocating for policies that benefit working families. We awarded 9to5 Colorado with their first significant climate grant, helping them get their climate efforts off the ground. They published the [***Climate Justice Report***](#) after deep canvassing and community-based research. The report will inform their policy platform and priorities for the next several years. We also awarded them with a Policy Fellow grant, providing additional capacity to implement their research findings.



ONE PENNSYLVANIA

Grantee Spotlight

Strengthening Communities Through Climate Justice


Pennsylvania grantee partners formed the **Pennsylvania Climate Equity Table (PACET)** to coordinate statewide education on climate justice and to build grassroots power to reduce the fossil fuel industry's influence on local and state politics and the harmful health impacts of petrochemical industries in communities. Through PACET, our grantee partners collaborated across immigrant rights, rural organizing, and environmental justice movements. Their community organizing and advocacy efforts were instrumental in the bipartisan passage of Pennsylvania's Whole-Home Repairs Act, which will create green jobs and expand the local workforce through investments in home repairs and weatherization.

State-By-State Summaries


- + **Arizona** grantee partners successfully halted the proposed expansion of Pinal County's Coolidge Gas Generation Plant, a billion-dollar project involving 16 new gas turbines. This victory will propel their efforts to secure community solar and water security advancements in the next legislative session. Additionally, they engaged tribal nation leaders to advocate for clean-up investments from power plant owners and petitioned the Arizona Corporation Commission for utility rate relief in tribal communities.
- + **Colorado** grantee partners achieved a significant milestone by leading an advocacy and education campaign that resulted in the passage of the Public Protections From Toxic Air Contaminants bill. This legislation empowers Colorado to regulate toxic air more strictly than federal standards and mandates meaningful pollution reduction throughout the state. The Equity Fund supported new entrants in the climate justice space, such as 9to5 Colorado, which conducted community canvassing to establish climate policy priorities. Furthermore, some of our grantees collaborated with the Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable to increase voter participation, safeguard fair elections, and protect democracy, reaching more than half a million voters through door-to-door outreach.
- + **Florida** grantee partners demonstrated resilience in the face of an increasingly hostile state government and regulatory system. Their dedication to statewide power building and advocacy resulted in the preservation of Florida's net metering program, which sustains incentives for residential solar installation. They prioritized long-term strategic power building by expanding their networks, engaging rural Black communities and immigrant communities, and driving local climate action on disaster preparedness, worker protections, and climate gentrification.
- + **Georgia** grantee partners leveraged their record-breaking success in BIPOC voter mobilization to lead large-scale Get Out the Vote (GOTV) and voter education efforts in the 2022 state elections. They invested in organizing new constituencies, providing regional leadership training, and defending against bills that threatened distributed solar and burdened ratepayers with legacy pollution.
- + **Illinois** grantee partners utilized their governing power to guide the rulemaking and implementation of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, ensuring its commitment to building an equitable energy transition. They successfully thwarted legislative attacks, including a bill that aimed to delay decarbonization goals and grant exceptions to the gas industry. Grantees expanded their movement for climate equity by reaching Black and Latinx populations outside of Chicago through voter education events and relational organizing. Their next campaigns will involve capping fossil fuel emissions, eliminating the state's sacrifice zones, and establishing a large-scale green jobs program.
- + **Maryland** grantee partners ground their efforts in the lived experiences of their members. They championed grassroots leadership and supported the Environmental Justice Screening Bill, which requires permit applicants to include environmental justice scores in their applications. They also secured the passage of the Climate Solutions Now Act. This aggressive climate law sets ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and incorporates environmental justice provisions for impacted communities. Moving forward, partners aim to ensure the law's implementation, exclude trash incinerators from the state's renewable energy portfolio, and promote job opportunities and worker protections in emerging clean energy industries.
- + **Michigan** grantee partners advocated on multiple fronts for climate equity throughout the state, addressing utility reform, solar energy access, Line 5 pipeline opposition in the Upper Peninsula, refinery challenges in Detroit, and ongoing water issues in Flint. Their efforts led to significant accomplishments, including preventing a significant rate increase, securing substantial environmental justice funding in Flint, and expanding voting access through grassroots power building. These achievements helped them grow their networks to continue championing utility reform, clean energy campaigns, and the welfare of impacted communities.




+ **Minnesota** grantee partners led the multiyear 100% Clean Energy Campaign, a coalition of 51 organizations representing various communities leading the initiative to secure \$1 billion for climate-related priorities. Their successful efforts included strengthening equity measures and grassroots initiatives for fair redistricting. Grantees are well organized and equipped with climate justice and clean energy jobs policies to drive future progress.



+ **Nevada** grantee partners dedicated their attention to nonpartisan civic engagement, ensuring high voter turnout among communities of color. They specifically focused on Latinx populations, including older Latinxs and young people, as well as Black and Native voters and workers. These endeavors solidified their influence in the state legislature and bolstered their capacity to hold legislators accountable to climate equity priorities. Additionally, their leadership in the new Nevada environmental justice coalition positioned them to drive legislative priorities and advance environmental justice and climate resilience policies.



