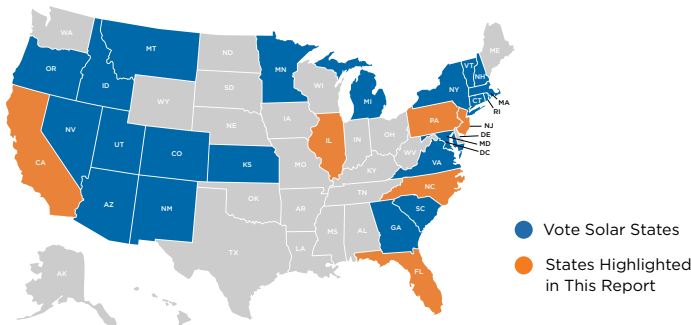


# Q3 2021: IMPACT REPORT

Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.



VOTE SOLAR



## NATIONAL OVERVIEW



**16** Legislative Campaigns Across **14** States



**55** Ongoing Regulatory Proceedings



**36** Filings & Expert Testimonies Submitted



**468** Participants in  
**12** Webinars and Virtual Panels

### 1 CALIFORNIA

In the Golden State, we notched a hard-fought victory when the state legislature approved \$100 million in funding over the next two years for Community Resilience Hubs. Working in close collaboration with environmental justice-focused allies, we built awareness for this critical program that will, through solar + storage capacity, transform existing community centers into safer havens for families during power outages—California’s ‘new normal’ due to increasingly intense wildfires and weather events. A result of months of fierce advocacy, this program will expand the benefits of clean energy to frontline communities across the state.

### 2 FLORIDA

In the Sunshine State, we reached a multi-party settlement with Florida Power & Light (FPL) that will keep the lights on for vulnerable households. The agreement doubles the number of days when FPL customers are protected from shutoffs during extreme weather; a crucial safeguard in a region on the frontlines of climate change. FPL will also establish a new pilot program that will allow public schools that serve as emergency shelters for low-income communities to go solar; double the capacity of FPL’s SolarTogether—the community solar program that we helped shape—including a 45 MW carveout for low-wealth customers; and construct several GW of utility scale solar by 2025. As we wait for the Commission to formally approve the settlement, we continue to push FPL to make a carbon-free commitment.

### 3 ILLINOIS

We drove a landmark victory in the Prairie State: the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) just became law. After two years of unflagging effort, Illinois joins the 100% clean energy club with one of the most comprehensive and equitable clean energy bills in the nation. Testament to the power of coalition-work, CEJA commits Illinois to go 100% carbon-free by 2045 with an interim target of 40% renewable by 2030; expands funding for the Solar for All program; commits \$80 million per year for solar and energy efficiency for workforce development (especially in BIPOC communities); mandates two green banks as well as new accountability measures for utilities; initiates transportation electrification; and incentivizes community solar. In short, CEJA means thousands of local jobs, millions in local investments, and cleaner and healthier communities across the state.

### 4 NEW JERSEY

In the Garden State, the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) unanimously voted for the Successor Solar Incentive (SuSI) program, effectively doubling New Jersey’s solar capacity in the next five years through 3,750 MW of new solar generation. The program took effect in August and is being implemented through two subprograms that incentivize solar at all scales. Earlier this year, alongside our coalition partners, we submitted recommendations for SuSI with an emphasis on increasing access for environmental justice communities. BPU approved several of our recommendations including higher financial incentives for low- and moderate-wealth customers, while a few others were flagged for future deliberations.

### 5 NORTH CAROLINA

In North Carolina, Duke Energy’s Climate Risk and Resilience Working Group just kicked off. This is a big win for our innovative approach of positioning climate risk as a vital element in utility planning. It’s also the first time a Southeast utility has committed to considering the physical impacts of climate change in its planning processes—an approach that will save money for both Duke Energy and ratepayers across the Carolinas. Resulting from the landmark settlement we reached last year, the Working Group covers both Carolinas and will identify pathways toward a more resilient and decarbonized power grid. The agreement has also opened the door for a robust climate vulnerability study and potential climate mitigation plan by 2024. We will continue to play an active role in the Working Group, deploying our industry knowledge and relationships to help make it as effective as possible.

### 6 PENNSYLVANIA

We waded into the clean energy fight in coal-heavy Pennsylvania this year and we are more than ready to take it on. With its substantially dirty energy mix, politically powerful fossil fuel interests, and weak renewable energy commitment (8% by 2021), the Keystone State is a challenge, but one where our core strengths can have a solid impact. We are entering the advocacy community with respect for existing (and, especially, frontline) leadership, building the case for clean energy through strategic communications (e.g. webinars, [op-eds](#), and grassroots engagement) and will utilize our expertise in directing clean energy benefits to underserved communities. We have made a solid incursion into the state forging key partnerships and alliances as we gear up for the multiple fights ahead: enabling community solar, building support for an expanded clean energy commitment, and stymieing fossil fuel expansion.

## A&E SPOTLIGHT: EQUITABLE SOLAR POLICY PRINCIPLES

We helped develop the [Equitable Solar Policy Principles](#) under the NAACP’s Solar Equity Initiative (SEI). These principles can assist advocates and policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels to design policy solutions that are holistic in nature and ensure that the benefits of solar energy flow to frontline communities. The SEI’s goal is to advance the equitable deployment of solar and its benefits, develop bold solar policy, and address the impacts of climate change; the recently released principles aim to ensure that all partners are internally aligned on and have a shared understanding of what equitable solar policy looks like. These principles are a living text that the Solar Equity Initiative will periodically revise to best reflect our collective commitments to advance solar equity.