When Equation Campaign launched in 2020, there was a narrow window of opportunity to avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Today, the science is even more clear, but the time to cut emissions in half is running out. That’s why our mission is to keep oil and gas in the ground by funding movements on the ground.

We have almost tripled our grantmaking since 2020, working with communities and leaders to stop catastrophic emissions, whether through a canceled liquified natural gas terminal, a groundbreaking news story exposing the corruption of the industry, or litigation that shuts down existing pipelines.

However, as movement pressure grows, the industry continues to double down, spending $160 billion since 2020 in exploring new oil and gas infrastructure alone, despite the fact that the International Energy Agency acknowledges that fossil fuel expansion must stop. By comparison, a 2022 ClimateWorks study found that major foundations only provided $115 million in grants to strategies challenging the fossil fuel industry directly, and only a small portion of that goes directly to what the industry cites as their biggest roadblock to expansion: local resistance.

Supporting the groups most threatened by climate injustice and most threatening to the industry is both strategic and necessary for other climate solutions to succeed. Since 2020, Equation Campaign has moved $23 million to more than 80 grantees across the country, investing the majority of funds in Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and women-led organizations, who are the most likely to be on the frontlines of industry expansion.

The collective power of movements can cut emissions in half and make all of our philanthropy dollars go farther. We can’t do it without you.

In solidarity and gratitude,
Equation Campaign team
The Equation Campaign is a ten-year funding initiative and intermediary working to bring about a safe and just future by investing in the power of movements to keep oil and gas in the ground.

We work with a national network of allies to identify grantee partners, build relationships, and carefully evaluate their needs and priorities to make high-impact grants, with an emphasis on funding BIPOC-led and focused organizations.

Our support beyond the check includes convenings, legal defense and support, technical resources, and a fellowship program to build the bench and support for emerging leaders.

“Equation Campaign is an incredible organization that is doing due diligence and capacity building. They can plug you into communities across the country and get your resources delivered. Frankly, their grantees have the biggest opportunities for big climate wins.”

– Rhea Suh, President and CEO
Marin Community Foundation and Equation Campaign funding partner

Equation Campaign's 2022 Grantmaking and Support
Leveraged funds indicate grantmaking with our donor partners through or in alignment with our funding intermediaries.

- Frontline Environmental Justice Fund
  Steers support to groups opposing specific fossil fuel projects that threaten their communities and the climate.

- Climate Legal Defense Fund
  Makes grants to build and support a standing army of lawyers to defend activists.

- Movement Infrastructure
  Support for organizational and movement capacity building.

- Program Support
  Wraparound services beyond the check including convenings, legal defense, a fellowship program, and other responsive resources.

Equation Campaign General Operations
Includes staffing and operational support.

- Grant sizes ranged from $5,750 - $300,000
- 56% of funds to BIPOC-led organizations
- 66% of funds to women-led organizations

2022 GRANTMAKING OVERVIEW

How We Fund

Equation Campaign General Operations
Includes staffing and operational support.

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Includes staffing and operational support.
Fossil fuel companies have escalated their attacks against those who threaten their ability to extract and profit, weaponizing law and litigation against scientists, NGOs, activists, journalists, and protestors alike.

In 2022, Equation Campaign seeded, incubated and launched the Global Climate Legal Defense Network (CliDef) to deploy and fund lawyers and legal strategies to protect and defend the climate movement. CliDef supported lawyers and legal services at COP27 in Egypt, which were available 24/7 for COP attendees who faced increased risks under the country’s restrictive environment. Just weeks prior, CliDef grantees secured the release of nine Ugandan youth who had been imprisoned in Kampala for their climate activism.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) is a proposed natural gas pipeline stretching more than 300 miles that would generate emissions equivalent to 37 coal plants. Equation Campaign has provided core support to frontline, state and national organizations since 2021 in Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina.

Our support helped build leadership and organizational capacity to lead one of the biggest climate battles of 2022: Senator Joe Manchin’s “Dirty Deal” that would have gutted environmental laws and sacrificed the health and safety of communities. In 2022, we fast-tracked an additional $1 million to support frontline resistance in the face of an urgent need and opportunity. While the pipeline fight is not over, our grantees and the entire climate movement scored a historic victory when Manchin lost the deal three times, and the Southgate extension eminent domain lawsuits were dropped.

Global Climate Legal Defense Network Launches at COP27

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Movement Power Halts Manchin and Pipeline in Appalachia

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The Descendants Project works to dismantle the legacies of slavery and achieve a safe and just future for Louisiana’s river parishes, the industrial hub with nearly 150 oil refineries, plastics plants, and chemical facilities known as Cancer Alley. In 2022, they won a major victory in their lawsuit to stop industrial development and construction on land likely containing ancestral graves. The decision paves the way for the predominantly Black communities to protect their lands, spiritual and ancestral history and thereby protect their communities from the unjust and disproportionate risks they face from fossil fuel expansion.

Bad River Band Litigation Could Shut Down Enbridge’s Line 5

In 2019, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa sued Enbridge in federal court for public nuisance and trespass, seeking to remove 12 miles of the Line 5 pipeline on their land – a 70-year-old pipeline that carries up to 23 million gallons of oil each day, and spans 645 miles throughout The Great Lakes.

In a pivotal 2022 decision recognizing the tribe’s sovereign right to protect their environment, a federal judge ruled that Enbridge was trespassing on tribal lands and unjustly enriched by continued operation on the Bad River reservation.

Descendants and Land Justice Halts Industry in Louisiana

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Our Strategy and Solidarity Board

We work with a national network of allies in identifying our grantee partners, building trust and carefully evaluating need and priorities to make high impact grants with a special emphasis on funding the BIPOC-led and focused organizations impacted first and worst by fossil fuel projects. Additionally, our Strategy and Solidarity Board provides strategic oversight and input to ensure that Equation Campaign operates in solidarity with climate movements around the country.

Rachel Heaton
Member of the Muckleshoot Tribe of Auburn, Washington and a co-founder of Mazaska Talks

Riyaz Kanji
Leading attorney on Native American rights and sovereignty

Conniel Malek
Executive Director of True Costs Initiative

Justin J. Pearson
Co-founder of Memphis Community Against Pollution (MCAP)

Jane Kleeb
Founder of Bold Nebraska and Pipeline Fighters Hub

Gibrán Rivera (board chair)
Master facilitator

Our Funding Partners:

Thank you to both new and continuing partners who showed up and supported frontline communities, who are fighting for a safe climate and a just future.

- 11th Hour Project of the Schmidt Family Foundation
- 2030 Fund
- Climate Cousins Foundation
- David Rockefeller Fund
- FILE Fund
- Growald Climate Fund
- High Tide Foundation
- The Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice
- The JPB Foundation
- Laurance S Rockefeller Fund
- The Levinson Foundation
- MacArthur Foundation
- Open Society Foundation
- Preston-Werner Foundation
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Sunrise Project
- Tara Climate Foundation
- True Costs Initiative
- Various generous individuals
- Wallace Global Fund
- Waverley Street Foundation
- Zegar Family Foundation

Join Us

We must cut emissions in half by 2030, and that’s why our founders Rebecca Lambert and Peter Gill Case are fast-tracking their own philanthropy and encouraging others to join them in 2023 and beyond.

We are an intermediary funder that raises and redistributes funds with grants and wraparound services, deploying grantmaking methods that are responsive to urgent and evolving needs of movements at site-specific fights.

For more information on our intermediaries or to discuss aligned grantmaking, please contact Katie Redford (katie@equationcampaign.org) or Samantha Lumpkin (samantha@equationcampaign.org).