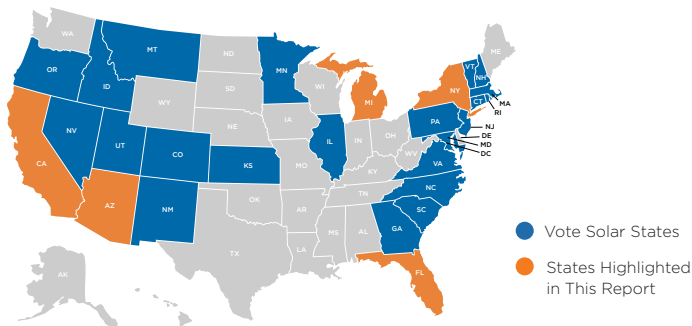


# Q4 2021: IMPACT REPORT



VOTE SOLAR

## Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.



### NATIONAL OVERVIEW



**11** Legislative Campaigns Across **9** States



**45** Ongoing Regulatory Proceedings



**36** Filings & **16** Expert Testimonies Submitted



**851** Participants in  
**10** Webinars and Virtual Panels

### 1 ARIZONA

The Grand Canyon State helped close 2021 with a bang: the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) eliminated Arizona Public Service's (APS) unfair grid access charge levied against solar customers. Through our intervention in the APS rate case, we challenged arbitrary costs imposed on residential customers by advocating for solar friendly rate design and a full valuation of the benefits distributed solar provides to the grid. The ACC accepted our argument that the APS grid access fee was non-compliant with federal and state laws and discriminated against solar customers.

### 2 MICHIGAN

In the Great Lakes State, the final order in the Consumers Energy rate case ensured that the energy burden doesn't get heavier for Michiganders. The Michigan Public Service Commission slashed the rate increase from the \$225 million proposed by the utility to \$27.12 million. In addition, the Commissioners approved accelerating the transition of the electric vehicle program, and recommended several improvements to the utility's proposed storage program, Home Battery Pilot, which included changes we advocated for.

### 3 NEW YORK

In the Empire State, the Department of Energy Conservation (DEC) vetoed the proposed expansion to the Danskammer gas plant. In its decision, the DEC noted that the proposed expansion did not comply with the state's trailblazing Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and was not necessary to maintain grid reliability. Thousands of New Yorkers, including Vote Solar members, made their opposition heard through town meetings, CLCPA proceedings, letters and calls, and public protests. As a result, already-burdened communities adjacent to the dirty gas plant are now protected from further harmful pollution.

### 4 CALIFORNIA

In the Golden State, our early 2021 win of the \$200 million Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP) was further augmented in December—a development that underscores the efficacy of our coalition work. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) tasked three key utilities to jointly develop an implementation plan for the MIP. The five-stage process that they submitted to CPUC incorporates almost all the elements that Vote Solar and our coalition partners pushed for. Key measures include comprehensive outreach and consultation processes and robust definitions to identify eligible communities (e.g., the definition for a Disadvantaged Vulnerable Community includes income, rural, tribal and environmental justice markers). The MIP will play a key role in phasing out gas generation in the state and we are ready to work hand in glove with our partners to make sure the implementation process is as strong and effective as possible.

### 5 FLORIDA

The Sunshine State delivered a win for low-wealth renewable customers when the Florida PSC approved modifications to two of Duke Energy Florida's energy efficiency and demand-side management programs. These modifications will ensure that 2,000 additional low-to-moderate income (LMI) homes will receive deep weatherization retrofits that will make these households more energy efficient and, under the Home Energy Check Program, 20,000 LMI energy assistance kits will be made available each year over four years. We were also able to secure first of its kind disconnection protections for Duke's 1.9 million customers in Florida.

### A&E SPOTLIGHT: IMPLEMENTING EQUITY COMMITMENTS IN CEJA

The 2021 passage of CEJA in Illinois, one of the most comprehensive and equitable climate and clean energy bills in the nation, is proof positive that our coalition strategies work! Getting a bill passed is just the beginning; we remain steadfast and dedicated to making the transformational promise of CEJA real through policies and programs that benefit our communities that need them the most. For example, we'll continue to play a leadership role in the Clean Jobs Coalition (CJC) with our staff serving as co-facilitator of the Inclusive Financing Working Group as well as the Illinois Solar for All Working Group, and participating in the Jobs and Economic Justice Working Group. In addition to these CJC committee appointments, we are participating in the implementation of the Integrated Grid Planning processes and advocating for the effective deployment of the legislative commitment that 40% of grid benefits go to underserved communities. Last but not least, we are also helping to kickstart the Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Fund, Illinois's first green-bank that's laser focused on equitable access and inclusive growth.