

PRESSING FORWARD

Governors' Enduring Fight for a Resilient & Sustainable Future



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For more information, see www.usclimatealliance.org.

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HIGHLIGHTING SOLUTIONS across the Alliance

Throughout 2025, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced a number of state climate actions, partnerships, and milestones, including running on 100% clean electricity for some part of the day almost every day of the year. In May 2025, Governor Newsom was named U.S. Climate Alliance co-chair to serve alongside fellow co-chair Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and fellow executive committee members.

Photo credit: Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom

Message from the Co-Chairs

This year has tested and challenged each of us in new ways.

As we've continued to respond to the climate crisis and its devastating impacts on our communities, we've been forced to confront a federal government intent on reversing America's progress.

We've seen them take steps to undermine and deny basic science, hurt American manufacturing and jobs, and raise consumer costs. They've tried to cancel game-changing clean energy projects and eliminate programs and investments that make our communities healthier.

This could have knocked us back and diminished our ambitions. But instead, it's only fortified our bonds, strengthened our resolve, and motivated new action.

The America we know, and love, doesn't quit when things get hard. It doesn't shy away from taking on big challenges and doing whatever it takes to get the job done.

That's what the U.S. Climate Alliance is all about. We are resilient, determined, and undaunted. And most importantly, our states are standing together.

The result — despite all of the roadblocks — is real progress. In fact, as you'll read in the pages that follow, our coalition has collectively reduced net greenhouse gas emissions 24 percent below 2005 levels, far outpacing the rest of the country and putting us within reach of our near-term climate goal.

This progress is being driven in large part by our rapid transition to cleaner electricity. Between 2005 and 2023, our coalition's members collectively added nearly 200 gigawatts of new generation capacity to meet growing energy demand, while also reducing carbon pollution in the electricity sector by a whopping 45 percent.

At the same time, we've increased GDP across the Alliance by 34 percent — making clear what we already know: climate action and economic growth go hand-in-hand.

Analysis included in this report also shows that achieving our climate pollution reduction goals would save Americans \$11 billion per year by 2030, rising to \$185 billion annually by 2050. That's trillions of dollars in cumulative net benefits for Americans in the years ahead if we can sustain our momentum.

Critically, this report identifies a collective pathway to help us do just that — overcome the federal government's inaction and continue driving deep emissions reductions through the broad adoption of impactful policy solutions, which are already being developed or implemented in many Alliance states.

We know the road ahead is tough. We know there are strong forces aligned against us. But the sustained action across our coalition this year, detailed in this report, should make it clear that we're not going anywhere.

Our members are setting new and increasingly ambitious targets and adopting new laws and regulations across every sector. We are investing billions of dollars in climate mitigation projects and advancing new tools and strategies to bolster resilience, boost affordability, and lower costs.

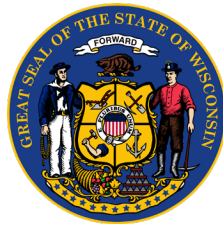
We're getting more heat pumps into homes and businesses, more registered apprentices into good-paying careers, more electric vehicles and chargers on our roads, more solar panels on our roofs, and more clean, cheap, and locally available energy on our grid.

This progress cannot be stopped. Americans want a cleaner, safer, healthier future and that's what we will continue delivering.

No matter the obstacles, we are pressing forward.



Gavin Newsom
Governor, California



Tony Evers
Governor, Wisconsin



HIGHLIGHTING SOLUTIONS across the Alliance

In July 2025, Governor Matt Meyer signed a sweeping package of energy and environmental protection legislation into law. These new provisions aim to lower utility costs, add more energy to the grid, deliver power to Delaware households more reliably, hold polluters accountable, and protect Delaware's rich biodiversity.

Photo credit: Office of Delaware Governor Matt Meyer



Photo credit: Office of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz

At every turn over the past year, the Alliance's governors have stepped up and stood tall in their work to protect Americans from the worsening impacts of climate change. In January 2025, when President Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the Alliance committed to the international community, in a letter to the United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary, that its governors will continue America's work to slash climate pollution. Following a succession of destabilizing actions from Congress and the federal government intended to halt state-led clean vehicle programs, a group of Alliance governors launched the new Affordable Clean Cars Coalition — a growing partnership among 13 states to sustain America's transition to cleaner and more affordable cars and safeguard states' clean air authority. Finally, attorneys general from Alliance states and territories banded together to secure restoration of federal funding for critical climate and clean energy programs.

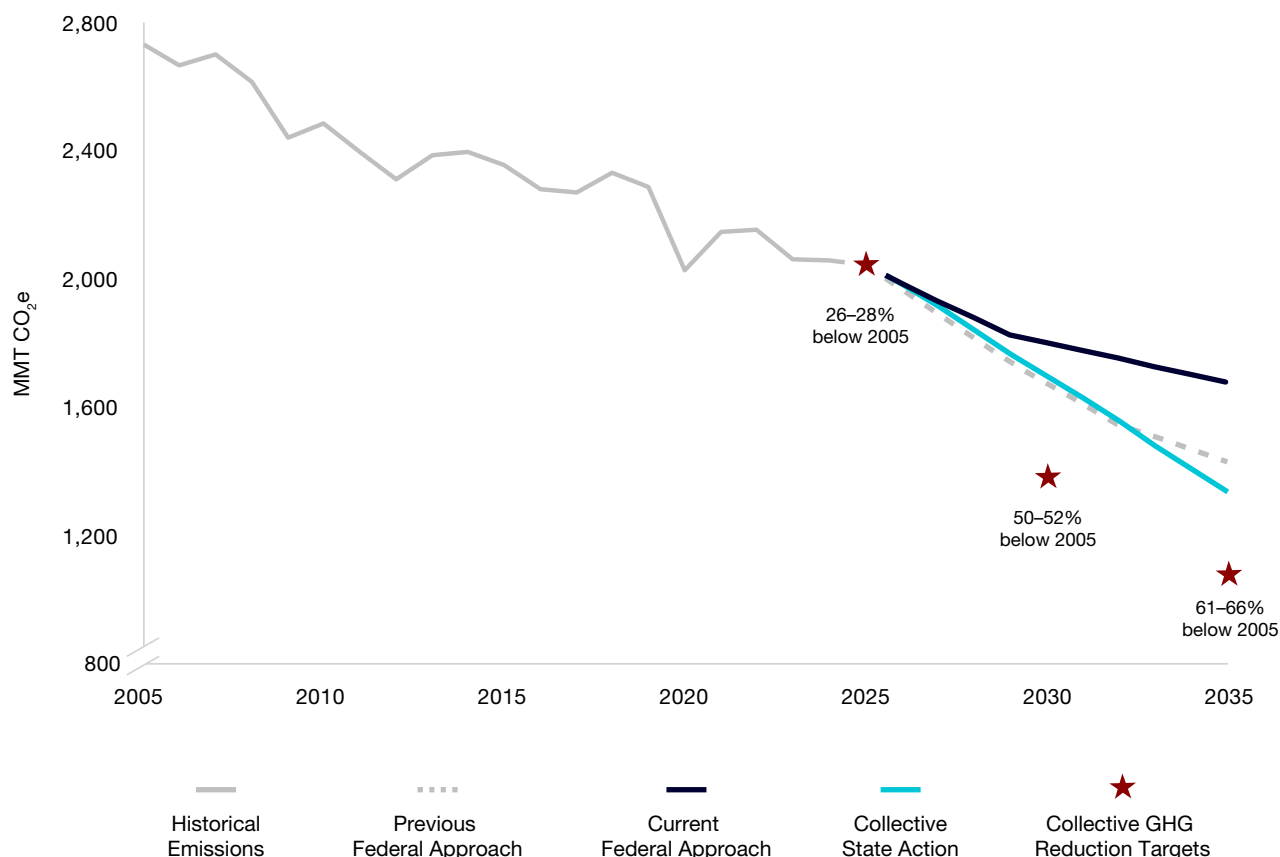
The Alliance continues to press forward, not only because it's the right thing to do and supported by science, but because the American people are demanding action. This report represents the perseverance, resilience, and unwavering commitment of the Alliance's members to deliver the safe, healthy, and affordable future Americans deserve.

