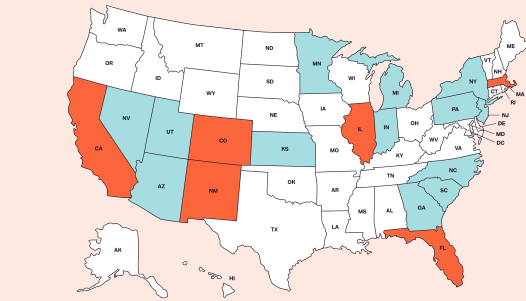


# Q3 2022: Impact Report

Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.



VOTE SOLAR



 Vote Solar States  States Highlighted in This Report

## National Overview



**9 Legislative Campaigns Across 5 States**



**26 Regulatory Proceedings Across 16 States**



**52 Filings & Expert Testimonies Submitted**



**4 Workshops and Webinars with 293 Participants**

### ① California

In the Golden State, the largest and most equitable community solar bill in the nation just became law. This critical new program offers affordable community solar and storage across the state, with a priority on serving low-wealth Californians (51% of each project will be earmarked to serve low-wealth customers). We worked with a broad coalition to ensure that provisions include pricing structures that allow for low-wealth participation and direct savings. Despite formidable opposition from utilities, we made sure that this bill kept moving forward. This community solar bill will, in very simple terms, make solar more accessible for *all* Californians.

### ② Colorado

In Colorado, Vote Solar and our coalition partners reached a proposed settlement on the Renewable Energy Compliance Plan, Xcel Energy's roadmap to expand renewables in the state. While the original plan proposed doubling Colorado's renewable energy capacity, it did not protect environmental justice communities, nor did the utility conduct any meaningful community outreach. We rallied public feedback and submitted testimony and, in September, Xcel agreed to several critical clean energy and energy justice commitments based on our recommendations. These include putting \$32.8 million towards renewable energy programs and incentives for income qualified customers and disproportionately impacted communities and funding for 10MW of battery storage with \$1.6 million dedicated to low-wealth communities.

### ③ New Mexico

In the Land of Enchantment, we scored a victory against unjust anti-solar fees—levying charges that unfairly target solar customers is a practice often adopted by monopoly utilities to discourage the adoption of residential solar. Vote Solar, alongside solar customers of Farmington Electric Utility System (FEUS) filed a case challenging the discriminatory charges imposed on solar customers. While the District Court had initially dismissed the complaint, we eventually took it to federal court. In response, FEUS first suspended and then withdrew the anti-solar charge. The utility also agreed to refund the plaintiffs for the fees they had already paid, which totaled nearly \$20,000.

### ④ Illinois

The Illinois Commerce Commission approved the Illinois Power Agency's (IPA) 2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan, a process we have been deeply engaged in. The plan calls for over \$1.1 billion to procure new renewable power in Illinois over the next two years. This funding will help build multiple renewable projects across the state (including large scale and community solar) and increase DERs, and reboot Illinois Solar for All, the state's low-wealth solar program. We also celebrated the relaunch of Illinois Shines, a state-administered solar incentive program. Made possible by CEJA, the program will engender significant solar expansion, especially community solar, as the incentives will translate to thousands in utility bill savings for both rooftop and community solar subscribers.

### ⑤ Florida

In the Sunshine State, we helped push Florida Power & Light (FPL) into withdrawing a controversial proposal in its Ten Year Site Plan. FPL's proposed plan included a provision for significant upgrades including 700 MW in fossil gas capacity that would have cost Florida ratepayers upwards of \$140 million. We worked with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) to build the case that FPL's bid for these upgrades was based on shoddy methodology. We look forward to the Commission's decision on FPL's plan in the coming months; and we will continue to advocate for transparent and inclusive planning processes.

### ⑥ Massachusetts

Massachusetts delivered a massive victory with a sweeping climate bill becoming law. Alongside our allies, over the past year, we helped shape this bill to ensure that solar is valued fairly and that low-wealth ratepayers do not get excluded from renewable energy and its benefits. This new policy will expand access to affordable rooftop solar; support long-term solar industry growth, and establish expert committees to provide recommendations on grid modernization and transmission. Specifically, the bill includes strong measures that will help expand electric vehicle adoption; a provision—a first for the Commonwealth—that would allow 10 municipalities to ban fossil fuel infrastructure in new construction projects; establishment of a grid modernization advisory council; and removal of impediments to medium-sized solar arrays and 'loosens' net metering cap restraints for rooftop solar.

## Introducing: The New Head of Vote Solar's Access & Equity Program

We are thrilled to welcome our new Chief Access + Equity Officer, Natalia Cardona Sanchez! At Vote Solar, we understand that a 100% clean electricity future that works for everyone must be built on the solid bedrock of access and equity. Our Access & Equity team works to ensure that the policies, programs, and partnerships we create and support in our work are reflective of our commitment to equity and inclusivity. We look forward to expanding and deepening our impact under Natalia's leadership. Prior to her role with us, Natalia was the Associate Director for Justice and Equity at 350.org and also worked nationally and internationally helping organizations center on equity, diversity and inclusion. She brings to her role at Vote Solar over twenty years of service in the non-profit sector spanning issues such as climate justice, economic justice, racial justice, women's rights and peace-building.