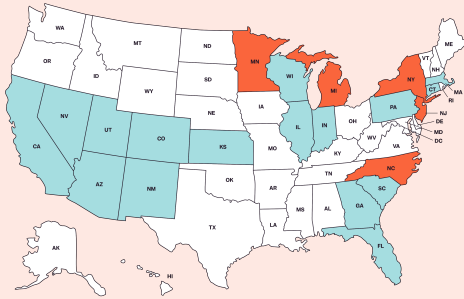


# Q3 2023: Impact Report

Powering Clean Energy Progress Across the U.S.



VOTE SOLAR



 Vote Solar States  States Highlighted in This Report

## National Overview



**15 Legislative Campaigns Across 10 States**



**42 Regulatory Proceedings Across 16 States**



**53 Filings and Expert Testimonies Submitted Across 17 States**



**13 Workshops and Webinars with 459 Participants**

## ① Michigan

Our intervention in DTE's 20-year Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) proceeding delivered a terrific victory. After months of challenging negotiations with the utility, and an energized, coalition-driven public engagement campaign, we reached a settlement that advances energy justice. DTE committed to retire all of its coal plants by 2032—years ahead of the original schedule, build 3,800 MW of renewables and 780 MW of storage by 2030, and expand its energy waste reduction (EWR) program by allocating \$43 million to income-qualified customers. The settlement also includes a \$38 million allocation for low-wealth programs; DTE's original plan had no provisions for low-wealth programs at all.

## ② Minnesota

We partnered with members of the Just Solar Coalition to launch a historic intervention in Xcel Energy's rate case. Our intervention resulted in the Commission slashing the utility's requested rate increase by more than half, rejecting investments detrimental to local solar growth, and most significantly, acknowledging the importance of equity in utility ratemaking—a core tenet of the testimony we, alongside our coalition partners, submitted during the proceeding. Through the intervention process, our coalition also promoted the importance of procedural justice; this concept addresses structural barriers to meaningful public participation in regulatory proceedings. In September, Xcel filed for a reconsideration which was roundly rejected by the Commission; a clear message forefronting the interests of people instead of utility profits.

## ③ New Jersey

We helped to make New Jersey a national leader in intentionally serving disadvantaged communities. The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) recently approved a permanent community solar program that will incentivize at least 150 MW of new community solar capacity per year. Community solar is a key piece of the clean energy puzzle—this permanent program unlocks the benefits of solar for New Jersey residents who rent, live in multifamily housing, have rooftops unsuitable for solar installations, or cannot bear the cost of going solar. In particular, this program is a victory for our focus on equity as each project is required to dedicate 50% of capacity for low- to moderate-wealth New Jerseyans.

## ④ New York

We held utilities accountable for their systemic failure to credit customers for community solar projects—a failure that can potentially discourage ratepayers from switching to solar. Thousands of households that signed up for community solar expecting a reduction in their electricity costs were left paying for their subscription without the benefit of a bill credit. Expanding community solar, one of the most accessible ways for

people to participate in clean energy, is reliant on timely bill crediting. Working with our partners NYSEIA and Solar One, we employed a strategic communications campaign to highlight the situation and build public support. Our goal was to create pressure so that the Commission would enforce the consolidated billing and crediting rules, and apply credits to the arrearages. As a result, we led the development of performance metrics with the staff of the Department of Public Service; these metrics may be applied in future proceedings as penalties to encourage the utilities into prompt crediting, which is a win for ensuring that ratepayers do not lose faith in the system.

## ⑤ North Carolina

In North Carolina, we intervened in the Duke Energy Progress rate case—the first time the utility has engaged in the multi-year ratemaking process enabled by the 2020 Carbon Plan mandate. We engaged in settlement negotiations earlier this year, advocating for improved affordability programs to help ratepayers better weather the proposed rate increases and for more transparent grid planning processes. In August, the Commission approved our settlement proposal with Duke Energy Progress—requiring Duke Energy to make the most significant investment in bill affordability programming in recent history.

**A&E Callout:** The historical context and treatment of Tribal Nations by state and federal governments has made sure that Tribes remain excluded from ownership of energy infrastructure on Tribal lands, spend more of their income on electricity, and lack access to electricity at much higher rates. In Arizona, we are working to make sure that Tribal communities play a role in shaping policies and programs to reflect the unique needs of their people. Under the leadership of our Director of Indigenous Partnerships, we built relationships with Tribal governments and community organizations, worked closely with the recently established Governor's Office of Resiliency, and supported Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe organizations in intervening in a proceeding at the Arizona Corporation Commission. We developed a campaign plan to create a Just and Equitable Transition (JET) office (possibly within the Office of Resiliency) to distribute critical funding and workforce development support to coal communities in transition. We are helping the Office of Resiliency in shaping the state's Solar for All Program. As part of this process, we held the first-ever series of listening sessions with Tribal leaders and energy staff where they spoke in-depth on how best subsidized distributed solar projects could serve Tribal communities. In addition to participants representing the City of Phoenix and the Office of Resiliency, the session included members of the Navajo Nation, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Gila River Indian Community, and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. As the clean energy transition gains momentum, Vote Solar remains committed to advancing Tribal energy sovereignty and supporting them in forging their own clean energy destinies.