A global problem with increasingly local impacts

Scientists across the world agree: the Earth's atmosphere is warming, and greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted from human activity are indisputably accelerating the pace. This warming has already amplified extreme weather events, disrupted ecosystems, and increased the severity and frequency of natural disasters, negatively impacting lives and livelihoods in U.S. communities and across the globe. In 2024, the United States alone saw 27 climate-related disasters that totaled over \$1 billion in damages, marking the fourth-costliest disaster spending year in the nation's record. And while extreme weather events are among the greatest risks of climate change, there are also localized, near-term impacts that are directly affecting people's daily lives in every corner of the country.

Throughout 2025, the federal government has advanced efforts to eliminate national tracking and reporting of key public data, shutter federal scientific research operations, and ignore or hide the scientific consensus on greenhouse gases and climate change. Yet doing so will not eliminate these real-world impacts of a changing climate — it will instead jeopardize communities across the nation and leave them underprepared for worsening

FIGURE ES-1. By working together to advance actions that aim to save households money, cut emissions, and protect communities, Alliance members can help mitigate the loss of federal leadership.



climate impacts. In the face of these efforts, Alliance governors have been resolute in affirming the essential role science plays in mitigating the negative outcomes of climate change, and they remain committed to science-based decision-making in their states.

Measuring our progress

The Alliance successfully reduced its collective net GHG emissions by 24 percent between 2005 and 2023 (the latest year with complete data) while increasing its collective gross domestic product by 34 percent, putting its near-term target within reach to reduce net emissions 26 percent by 2025. These emissions reductions were driven in part by adoption and implementation of ambitious state and federal actions in the preceding years. While the new federal administration's efforts are expected to slow progress through at least 2028, the actions Alliance

governors are taking will sustain the coalition's progress: the Alliance is projected to continue reducing emissions, at a faster rate than the rest of the country, even with federal rollbacks. This is largely due to the policies and programs Alliance members already have in place.

Importantly, the Alliance has identified a pathway to help mitigate the loss of federal ambition in the coming years (Figure ES-1). This pathway reflects broad adoption of state-level policy solutions that aim to save households money, cut harmful pollution, and protect communities. What's more, transitioning to a net-zero economy by 2050 would deliver significant monetary benefits that vastly outweigh the costs. Achievement of the Alliance's collective climate goals is estimated to deliver \$11 billion in annual net savings by 2030, \$103 billion by 2035, and \$185 billion by 2050 — leading to trillions of dollars of cumulative net benefits to Americans over the coming years.



Alliance governors recognize that communities across the country are already bearing the cost of climate change through higher food prices, rising utility bills, lost productivity from extreme heat, and rapidly increasing home insurance costs. Additional societal costs are also accumulating from worsening wildfires and flooding events, increased spread of diseases, and damages to public infrastructure from extreme weather events, among other impacts. These immediate costs help underscore the economic imperative of climate action as Alliance states and territories redouble their efforts in the years to come.

Recognizing that every fraction of a degree of avoided warming matters, Alliance governors will keep pressing forward for the health, safety, and economic prosperity of Americans across the country.

Enduring growth of clean energy and clean technologies

The Alliance is helping sustain the growth of clean energy and technologies — from record heat pump and electric vehicle sales to new wind and solar power construction and generation. This unprecedented growth in investment and innovation in recent years, across the country and around the world, is fueled by efforts to reduce emissions and combat climate change while increasing energy security and bolstering resilience.

In the U.S., Americans have directly benefited from record levels of investment in the manufacture, deployment, and purchase of clean energy and clean technology over the last two years, fueled by the *Inflation Reduction Act* and other federal laws. This growth supercharged the development of renewable energy sources, the most cost-effective form of electricity generation to build, and spurred the creation of more than 400,000 good-paying jobs and over \$422 billion in investments in new or expanded manufacturing facilities for batteries, electric vehicles, and other clean technologies. These investments are transforming local communities and delivering cleaner air, lower costs, and stronger economies.

While the new administration has taken steps to slow this growth, the U.S. market is demonstrating that the transition to cleaner energy and technologies is increasingly durable and likely irreversible. Clean energy sources and clean technologies are offering Americans greater freedom from volatile fuel costs and more choices to lower their out-of-pocket costs on utilities and gas, while providing a pathway for communities and companies to prepare to meet growing energy demand, including from data centers. Even at a slower pace, the clean transition in America has continued throughout 2025 and will keep gaining traction over the coming years.

Continuing to advance bold climate action

Alliance members have worked individually and together during the past year to continue advancing bold, high-impact actions to deliver affordable clean energy, safeguard public health, grow the economy, and build climate resilience. For example, Alliance members have:

- Established new climate targets, tracked and monitored progress toward their existing targets, and identified opportunities to raise ambition through progress reports and updated climate action plans.
- Adopted next-generation equipment standards, advanced more efficient building codes and standards, deployed heat pumps, and pursued utility planning and innovation to lower energy costs, improve public health and well-being, and increase resilience.
- Leveraged public and private investments and innovative financing tools to support climate mitigation and resilience efforts while ensuring affordability, accessibility, and a just economic transition.
- Developed policy pathways and programs to decarbonize the electricity grid, maximized federal clean energy incentives, and delivered near-term energy bill relief for customers today while improving energy affordability in the long run.
- Advanced innovative industrial decarbonization policies that invest in facility-level clean technology solutions, drive demand for low-carbon products, limit the release of high global warming-potential gases, and improve data collection, monitoring, and reporting.
- Pressed forward on equity-centered policies; directed significant investments to frontline communities; and accelerated the development of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive climate-ready workforce.
- Increased planning and investments in natural and working lands to combat climate change impacts and ensure healthy and resilient lands and waters continue to support climate solutions.
- Continued to consider the cost of climate change in policy decision-making, established programs to make polluters pay for climate damages resulting from their actions, and expanded programs that cap carbon pollution and generate revenue that can be reinvested into advancing climate action and helping disadvantaged communities.
- Strengthened governance and resilience planning efforts, invested in climate resilience projects, implemented community-led resilience projects, and adapted insurance frameworks to help the country better withstand and recover from extreme events.
- Increased access to affordable transportation choices by accelerating the deployment of cleaner and lower-cost vehicles, expanding charging infrastructure, and improving multimodal transportation and land use planning.



