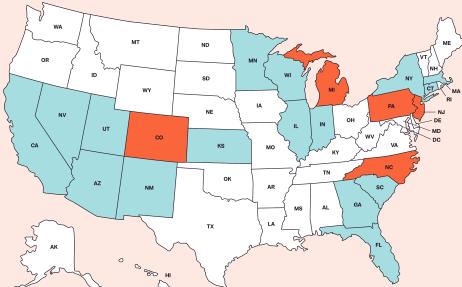


Q1 2024: Impact Report

Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.



VOTE SOLAR



Vote Solar States

States Highlighted in This Report

National Overview



56 Legislative Campaigns Across 14 States



41 Regulatory Proceedings Across 17 States



28 Filings and Expert Testimonies Submitted



10 Workshops and Webinars with 538 Participants

① Colorado

In Colorado, our engagement in PSCo's (an affiliate of Xcel Energy) 2024-26 transportation electrification plan yielded positive provisions for low-wealth qualified customers, community partnerships and dedicated community and customer outreach. The Colorado Public Utilities Commission approved rebates for expanded electric vehicle charging and wiring for a broader swath of low-wealth and equity-eligible customers, a critical step to allowing all customers to have access to competitive and stable home charging. The Commission also proposed more expansive criteria for identifying income-qualified customers as well as outreach budgets.

② New Jersey

New Jersey heralded the new year with an equity-focused community solar bill to ease the energy burden for New Jersey families and expand solar access. Although a program already existed, consistent organizing by Vote Solar and our allies on this issue has made the state's community solar program much friendlier to ratepayers with limited resources, and the companies and organizations seeking to serve them. This new law also mandates utility data-sharing for municipal aggregation and makes it easier for customers to self-attest to their income instead of having to follow complicated and risky verification processes. We remain committed to not only expanding renewable energy but to ensure that everyone, regardless of income level or zip code, can benefit from the clean energy transition.

③ Michigan

The Michigan Public Service Commission issued a favorable decision on the Consumers Energy rate case. As a result of our intervention, the Commission directed the utility to be more transparent with the grid data needed to measure and advance grid equity and justice. The Commission also ruled in favor of deeper community engagement in future distribution system plans, a pilot program to help medically vulnerable low-wealth customers utilize federal incentives for solar, storage and energy efficiency, and programs to increase energy security to prevent heat-driven illnesses and deaths. For the past year, Vote Solar and our allies have been fighting to make sure that, similar to our work in the 2023 DTE rate case, this rate case results in advancing 'grid equity'—ensuring that electric distribution systems serve all customers equitably.

④ North Carolina

In North Carolina, the Utilities Commission approved PowerPair, a residential solar and storage pilot program. Vote Solar worked through a stakeholder process alongside several energy justice and solar industry partners such as the Southern Environmental Law Center (SEL), the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE), the NC Sustainable Energy

Association, and SunRun to reach a settlement that addressed issues related to net metering (i.e. rooftop solar). While the final version of PowerPair didn't necessarily advance the interests of all solar customers, PowerPair successfully created incentives for new rooftop customers. The incentives were capped at approximately 7,000 customers and up to, potentially, \$5,400 in storage (battery) incentives. Duke also committed to work with stakeholders to explore the possibility of another pilot program for solar and storage to support electric reliability for customers dependent on medical devices.

⑤ Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania is now one step closer to unlocking the benefits of community solar across the state. The community solar bill which just passed the House with bipartisan support would expand access to solar, enable access to federal funds for low-wealth ratepayers, prohibit upfront fees or credit checks for potential solar customers (which improves trust), ensure prevailing wages for all community solar projects, and safeguard consumer access and protections. Community solar is a key pathway to tackling the climate crisis through reducing pollution, expanding access for all Pennsylvanians towards bill savings through solar, and creating local employment.

A&E Callout:

The Vote Solar Access and Equity Advisory Committee (AEAC) released its 2023 issue brief: [Advancing Equitable Interconnection in Frontline and BIPOC Communities](#). Interconnection is the complex network of regulations, integration of clean energy technologies, and processes that dictate how new generators are connected to the utility electric grid—a vital piece in connecting renewables to the grid. Last year, the AEAC held a four-part series of virtual convenings that explored fundamental concepts, challenges and possible solutions with regard to how interconnection challenges impact historically underserved communities. The policy brief outlines the hurdles inherent in trying to navigate the interconnection realm—from the intricacies of a complex regulatory landscape to the specific technical requirements for solar arrays—with an intentional and distinct focus on the unique challenges for frontline and BIPOC communities. The brief examines state-specific examples that have successfully integrated some equitable principles into their interconnection procedures. This critical policy tool also offers a range of possible solutions to these challenges including the usage of existing data for state-level 'mapping' to identify upgrade needs in different communities which would lead to more efficient grid-planning as well as holding utilities accountable for more reliable service.