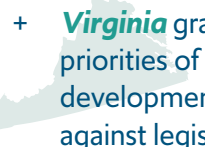
+ **New Mexico** grantee partners implemented robust voter education programs and targeted communications to mobilize rural, Native, and Latinx communities as advocates for a just transition to a clean energy economy. Their efforts resulted in increased influence with policymakers and the governor's office. Moving forward, grantees aim to secure funding and a state roadmap for a just transition to clean energy.



+ **North Carolina** grantee partners laid the groundwork for long-term climate policy campaigns by prioritizing grassroots power building. They effectively challenged unfavorable legislation, guided the implementation of past climate victories, and leveraged the Equity Fund's technical assistance program to condemn Duke Energy's natural gas expansion in their carbon reduction plan. Grantees also engaged 200 communities in workshops focusing on an equitable transition to fleet electrification, emphasizing two clean truck rules.



+ **Pennsylvania** grantee partners celebrated a pivotal milestone by securing \$125 million for the historic Whole-Home Repairs program through their multiyear organizing and advocacy efforts. This bipartisan measure establishes a one-stop shop for home repairs and weatherization, fostering a new local workforce. They swiftly pivoted their focus to program implementation, while also building grassroots leadership in rural communities and challenging permits for new fossil fuel infrastructure.



+ **Virginia** grantee partners upheld their core priorities of grassroots organizing, leadership development, and power building, while defending against legislative challenges to environmental justice and climate policy. They successfully countered legislative threats to Virginians' review authority in the environmental permitting process, coal waste reclamation, and attempts to withdraw Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Stay in touch with us at
partnership@theequityfund.org

**THE Climate +
Clean Energy**
**EQUITY
FUND**
theequityfund.org

List of Current Grantees by State

ARIZONA

Activate 48
Chispa AZ
Corazón
LUCHA
Mi Familia Vota
Our Voice Our Vote
Rural Arizona Engagement (RAZE)
Tó Nizhóní Ání

COLORADO

9to5 Colorado
Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable
COPA
Cultivando
ProgressNow CO Education
Together CO
Voces Unidas de las Montañas
GreenLatinos
Spirit of the Sun

FLORIDA

Alianza Center
Black Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute
Catalyst Miami
Central Florida Jobs with Justice
Family Action Network Movement
Florida for All
Farmworkers Association of Florida
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Florida Rising Together
Florida Student Power Network
Miami Climate Alliance

GEORGIA

9to5 Georgia
Black Voters Matter
CASA
Demo Lab South
Georgia Conservation Voters
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL)
New Georgia Project
Partnership for Southern Equity
ProGeorgia
Georgia WAND

ILLINOIS

Chicago Frontlines Funding Initiative
Illinois People's Action (IPA)
ONE Northside
People's Lobby
Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL)
United Congregations of Metro East

MARYLAND

Action in Montgomery
Black Girls Vote
Brandywine TB Southern Region
Neighborhood Coalition
CASA
Centro de Apoyo Familiar
MD Interfaith Power and Light (MDIPL)
Progressive MD
Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition
Out for Justice

MICHIGAN

MI EJ Coalition
MI United
Soulardarity
We the People (WTP) Michigan
Flint Rising
We Want Green Too!
Detroit Action

MINNESOTA

100% Campaign
Black Visions
Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL)
ISAIAH
Land Stewardship Project
MN350
MN Interfaith Power and Light
Navigate
MN Environmental Justice Table
Honor the Earth

NEVADA

Chispa
Faith in Action
Faith Organizing Alliance
Institute for Progressive NV
Make it Work
Make the Road NV
Native Voters Alliance NV
Nevada Environmental Justice Coalition (NEJC)
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN)
Somos Votantes

NEW MEXICO

Center for Civic Policy
Power 4 New Mexico
Diné C.A.R.E.
Naeva (formerly, NAVA Education Project)
Comunidades en Acción y de Fé (CAFé)
Organizers in the Land of Enchantment (OLÉ)

Education Fund
ProgressNow NM
Pueblo Action Alliance
Somos Un Pueblo Unido
YUCCA

NORTH CAROLINA

Appalachian Voices
A. Phillips Randolph Institute
Blueprint NC
Climate and Jobs Roundtable
NCAAT
NC Black Alliance
Somos Siembra
Solnation
We are Down Home
Red-Tailed Hawk Collective

PENNSYLVANIA

Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance
CASA
Center for Coalfield Justice
Make the Road PA
One PA
PA Climate Equity Table
PA Stands Up
Philly Thrive
Pittsburgh United
Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild (POWER)

VIRGINIA

Appalachian Voices
CASA
Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)
Green Workers Alliance
New Virginia Majority Fund
ProgressNow VA
Virginia Interfaith Power and Light
Virginia Organizing
Climate Equity Working Group (CEWG)

EQUITY FUND COMMUNICATIONS

ACCELERATOR

Advance Democracy
Florida Watch
Hip Hop Caucus
IllumiNative
ReFrame
RCN/We Make the Future
Win Black

theequityfund.org/grantmaking