Photo credit: Office of Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey

Looking ahead

Alliance members are delivering real results. And this year, governors in every Alliance state and territory have shown they are built to lead in this moment – and won't back down. They will keep harnessing the power of collective state-led, high-impact climate action for the health and welfare of current and future generations of Americans.



HIGHLIGHTING SOLUTIONS across the Alliance

In October 2025, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers joined the U.S. Climate Alliance to learn from the Ho-Chunk Nation, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, and the University of Wisconsin about Indigenous food systems and practices. Governor Evers was announced as Alliance co-chair in May 2025, serving alongside fellow co-chair California Governor Gavin Newsom and executive committee members New York Governor Kathy Hochul, Delaware Governor Matt Meyer, and Washington Governor Bob Ferguson.

Photo credit: UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Introduction

The United States Climate Alliance (the Alliance) is a bipartisan coalition of U.S. governors committed to securing America's net-zero future by advancing state-led, high-impact climate action (Box 1, see page 15). The Alliance was launched by the governors of Washington, New York, and California on June 1, 2017, to help fill the void left by the federal government's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Since then, the coalition has grown to two dozen governors who collectively represent nearly 55 percent of the U.S. population and 60 percent of the U.S. economy — and its governors continue to fight for a healthier future and a stronger economy for all Americans.

America's climate progress is a testament to the work of these governors and the strength of the Alliance. Since this coalition launched more than eight years ago, its members have advanced more than 2,300 bold actions and innovative policies to tackle climate pollution and build resilience to the impacts of climate change. These include statewide and regional carbon markets; 100 percent clean energy standards; extreme heat protections; land and water conservation efforts; methane reduction programs for the oil and gas, waste, and agricultural sectors; and so much more. Alliance members have also deployed billions of dollars to reduce pollution in communities and sustain America's clean energy boom.

Thanks to these efforts, U.S. markets are rapidly transforming toward cleaner technologies and cleaner energy. Heat pump sales outpaced gas furnaces by 32 percent in 2024 — beating the prior year's record-setting lead of 21 percent. More than 1.5 million electric vehicles were sold in 2024, more than five times higher than 2020 totals. Nearly two-thirds of electricity generation currently under construction and expected to come online through 2031 will be powered by solar and wind. Battery storage installed on the grid has nearly doubled in capacity, while solar capacity installed by homeowners, businesses, and other institutions has also nearly doubled. Most importantly, these actions are delivering lower costs, cleaner air, better health, more good-paying jobs, and new investments in communities across the country.

Unfortunately, destabilizing actions by the federal government are now threatening our country's efforts

to address the climate crisis. Throughout 2025, the federal government has advanced efforts to undermine and disregard climate science, disrupt federal agencies and workers, weaken disaster response systems, and undercut climate policies, programs, and funding. The goal is clear: undo America's progress. Yet these actions have only fortified the Alliance's bonds and galvanized its work like never before.

The world is once again turning its eyes to the Alliance's states and territories, which have a long track record of leadership through challenging and uncertain times. During President Trump's first term, Alliance members worked together to backstop federal environmental rules, defend against challenges to critical state climate policies and regulations, and fill the void created on the international stage. This year, that fight has continued — and at every turn, the Alliance's governors have stepped up and stood tall in their work to protect Americans from the worsening impacts of climate change.

Following the presidential election in November 2024, the Alliance's co-chairs issued statements affirming that governors will tap every ounce of their authority to protect America's progress and press forward in the years ahead.¹ At the same time, the Alliance came together with America's other top subnational climate action coalitions — America Is All In and Climate Mayors — to make clear to the country, and the world, that “we will not turn back.”² Weeks later, the Alliance led a delegation to the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference in Azerbaijan to deliver this message on the global stage.

BOX 1. Alliance Member Commitments

Member Commitments

Alliance members are working to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement through four key commitments:

1. Reducing Emissions

Reducing collective net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at least 26–28 percent by 2025, 50–52 percent by 2030, and 61–66 percent by 2035, all below 2005 levels, and collectively achieving overall net-zero GHG emissions as soon as practicable, and no later than 2050.

2. Accelerating Action

Accelerating new and existing policies to reduce climate pollution, build resilience to the impacts of climate change, and promote clean energy deployment at the state and federal levels.

3. Centering Equity

Centering equity, environmental justice, and a just economic transition in their efforts to achieve their climate goals and create high-quality jobs.

4. Tracking Progress

Tracking and reporting progress to the global community in appropriate settings, including when the world convenes to take stock of the Paris Agreement.

The Alliance followed this push with the announcement of a new coalition-wide pledge to reduce net GHG emissions at least 61–66 percent below 2005 levels by 2035,³ in alignment with the climate target set for the United States by the outgoing federal administration.⁴ Then, as the new administration took office, the Alliance announced that it would house and lead several climate initiatives that its states had launched in partnership

with the federal government — the State Buy Clean Partnership⁵ and State Modern Grid Deployment Initiative.⁶

In January 2025, when President Trump announced the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement once again, the Alliance committed to the international community, in a letter to the UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, that its governors will continue America's work

to slash climate pollution.⁷ Since then, the Alliance's states and territories have demonstrated time and again that they will press forward, no matter the obstacles.

In the face of Congress passing its anti-climate megabill, Alliance co-chairs Governors Gavin Newsom and Tony Evers vowed that unlike the federal government, Alliance states will continue to embrace the clean energy industries and jobs of the future.⁸ This followed a federal executive order targeting states' climate authority, after which the Alliance co-chairs wasted no time in unequivocally reaffirming states' independent constitutional authority to advance solutions to the climate crisis.⁹ Their message: "We are a nation of states — and laws — and we will not be deterred."

