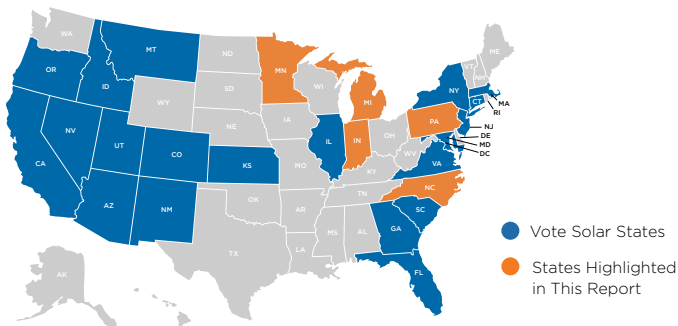


# Q1 2022: IMPACT REPORT

Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.



VOTE SOLAR



## NATIONAL OVERVIEW



**15** Legislative Campaigns Across **9** States (and Federal)



**30** Regulatory Proceedings in **19** States (and Federal)



**41** Filings & Expert Testimonies Submitted



**514** Participants in **11** Webinars and Virtual Panels

## 1 INDIANA

In Indiana, we and our coalition partners won a fight in the Court of Appeals to ensure that solar and distributed generation customers were compensated fairly. Earlier, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission had approved the utility CenterPoint's 'excess distributed generation' tariff, an attempt to buy low and sell high through a billing methodology that did not fairly or accurately value rooftop solar. During the appeal process, we submitted testimony arguing that this tariff would stifle the rooftop solar market. This is a victory for all Indiana ratepayers and especially those who use their hard-earned money to contribute more solar to the grid.

## 2 MICHIGAN

In the Wolverine State, we continued to build the case for clean energy. This quarter we released a data-driven report demonstrating that locally sited renewables are the lowest-cost pathway to decarbonization and a 'report card' on Consumers Energy's Integrated Resource Plan. According to our analyses, if the growth of local solar + storage is accelerated and sustained investments are expanded, Michigan families would save up to \$773 a year, and 159,000 full-time jobs would be created by 2045. These analyses also show that Consumers Energy will fall short of its 2040 decarbonization goal if it follows its current plan. Consumers Energy got an A- for retiring coal plants ahead of schedule, but received low grades in other areas for planning to purchase four gas plants, a lack of concrete steps to ensure equitable access to clean energy, and for not making provisions for community solar and other distributed generation.

## 3 MINNESOTA

In a big win for Minnesota, the Public Utilities Commission voted unanimously to approve Xcel Energy's Modified Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) which mandates 2.5GW of solar by 2030, rejects additional new gas plants, and requires the establishment of an energy equity stakeholder group as well as mandatory inclusion of solar and other distributed resources in all future resource plans. Over the last two years, through our intervention in Xcel's IRP, we demonstrated that increased investments in local solar is the lowest-cost path to meet future energy needs as well as the pathway to more jobs, a cleaner environment, and more affordable energy bills for Minnesotans.

## 4 NORTH CAROLINA

In the Tar Heel State, we are working hard to ensure that Duke Energy's Carbon Plan is innovative, far-reaching and stays on track to be finalized by the end of this year. We are pushing Duke Energy to be more transparent in the stakeholder process and take advantage of low-cost resources (such as energy efficiency measures and solar) in their planning. As part of our efforts, we launched a Carbon Plan microsite, [Fossil Free NC](#), to help ratepayers and advocates engage in the process. We also helped People Power NC, our coalition of allies, craft the Carbon Plan Principles, which outlines best practices and a rubric for grading Duke's eventual plan. The guidelines include the need to center stakeholder feedback, comprehensive metrics to evaluate success, near-term deployment of renewable energy and storage, prohibit any new gas, lead to fair and affordable rates and maximize benefits for customers.

## 5 PENNSYLVANIA

According to our new poll, in coal-heavy Pennsylvania, over 80 percent of people want to power their homes with sunshine. Vote Solar undertook this poll earlier this year to explore how Pennsylvanians viewed the climate crisis and the path forward for clean energy. Affordable solar was viewed very favorably by people across political, racial and gender lines. Other findings showed that reducing pollution and high energy bills were key reasons that 65% wanted more solar. In addition to the survey itself, we developed a social media toolkit and other communications tools to help allies and partner organizations disseminate the results.

## SOLAR ACCESS AND EQUITY: DEMYSTIFYING THE REGULATORY SPACE

The Integrated Resources Plan (IRP)—the planning document that public utilities are required to file at regulatory bodies to forecast how they will meet future electricity needs—is a process that is complex, voluminous, and, to the general consumer, almost impossible to navigate. We aim to demystify the process and use our deep knowledge of the regulatory space to embolden newcomers and strengthen experienced advocates' ability to participate in this important conversation. Alongside our partners Southface and the Partnership for Southern Equity, we designed and delivered a six-part series of roundtables and training sessions on Georgia Power's IRP, with the final session focusing solely on energy equity. A diverse array of panelists presented and ran breakout sessions and simulation exercises exploring topics ranging from the climate implications of IRPs to how to access Georgia Power's IRP on the Commission's website to energy equity in Georgia. The 194 attendees comprised people working with environmental justice community organizations as well as volunteer initiatives, including attendees from Spelman College, a Historically Black College (HBCU) with strong sustainability goals. Some participants who undertook the follow up survey reported that they were better equipped to participate in the upcoming IRP process, and they would engage by filing to be intervenors or communicating directly with commissioners.