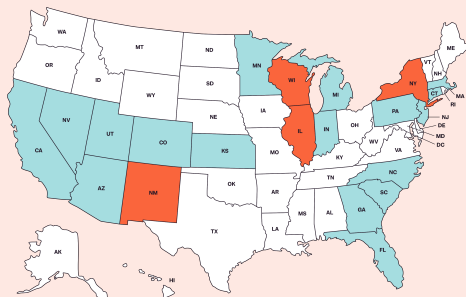


# Q4 2023: Impact Report

Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.



VOTE SOLAR



 Vote Solar States  States Highlighted in This Report

## National Overview



**17 Legislative Campaigns**  
Across 8 States



**44 Regulatory Proceedings**  
Across 22 States



**40 Filings and Expert Testimonies Submitted**  
Across 16 States



**16 Workshops and Webinars with 390 Participants**

## ① Illinois

The Illinois Commerce Commission rejected the proposed Multi-Year Integrated Grid and Rate Plans from both the Ameren Illinois Company (Ameren) and Commonwealth Edison (ComEd). Our intervention in this consolidated proceeding aimed to ensure that the Commission's decision advanced the goal of creating a more equitable grid that is reliable, affordable, and safe. The Commission determined that the utilities did not meet transparency, equity, and affordability standards. The Commission also exhorted the utilities to work closely with intervenors (such as Vote Solar and our allies) to establish equity-measuring frameworks and metrics to track that the benefits of renewable energy and grid modernization are flowing towards the communities that need them the most. The Commission ordered both utilities to resubmit their plans within the first quarter of 2024; Vote Solar will continue to monitor and engage in this process.

## ② New York

In New York, we worked hand in glove with our allies in the Public Power New York Coalition to develop 'Mind the Gap'—a report assessing whether the Empire State is on track to meet its ambitious climate goals. 'Mind the Gap' found that at the current building pace, even in the best case scenario, New York will fall far short of its legally mandated goal to deploy 70% renewables by 2030. The report considered four different scenarios through rigorous analysis before drawing its conclusions. Within days of the coalition report, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) released its own assessment mandated by the Build Public Renewables Act (BPRA), a key policy victory from 2023. The NYPA report claimed that the state was on track to exceed goals, a claim that contrasts other state agency outlooks. The development of this report is part of Vote Solar's efforts to secure strong implementation of the BPRA—the policy which empowered the NYPA to bridge the gaps where private sector renewables are failing by building its own projects and programs.

## ③ New Mexico

In New Mexico, our engagement in a case related to standby rates levied by Southwestern Public Service (SPS), an affiliate of Xcel Energy, resulted in a win protecting the rights of large customers (industrial or commercial consumers with high energy usage) to benefit from solar. Standby rates are tariffs designed to recover utility costs stemming from providing service to customers who only use electricity from the grid to complement on-site generation, such as through generators or solar arrays. At the time of the hearing, there were no installations on any of the large customers that would be subject to the standby charge; our goal was to ensure that the approved rate would not be a deterrent for large customers from installing behind-the-meter solar. The presiding

Administrative Law Judge adopted our recommendation on the path forward, leading to the parties reconvening and agreeing to a set of rates and charges.

## ⑤ Wisconsin

Our intervention in rate cases for Madison Gas & Electric (MGE) and Wisconsin Power & Light ensured that Wisconsinites can go solar secure in the knowledge that they will be fairly compensated. Net metering, the mechanism through which utilities pay solar owners for their contributions to the grid, is foundational for the growth of rooftop solar. MGE and Wisconsin Power & Light recently proposed slashing the rate they paid to rooftop solar owners by half. With hundreds of public comments bolstering the stance taken by Vote Solar and other advocacy organizations—that these changes suggested by the utilities would be severely detrimental to the expansion of solar—the Wisconsin Public Service Commission unanimously denied the utilities' proposals. Commissioner Huebner commented that the net metering issue "probably got the most attention of any other issue in this case." The Commission also reduced how much the utilities can charge customers for electricity; for example, while MGE had originally requested a rate increase of 7.3%, the Commission limited it to 5.7% over two years.

## A&E Callout: Solar Energy For Everyone!

The Solar for All (SFA) program, made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), promises tremendous clean energy growth and has created a lot of enthusiasm in terms of serving BIPOC, environmental justice and low-wealth communities with solar and storage. With our technical expertise, experience with state level implementation, and ability to carry lessons and examples across state and regional lines, Vote Solar is a recognized thought leader in this area. Over the past year, we provided pivotal support to state entities and nonprofit partners in developing SFA applications. We actively engaged in shaping applications in 13 states and provided broad guidance in several more. We also collaborated closely with the Solar Access for All Coalition to craft a comprehensive set of comments addressing the Low-Income Bonus Credit under the IRA and crucial aspects of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to shape the Solar for All Competition, and a [toolkit](#) outlining best practices in designing accessible solar programs. As the Solar for All process moves forward in 2024, Vote Solar will shift to supporting the implementation of the approved programs—this will range from helping to design programs and processes to ensuring that the fundamental policies needed to enable these programs are in place.