The Alliance also sprang into action following a series of destabilizing actions from Congress and the federal government intended to halt state-led clean vehicle programs that are getting more clean cars and trucks on America's roads.¹⁰ Alliance efforts culminated with the announcement of the new Affordable Clean Cars Coalition, launched by 11 Alliance governors to sustain the transition to cleaner and more affordable cars, support U.S. automotive manufacturers and workers, and preserve states' clean air authority.¹¹

Additionally, the Alliance defended federal pollution standards for fossil fuel-fired power plants that, if repealed, would increase energy bills and harm public health. Finally, attorneys general from Alliance states and territories banded together to secure restoration of federal funding for critical climate and clean energy programs¹² and issued multi-state guidance reinforcing that, despite federal actions, environmental justice initiatives remain both necessary and lawful.¹³

All of this came as the Alliance's members continued to advance bold new state-led climate actions, policies,

programs, and investments. Throughout the year, the coalition's governors set new and increasingly ambitious emissions reduction targets, adopted new laws and regulations to tackle climate pollution and strengthen resilience, invested billions of dollars in climate mitigation and resilience projects, adapted insurance frameworks to help their communities better withstand and recover from extreme events, and advanced new tools and strategies to promote affordability and lower costs.

Collaboration and partnership has emerged as a key strategy for states to continue charting the path to a resilient and net-zero future. Alliance members gathered in person to share solutions and discuss emerging challenges and opportunities, including at the coalition's semiannual meetings in Washington, D.C., and Madison, Wisconsin. Top state officials also convened for a series of learning labs aimed at helping members advance natural climate solutions and integrate climate considerations into land use planning, which was the focus of an Alliance policy guide published earlier this year.

The Alliance continues to press forward, not only because it's the right thing to do and supported by science, but because the American people are demanding action. Despite the federal government's rhetoric, Americans remain increasingly concerned about climate impacts like wildfires, rising sea levels, and hurricanes.¹⁴ Polling finds the overwhelming majority of Americans understand climate change is happening¹⁵ and most want federal agencies to do more — not less — to protect communities from climate change and its impacts.¹⁶

This report represents the perseverance, resilience, and unwavering commitment of the Alliance's members to deliver the safe, healthy, and affordable future Americans deserve.



OREGON

Governor Tina Kotek

"As stewards of our air, water, and landscapes, we must rise to the challenge of fighting climate change, both by continuing our efforts to reduce carbon emissions and by taking strong action to enhance the resiliency of our natural resources and communities. Our most vulnerable communities, our working and natural lands, our wildlife, and our rivers, lakes, and streams all face an existential threat, as the relentless march of climate change tests our resolve to protect that which sustains us."¹



HIGHLIGHTING SOLUTIONS across the Alliance

In May 2025, Western Maryland experienced historic flooding that caused widespread damage, including in the town of Westernport. In addition to declaring a state of emergency and visiting the town in mid-May, Maryland Governor Wes Moore announced a host of actions to support the region, including making funding available through the State Disaster Recovery Fund and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Photo credit: Office of Maryland Governor Wes Moore

A Global Problem with Increasingly Local Impacts

Scientists around the world agree: the Earth's atmosphere is warming, and greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted from human activity are indisputably accelerating the pace. This warming has already amplified extreme weather events, disrupted ecosystems, and increased the severity and frequency of natural disasters, negatively impacting lives and livelihoods in U.S. communities and across the globe. These impacts have no political boundaries, and if action is not taken to dramatically reduce GHG emissions, they will continue to progressively worsen for decades to come.¹⁷

Climate science is established and clear

Since 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been analyzing scientific literature and publishing regular assessment reports that provide the robust, transparent, reliable, and globally agreed-upon scientific basis for climate action. Each of these reports are prepared by hundreds of international experts, informed by thousands of peer-reviewed scientific publications, reviewed by experts and governments, and approved by IPCC member countries.^{18,19} The findings are clear: human activities have unequivocally been the main driver of climate change since the 1800s, and in the past several decades have caused temperature increases well beyond what are considered natural climatic fluctuations.²⁰

These temperature increases and their resulting impacts are largely driven by the continued emissions of heat-trapping GHGs through the burning of fossil fuels. The IPCC's assessment reports evaluate these impacts, and as data

collection instruments and climate models have become more accurate over time, so have the IPCC's results. In their *Sixth Assessment Report* (2021), authors confidently conclude that historical emissions had already driven numerous negative outcomes (Box 2, see page 19).²¹

The IPCC's latest findings were published in 2021, when increasing emissions were found to have caused a long-term average global temperature rise of at least 1.1 degrees Celsius from 1850 levels.²² Global temperatures have continued to rise since then, and in 2024, this estimate was 1.2 degrees.²³ Further, recent single-year temperature averages continue to break records: 2024 was the hottest year ever recorded,²⁴ and the past ten years (2015–2024) are the ten warmest years on record.²⁵ Some projections indicate that 2025–29 could be even hotter.²⁶ Robust scientific evidence shows that this level of warming is not just unprecedented, but also dangerous — every incremental increase in temperature is correlated with greater impacts that threaten the health of the climate, and in turn, the lives and well-being of individuals and communities across the globe for many years to come.²⁷

BOX 2. GHG Emissions Are Impacting Earth Systems and Human Welfare

- **Atmospheric accumulation of GHGs has reached unprecedented levels.** Atmospheric CO₂ concentrations have reached their highest level in the past 2 million years, while methane concentrations are increasing faster than previously thought, and at a rate faster than any time in the last 800,000 years.
- **Global surface temperatures are rising.** Each of the last four decades has been increasingly warmer than all preceding decades since 1850, and in the last 50 years, surface temperature has increased faster than any time in the last 2,000 years.
- **Sea ice coverage is declining.** Arctic sea ice coverage is at its lowest level since 1850 across both annual and late-summer averages. Further, the Arctic's thick, multi-year (over four years old) ice cover is declining: multi-year ice made up 33 percent of total cover in 1985, but has nearly disappeared, making up a mere 1.2 percent of cover in 2019. This ice is replaced by younger, thinner ice that is much more fragile.
- **Glaciers are retreating.** The world's glaciers have retreated, with the last decade exhibiting the highest level of net mass loss since the beginning of the observational record.
- **Sea levels are rising.** Since 1901, average annual sea level rise has occurred at a rate faster than any century in the last three millennia. Levels rose nearly eight inches between 1901 and 2018 and continue to climb.
- **The ocean is rapidly changing.** The ocean is among the world's key defenses against rising temperatures. To date, it has absorbed over 90 percent of the excess heat from increased GHG emissions, but its capacity is not unlimited. This heat absorption has caused numerous ocean-based climate indicators to reach unprecedented states, threatening not only marine ecosystems but also the broader global climate. For instance, ocean heat content is increasing at a rate likely not seen for over 11,000 years; salinity is changing, with the Atlantic Ocean becoming saltier and the Pacific and Southern Oceans fresher; surface acidification is increasing, with surface pH at its lowest in at least 26,000 years; ocean current circulation patterns are changing; and oxygen levels are decreasing.
- **Weather variability and extremes are increasing.** Climate change is driving increases in heatwaves, heavy precipitation events, droughts, intense tropical cyclones, fire risk, flooding risk, and more. With each incremental increase in temperature, the risk of these extremes grows.
- **Ecosystems are shifting.** As temperatures rise, species are shifting their geographic regions and the timing of seasonal events. Many land and marine animal species are increasingly shifting poleward and to cooler altitudes: higher on land, and deeper in the ocean. Climate zones²⁸ are also shifting poleward and are accompanied by changes in growing season across the Northern hemisphere. Longer seasons can, among other things, increase the length and severity of pollen and allergy seasons.
- **Animal- and insect-borne disease risk is rising.** Higher temperatures and climate change-driven shifts have increased insect-borne diseases like Dengue, Lyme, and West Nile; and have increased the risk of zoonotic disease as wildlife-livestock-human interfaces shift.



