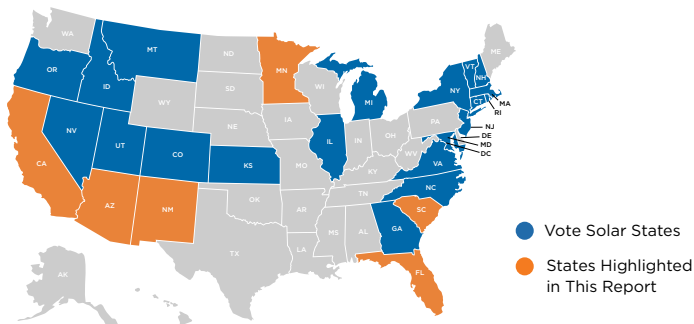


Q2 2021: IMPACT REPORT

Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.



VOTE SOLAR



NATIONAL OVERVIEW



13 Legislative Campaigns Across **10** States



54 Ongoing Regulatory Proceedings



33 Filings & Expert Testimonies Submitted



230+ Participants in
8 Webinars and Virtual Panels

1 ARIZONA

We spent a nail biting few weeks as the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) first rejected and then reconsidered (and approved!) their vote on the 100% clean energy rules. After voting down the rules in early May, the ACC eventually adopted a revamped package in a special session following an accountability campaign organized by clean energy supporters and advocates, including Vote Solar. Supported by our Communications Team, our Interior West staff led a fierce effort to persuade the Commissioners to reexamine their stance. The ACC has now committed to 50% clean energy by 2032 with longer-term targets to reach 100%. We are now gearing up to build widespread support during the public comment period prior to the final vote.

2 CALIFORNIA

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) just delivered a landmark decision that will zero out the Golden State's carbon emissions by 2035. Regulators unanimously approved a procurement order that calls for 11,500 MW of new clean energy by the end of 2026, enough to power 2.5 million homes. This capacity aims to replace generation from the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant and aging fossil fuel plants and will pave the way for billions in large scale solar + storage investments. This is a win for climate progress we've pushed for years. And to make it even better, our work helped mobilize grassroots engagement in the process which prevented 1,500 MW of new gas buildout included in the original order. In more good news, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), one of the largest publicly owned utilities, has committed to zero carbon by 2030, retiring four gas plants (1,103 MW of dirty electricity) and the immediate construction of 3,400 MW of new clean energy. Finally, we helped to defeat AB 1139 in the Assembly, a bill that would have killed California's rooftop solar and energy storage market.

3 FLORIDA

In the Sunshine State, we reached a groundbreaking [settlement](#) with utility giant Duke Energy. After weeks of negotiations, Duke agreed to pursue energy measures to provide relief to customers burdened with utility debt due to the pandemic—while also keeping bills low going forward. As part of this agreement, Duke has committed not to disconnect customers for nonpayment on days with forecasts of extreme weather events, like hurricanes or tropical storms, or the heat index is forecasted at 105 degrees or higher. Electricity disconnections can be a matter of life and death during the high summers of the gulf and Florida currently lacks any protections for customers during extreme temperature events, consigning them to the mercy of the utilities.

4 MINNESOTA

In the North Star State, our intervention pushed Xcel Energy to abandon plans for the 800 MW Sherco combined cycle gas plant. If built, this plant would have emitted 2 million tons of carbon dioxide a year and left customers on the financial hook years after it became obsolete. Working closely with coalition partners, we successfully built the case that utility-scale and distributed generation solar would better serve Xcel's needs. The groundswell of public dissent—evidenced in the thousands of comments submitted to the PUC—clearly influenced the utility's decision; Xcel's president for Minnesota and the Dakotas cited the 'pretty strong opposition' during an interview.

5 NEW MEXICO

Four years of strategic on-the-ground work paid off with a massive win: our Community Solar Act navigated all hurdles and became law. New Mexico is the first state to have a community solar bill with provisions for Tribal solar development. This statewide community solar program will open up access to low-wealth and Tribal and Pueblo communities, as well as reaching the state's target of 100% renewables by 2045. And in recognition of our partnership practices, our Interior West Manager and Tribal Liaison Mayane Barudin, member of the Kewa Pueblo, was honored in [GreenBiz's 30 Under 30](#) for her stellar work on energy justice and setting the bar for Tribal consultation and engagement.

6 SOUTH CAROLINA

The Palmetto State delivered a vital win when the South Carolina Public Service Commission rejected Duke Energy's Integrated Resource Plans, sending the utility behemoth back to the drawing board. Our intervention built the case against Duke's proposal, which included a massive gas buildout; we argued that Duke had failed to account for climate risk as well as their own commitment to go net-zero by 2050, omissions that would hurt both their bottom line as well as ratepayers' wallets.

SOLAR ACCESS AND EQUITY:

In a long overdue but significant step to ensure greater transparency and public input, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), responsible for energy transmission across state lines, is setting up the Office of Public Participation (OPP). The OPP will provide a critical piece that was missing in the energy discourse—the voices of the communities most impacted by energy infrastructure projects. Our A&E Policy Director, Olivia Nedd, was invited by FERC to speak at the daylong initial workshop. She emphasized that public outreach and engagement coupled with technical offerings was a key step in ensuring frontline communities have a seat at the table, and that the OPP will play a critical role in correcting the longstanding imbalance of power between large corporations and those who have borne the brunt of dirty, fossil-fuel generation.