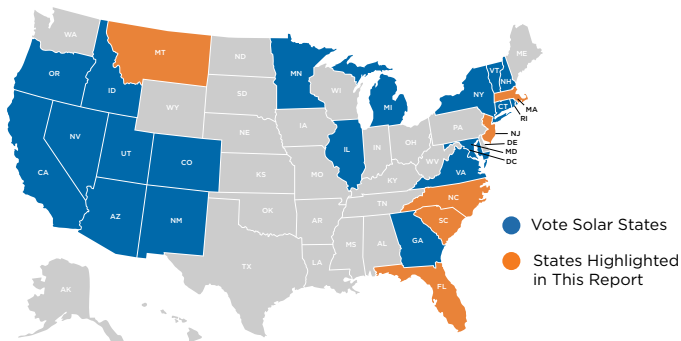


Q3 2020: IMPACT REPORT



Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.

VOTE SOLAR



NATIONAL OVERVIEW:



7 Legislative Campaigns Across 7 States



46 Ongoing Regulatory Proceedings



464 Participants in 4 Webinars and 1 Virtual Workshop



14 Filings & Expert Testimonies Submitted

1 FLORIDA

We are pushing hard in the Sunshine State to expand solar and displace gas buildout. We released a report entitled **The Costs and Risks of Florida's Dependence on Natural Gas**, which highlighted that 70% of Florida's electricity comes from dirty gas, and followed up with **report cards** for the ten largest utilities. And we continue our fight to protect net metering: Ahead of a crucial Florida Public Service Commission workshop to revisit the state's existing net metering policy, we rallied robust support with an unprecedented 16,000 emails sent to commissioners. In addition to delivering a compelling, data-driven presentation at the FPSC workshop, we released **The State of Rooftop Solar in Florida** ahead of the workshop to explain how utility monopolies are threatening solar rights and customer choice.

2 MASSACHUSETTS

In the Commonwealth, we're not only impacting policy, we're impacting institutions. Our work with multiple community and solar industry partners to expand solar access to low-income families with a no-cost and no-contract product resulted in a unique collaboration. In response to the new Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target guidelines, we submitted joint comments to the Department of Energy Resources in collaboration with one of the largest utilities in the region, Eversource. This marks the first time we partnered with a utility on a proactive proposal and a rare partnership between a utility and both clean energy and low-income advocates.

3 MONTANA

The Montana Supreme Court delivered a win with a ruling that reopens the door for new solar development in the state—creating new jobs, local tax revenues and affordable clean energy expansion. With our partners Montana Environmental Information Center and Cypress Creek Renewables, we filed a lawsuit challenging the Montana Public Service Commission's 2017 approval of NorthWestern Energy's request to slash rates for smaller solar projects well below the value they created. The Court found that MPSC's ruling violated both state and federal law prohibiting discrimination against independently owned clean energy projects, noting that NorthWestern's argument that solar energy increased prices for consumers is a "frequently uttered trope."

4 NEW JERSEY

The ambitious New Jersey Clean Energy Equity Act, which would reduce the energy burden of 250,000 low-income households through investments in solar, energy efficiency and energy storage, was introduced in both chambers of the state legislature and moved through the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. Setting a new benchmark for equitable access to resilient clean energy, the Act will be instrumental in creating a stronger, more resilient, post-COVID New Jersey through clean energy savings, reduced pollution, and local jobs for the hardest hit communities. As we build support for legislative action, our campaign has already led to concrete policy change: The Board of Public Utilities took a part of our bill and moved forward with it independently, announcing the creation of an Office of Clean Energy Equity.

5 NORTH CAROLINA

Our settlement with Duke Energy Progress and Duke Energy Carolinas in connection with a recent rate case could transform utility planning and build climate resiliency across the Southeast. Duke has agreed to convene a Working Group to study the impact of climate change on its physical infrastructure investments. Duke in the Carolinas is an ideal venue to develop these insights and create legal precedent; our efforts to bring a climate risk lens here can be deployed in other states, moving us closer to an energy world where climate mitigation is the standard applied in decision-making.

6 SOUTH CAROLINA

We were the driving force in a broad coalition of stakeholders that hammered out a winning settlement with Duke Energy to create the next generation of rate design policies in the Carolinas—called Solar Choice Net Metering. Vote Solar, other solar advocates and Duke Energy reached an agreement that would offer Duke Energy's future rooftop solar customers significant upfront savings to go solar, while enhancing grid reliability and setting new solar pricing signals to reduce utility costs for all customers. The deal, which is intended to implement South Carolina's popular and bipartisan Energy Freedom Act, would offer Duke Energy's future rooftop solar customers upfront savings in exchange for their participation in a program to help Duke meet energy needs during costly peak hours.

SOLAR ACCESS AND EQUITY:

Our COVID-19 recovery work is bringing financial relief to families across the Southeast. Our Clean Relief for Energy Debt (CRED) program catalyzes solutions to massive utility arrearages and energy burdens in low-income communities through long term, customer-centric clean energy resources. Working with equity and energy efficiency organizations and coalition partners, we are pushing for the adoption of CRED in Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina, where energy burdens are among the highest in the nation. In Florida, the utility Gulf Power is now required to file monthly public data on COVID-19 energy debt, and the FPSC is planning a workshop on COVID-19 arrearages and solutions for all state utilities.