As nations around the world work to reduce their current emissions, their communities also face growing impacts from historical emissions. This drives a simultaneous need for further and faster emissions reductions — both domestically and abroad — and strengthened capacity to adapt to climate change’s increasingly costly, present-day impacts. In 2024, the United States alone saw 27 climate-related disasters that totaled over \$1 billion in damages,²⁹ marking the fourth-costliest disaster spending year in the nation’s record.³⁰ While the new federal administration may have ceased the tracking of such disasters, their impacts have not slowed: by mid-2025, catastrophic flooding in Texas,³¹ wildfires in California,³² and other extreme events like heatwaves and heavy storms had already claimed the lives of hundreds of Americans and caused widespread damage to public infrastructure. Analyses show that as these events increase in frequency and severity, the social and economic costs of climate change’s impacts will far outweigh the costs of mitigation.^{33,34}

As nations across the globe grapple with these present-day impacts, scientists continue to warn of the near-certain damage still to come. For example, a May 2025 report found that under current warming conditions, the world’s glaciers are expected to lose nearly 40 percent of their mass, which will eventually result in a projected 4.4 inches of global sea-level rise. If global emissions continue along their current trajectory, these projected losses could nearly double — underscoring the critical importance of immediate action to lower emissions.³⁵ This not only threatens alpine communities, like the Swiss village of Blatten that was buried by a glacier collapse earlier this year,³⁶ but also coastal communities around the world as flooding risks increase. Such impacts are expected to extend beyond just alpine and coastal communities, as recent research also shows that Arctic warming may be linked to increased summer weather extremes — like heatwaves — across the Northern Hemisphere.^{37,38}

All Americans will increasingly feel the impacts of a changing climate

While extreme weather events are among the greatest risks of climate change, there are also localized, near-term impacts that directly affect people’s daily lives in every corner of the country. These can include higher food prices,^{39,40} higher energy prices,^{41,42} greater health risks,^{43,44} higher home insurance rates,^{45,46} impacts to outdoor recreational activities,^{47,48,49} and much more.

As hazard-prone areas expand and disaster risk increases, insurance prices, cancellations, and non-renewals are rising. As a result, American homeowners may find themselves paying higher insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs for climate-related damage. Others may struggle to purchase or keep their homes due to declining availability and rapidly rising prices of coverage necessary to meet home mortgage requirements.⁵⁰

Americans are already seeing the impacts of climate change at their kitchen tables. In some states, droughts have driven year-on-year vegetable price increases of up to 80 percent,⁵¹ and this trend is likely to continue. In a June 2025 study, researchers found that under current conditions, global yields of staple crops like corn, soybeans, wheat, cassava, and sorghum will likely be reduced by approximately eight percent by 2050. These losses would be further compounded with each additional degree of warming that occurs,^{52,53} and would impact not just food availability and price, but also the livelihoods of America’s farmers. Through rapid action to reduce emissions, the severity of such risks can be significantly reduced.

Every amount of progress matters

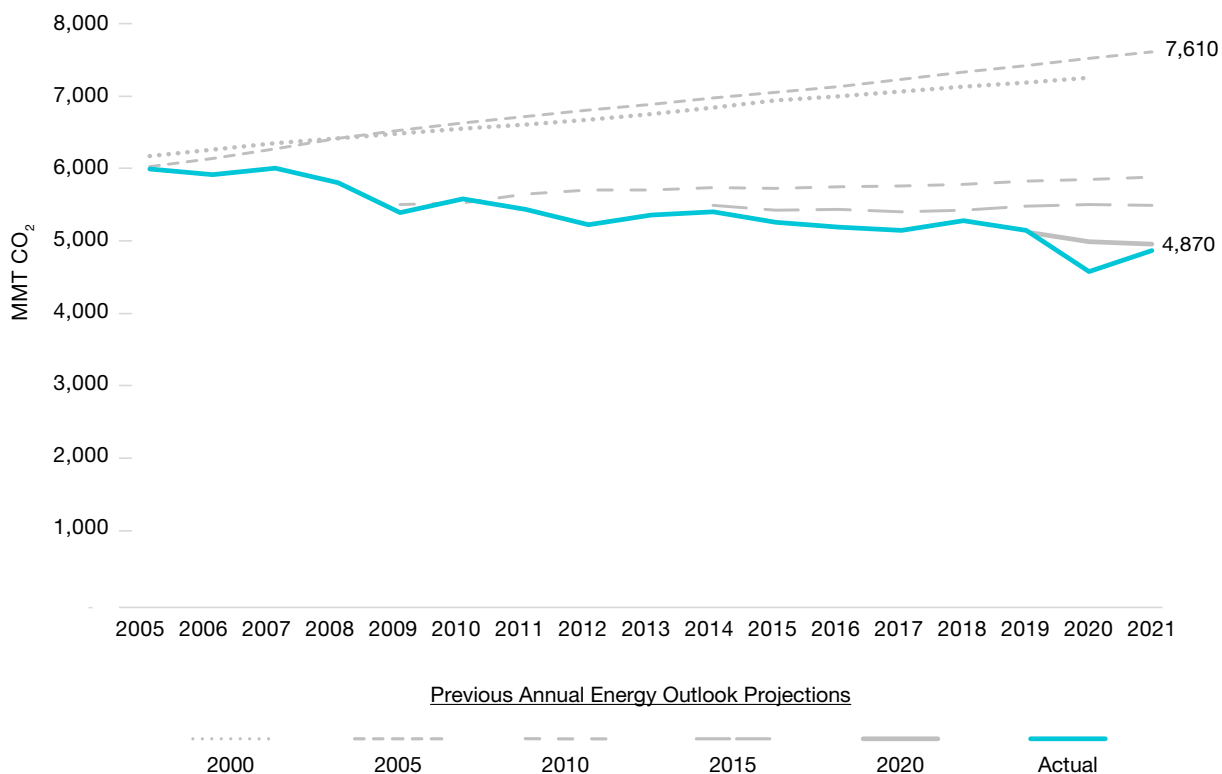
Nations recognized the growing need for action decades ago: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was established in 1992, under which the Kyoto Protocol (2005) was adopted and later replaced by the Paris Agreement (2015). All 195 countries⁵⁴ that ratified the Paris Agreement have pledged to reduce their individual emissions to abate worsening impacts of climate change and to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius (above pre-industrial levels), with an ideal limit of no more than 1.5 degrees.

