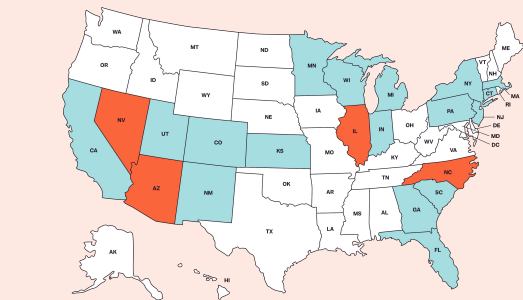


Q1 2025: Impact Report

Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.



VOTE SOLAR



Vote Solar States States Highlighted in This Report

National Overview



38 Legislative Campaigns Across 20 States



52 Regulatory Proceedings Across 20 States



26 Filings and Expert Testimonies Submitted



8 Workshops and Webinars with 202 Participants

① Arizona

The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) approved a home battery pilot program for the investor-owned utility Arizona Public Service (APS) that will enhance grid reliability and energy equity. The new Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, which will allow up to 5,000 customers with home energy storage systems to connect to and be compensated for their contributions to the grid, is a simple version of a Virtual Power Plant (VPP). VPPs represent a sea change for our energy system, unlocking the power of thousands of solar-powered homes with batteries to provide power to their neighbors when they need it most. This pilot, stemming from the 2024 rate case where we intervened, proceeded slowly for over a year because of initial opposition over concerns about shifting cost to non-participant customers. In the final decision, the ACC Chair Kevin Thompson commented that “anytime Commissioners have an opportunity to save ratepayers money, they should act.” In a regulatory landscape that can be apathetic or even hostile to the clean energy transition, this pilot program represents a significant step in the right direction. In further good news, just one week after the APS pilot was approved, neighbor utility Tucson Electric Power (TEP) announced that they are preparing to launch a similar program.

② Illinois

Our work to ensure that Illinois meets its ambitious clean energy goals continues apace. Most recently, we helped secure the passage of a critical energy bill (HB0587). This bill takes important steps to address some of the challenges that are slowing Illinois down in meeting its targets. This includes provisions that will streamline rooftop solar policies, expanding the efficacy of renewable energy programs, recalibrating income thresholds for Illinois Solar for All, and accelerating the state’s journey towards energy storage. Additional key provisions of the bill include updates to transmission system construction standards, new diversity goals for transmission projects, and expanded eligibility for solar and storage rebates. The bill also ensures state authorities lay the groundwork for a utility-scale storage procurement of up to 1,500 MW. While this bill represents a significant step forward, we will continue to push for more comprehensive reforms necessary to ensure a resilient, sustainable, and affordable energy system.

③ Nevada

In Nevada, the Public Utilities Commission issued the final order on NV Energy’s 3-year Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) proceeding. Our intervention over the last couple of years aimed to ensure that the utility was adequately modeling the benefits of distributed resources as part of its proposal. As part of the Distribution Resource Plan (DRP) phase, we also supported non-wires alternatives in place of distribution and transmission investments, intended to drive rooftop solar, storage and energy efficiency as a cost-saving mechanism. The PUCN’s order mandates more regular and substantial stakeholder interactions, aiming to ensure that resource planning is thoroughly discussed and community feedback is incorporated. Additionally, NV Energy was directed to enhance its reporting on behind-the-meter (BTM) storage in future Demand Side Management (DSM) updates and to incorporate additional benefits of local energy resources into the upcoming DRP update in September 2025. The order also incorporated Vote Solar’s recommendation for adjustments to NV Energy’s base analysis. These directives underscore NV Energy’s need to rectify past oversights and be transparent in its planning process to better provide for ratepayers. On the downside, although the IRP includes 1,000 MW of new solar and storage, the PUCN approved NV Energy’s new gas resources to meet

growing demand. Overall, the order is a positive first step in holding NV Energy accountable and valuing distributed energy resources, such as local solar and storage, as cost-effective measures.

④ North Carolina

In North Carolina, we scored another victory in Enfield—the town in Halifax County we have been working with for the past two years to realize its desire for clean energy options to help the town reduce energy burden, gain more people power of the local grid, and find new ways to pair clean energy efforts with workforce development needs. In late 2024, the County surprised groups on the ground with a sudden, temporary solar moratorium while they discussed reforms to the existing local solar ordinance. Once draft reforms to the solar ordinance were released, there were several extremely concerning provisions that would have nearly eliminated Enfield’s ability to generate more of its own energy using local clean resources like solar. We immediately organized with our partners on the Enfield City Council, Southern Environmental Law Center, and the Center for Energy Education to keep residents informed on the impacts of these changes and to provide guidance on how they could make their voices heard with the county commissioners. In addition, using data and analytic tools like GIS, our coalition was able to clearly demonstrate the impact that these changes would have on economic development and local sovereignty over land use decisions to the commissioners. In February, the temporary moratorium was lifted and the damaging new changes to local solar were not included in the final ordinance.

Access & Equity Shoutout: Grid Equity

Grid equity—a relatively new term in the discourse surrounding an equitable clean energy transition—is a concept we have been advancing over the last few years, especially in the Midwest. Grid equity is the seemingly simple proposition that all ratepayers should have the same access to and quality of service from the electric grid. Advocates have long known that utility service, in terms of reliability, disconnection, etc., varies widely depending on the particular community in question, and that service disparity often falls heavily on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other underserved communities. However, there was no way to prove this; and utilities wouldn’t say either way whether there were electric system investment or service quality disparities. To solve this, Vote Solar began working to gather service related data in a form that allowed comparisons to be made on reliability. Through multiple regulatory proceedings—especially ones where planning and investment decisions are made—in Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois, our advocacy helped secure decisions from the utility commissions that advanced grid equity. Examples include: The final order on Commonwealth Edison’s (ComEd) Multi-Year Integrated Grid Plan in Illinois, which included an equity benefits framework, and the adoption of data analysis as a mandatory grid planning tool to assess reliability disparities; Our work with the Grid Equity Midwest (GEM) coalition, which we built over the last few years to bridge the gap between environmental justice partners and big greens. We have been collaborating with GEM partners to engage in multiple proceedings at the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to prioritize grid equity; and, The Consumers Energy rate case in Michigan, where the Commission directed the utility to be more transparent with the data needed to measure and advance grid equity and justice. In addition to equity being a reason to pursue this work, we know that the technical challenge of providing equitable service and investment requires local solar solutions built in partnership with these poorly served communities. Through this, we are working towards rectifying historical lapses and exclusions, and building an energy ecosphere that will benefit all communities.