Many of these countries — including the United States — have reduced their emissions since global climate talks began in the early 1990s. For example, in 2021, U.S. economy-wide net emissions were two percent below 1990 levels and 18 percent below 2005 levels. In 2023, these reductions were even greater at four percent

and 19 percent, respectively.⁵⁵ While global emissions reductions are not on pace with what science says is needed to prevent the most catastrophic impacts, each metric ton of these abated emissions still minimizes the compounding risk of future climate disasters.

Further, U.S. policies and market conditions have set the nation on a much lower emissions pathway than previously expected. For example, in 2005, the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) *Annual Energy Outlook* projected that energy-related CO₂ emissions were on a path to increase 21 percent by 2021. However, due to technological advances, shifting market trends, and federal and state policies, actual energy emissions in 2021 were nearly 36 percent lower than expected (Figure 1).⁵⁶ This shows that the U.S. has already successfully abated some of its projected emissions and can drive further reductions with continued action. This progress, however incremental, is critical in safeguarding lives and livelihoods today and into the future.

FIGURE 1. Projected vs. actual energy-related CO₂ emissions in the United States: EIA annual energy outlooks 2000–2020.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



Photo credit: Office of Hawai'i Governor Josh Green

Alliance members value science and its role in securing a livable future for all Americans

Scientific evidence is robust and irrefutable: GHG emissions from human activities are the primary driver of climate change, and reducing these emissions can help protect the lives and livelihoods of Americans today and for generations to come. Despite this, earlier this year, the current federal administration announced its intent to again withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement;⁵⁷ initiated sweeping cuts to climate science across all federal agencies, including the cessation and removal of the congressionally mandated and widely valued *National Climate Assessment* report⁵⁸; and proposed to rescind the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's landmark

science-backed 2009 determination that greenhouse gas emissions pose a threat to public health and welfare.^{59,60}

Eliminating the national tracking and reporting of key public data and ignoring or hiding scientific research will not eliminate the real-world impacts of a changing climate. It will instead jeopardize communities across the nation and leave them underprepared for worsening climate impacts. Alliance members recognize that science plays an essential role in mitigating the negative outcomes of climate change, and they remain committed to science-based decision-making in their states. In doing so, Alliance governors are securing a safer, more livable future not only for their residents, but for all current and future generations of Americans.

“Americans deserve the truth from their federal government about the climate crisis. No amount of burying research or firing scientists will change the facts: greenhouse gas pollution causes climate change and endangers our health and welfare — period.”^{ii,iii}

— California Governor Gavin Newsom and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers



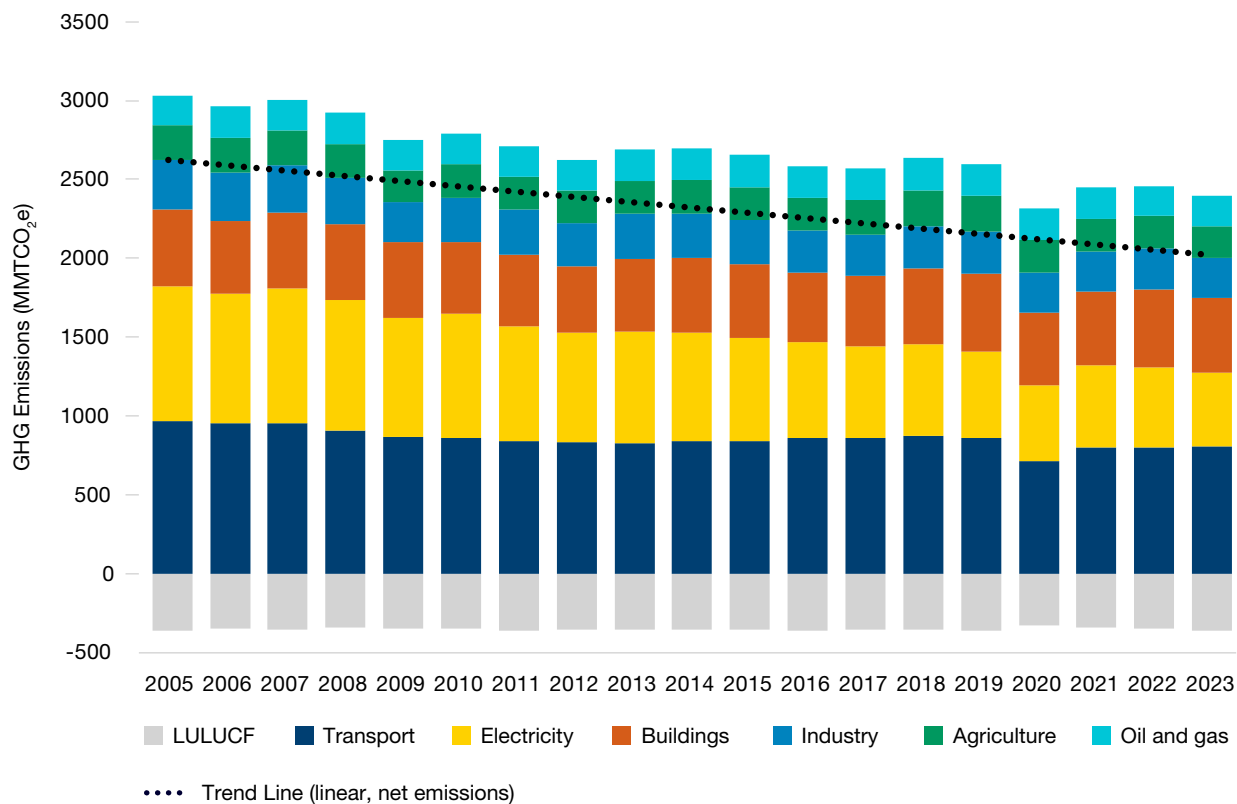
HIGHLIGHTING SOLUTIONS across the Alliance

In August 2025, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek signed four bills into law that aim to lower energy costs for households, increase accountability for major energy users, and expand assistance for low-income Oregonians. “Too many Oregonians are struggling with high energy bills...Every Oregonian deserves reliable, affordable energy, and this legislation moves us closer to that goal,” Governor Kotek said on the state’s push to lower energy costs.

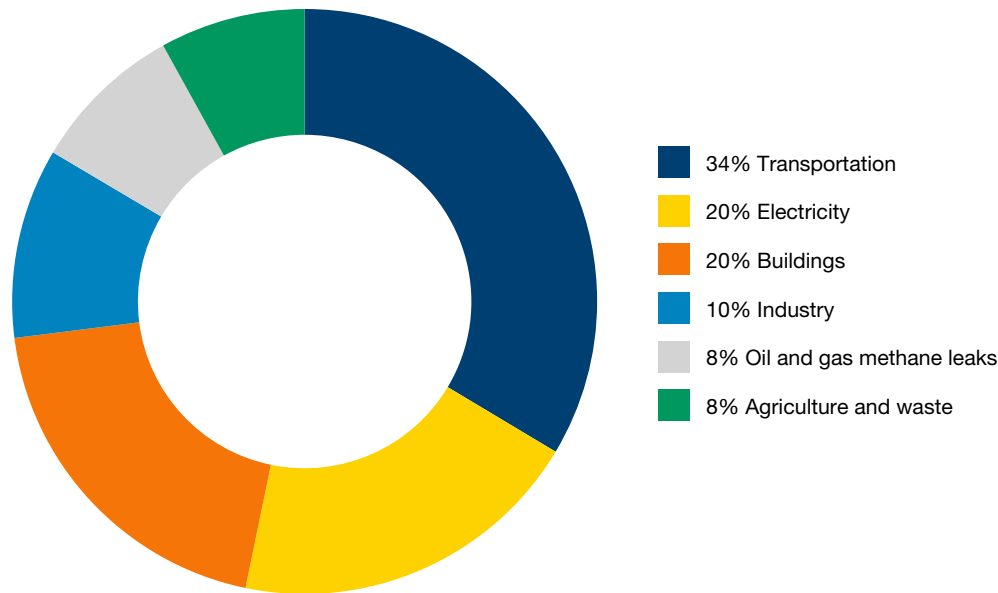
Measuring Our Progress

Alliance states and territories reduced their collective net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 24 percent between 2005 and 2023 (the latest year with complete data), continuing the coalition's trend of lowering emissions over the last 18 years (Figure 2). Collective emissions between 2022 and 2023 decreased nearly four percent as the impact of state and federal policies adopted in the preceding years took effect, with the electricity and buildings sectors seeing the largest year-on-year reductions. The coalition's long-term progress has primarily been driven by the transition to cleaner electricity generation, resulting in a 45 percent reduction in electricity sector emissions since 2005. Emissions from the transportation sector have also decreased 17 percent below 2005 levels, though it remains the Alliance's largest source of emissions (Figure 3).

FIGURE 2. According to the most recent emissions data, the Alliance's collective net GHG emissions decreased an estimated 24 percent between 2005 and 2023.



Source: Rhodium Group

FIGURE 3. Transportation remains the Alliance's largest source of collective GHG emissions in 2023.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Additional key trends include:

Transportation: Passenger cars and trucks are the single largest source of emissions across the Alliance's collective GHG emissions, at 20 percent, with the entire transportation sector responsible for over one-third of emissions. Since 2005, collective emissions from the transportation sector across the Alliance have declined 17 percent, while the sector's emissions have remained flat for the rest of the country. The Alliance's collective progress to date can be attributed to the nation-leading policies and programs of its members, which have driven innovation and helped get cleaner, more efficient cars and trucks on the road. Of the nation's registered zero-emissions vehicles, 70 percent are in Alliance states, supported by 68 percent of all publicly available EV chargers.⁶¹

Electricity: Alliance members added nearly 200 gigawatts (GW) of new generation capacity collectively between 2005 and 2023 to meet growing energy demand,⁶² while simultaneously reducing carbon pollution in the electricity sector by 45 percent.⁶³ This represents an eight percent decrease over 2022 emissions levels — the largest year-on-year reduction in this sector over the last decade, outside of 2020. This is consistent with national trends,

where an increasing share of electricity is being generated by clean and renewable energy sources, replacing older and higher-polluting forms of energy. In 2023, nearly half of all electricity generated across the Alliance was generated from zero-carbon sources (48 percent).⁶⁴

Industry: Emissions from the industrial sector come from activities like refining, chemicals, iron and steel, cement, paper, and food and beverage manufacturing. In addition, many industrial sources emit methane and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are short-lived but extremely potent greenhouse gases that have much higher near-term warming impacts than carbon dioxide. While the Alliance's GHG emissions from industry in 2023 remained consistent with 2022 levels, emissions from this sector have decreased by 19 percent over 2005 levels.

Buildings: Emissions in the buildings sector are largely driven by burning fossil fuels for space and water heating, and in 2023, were responsible for 20 percent of collective Alliance emissions. Of note, emissions from buildings can be substantially impacted by weather changes year to year. This is especially true for individual households, and in 2023, carbon pollution from residential buildings fell by seven percent from 2022 levels due to warmer late-winter

and early-spring weather, which lowered household heating needs.⁶⁵ Since 2005, Alliance members reduced carbon pollution in households by 15 percent, while pollution from commercial buildings has remained relatively flat.⁶⁶

Natural and working lands: The natural and working lands (NWL) sector includes the diverse land types found across the United States, such as forests and woodlands, grasslands and shrublands, croplands and rangelands, wetlands, and urban green spaces. These lands contribute to GHG emissions — through wildfires or land use change, for example — as well as to GHG reductions and removals. In 2023, the NWL sector sequestered approximately 15 percent of the Alliance’s collective gross emissions.⁶⁷ Since 2005, Alliance members have been able to maintain net sequestration levels, while the rest of the United States has experienced a net loss of five percent over the same timeframe.

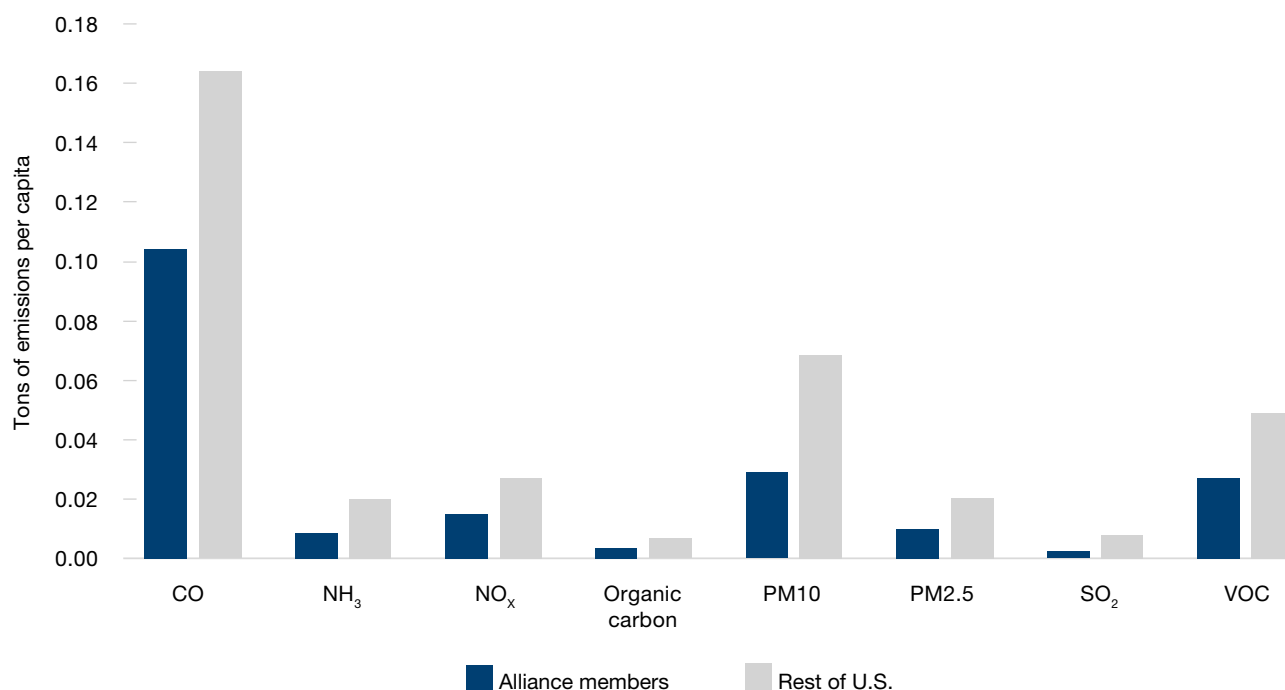
Co-benefits of action

The Alliance’s progress in reducing climate pollution is also delivering real benefits to households, communities, and local economies. These include:

Cleaner air: As a result of generating more electricity from cleaner sources and getting cleaner and more efficient vehicles on the road, Alliance members consistently achieve lower levels of dangerous air pollutants that can cause difficulty breathing and carry increased risk of asthma and heart disease, among other conditions (Figure 4).⁶⁸

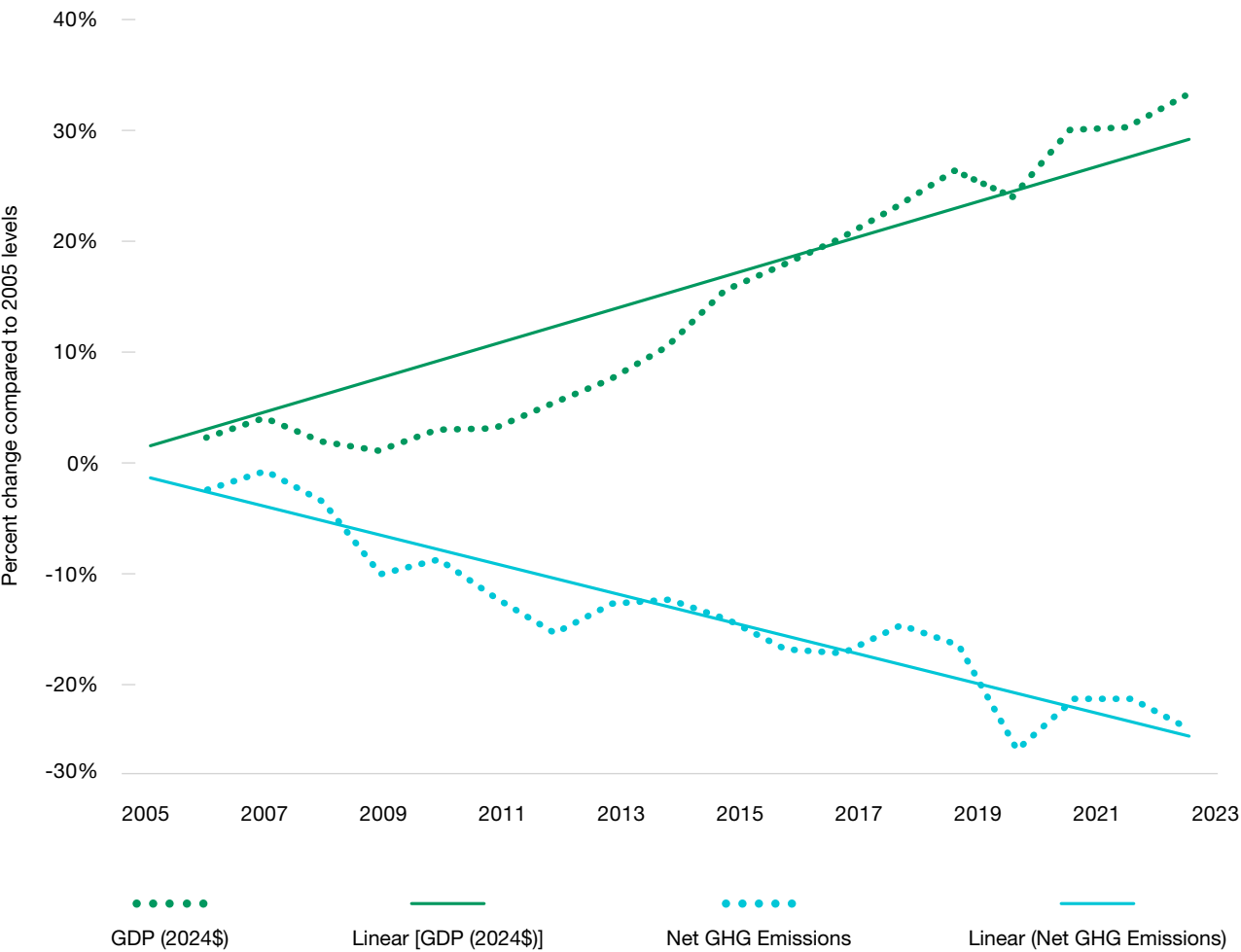
Economic growth: Alliance members’ work to reduce climate pollution is also delivering jobs and investments in local communities across the country. Between 2005 and 2023, Alliance members collectively grew their economies by 34 percent while reducing economy-wide GHG emissions by 24 percent (Figure 5).⁶⁹ In 2023, Alliance members grew their clean energy workforce to over 2 million jobs, representing nearly 60 percent of the U.S. total.⁷⁰

FIGURE 4. Alliance members generate lower levels of harmful air pollutants per capita than the rest of the country (2023).



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

FIGURE 5. Between 2005 and 2023, Alliance members cut their GHG emissions while continuing to grow their economies.



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency & U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis



MARYLAND
Governor Wes Moore

“The climate crisis didn’t start overnight. It will take time and decisive action for us to tackle it. But we can — and we will — win this moment. We will win because we work together, we will win because we tackle our goals with action, and we will win because we leave no one behind.”^{iv}

Tracking our progress and mapping a path forward

Alliance members are committed to tracking and reporting on progress toward their collective goals as they chart the path to net zero. The coalition commissions independent analysis every two years to evaluate the GHG emissions reductions expected under existing policies, and to assess the largest opportunities for Alliance members — working together and across government — to build on their progress and drive further reductions in climate pollution. To undertake this year’s assessment, the Alliance commissioned Energy and Environment Economics (E3) to update its last analysis conducted for the Alliance’s 2023 Annual Report. This updated analysis incorporates federal policy rollbacks under the new administration, as well as major advances in state climate legislation and regulations over the past two years. It also identifies how Alliance members can work together through 2035 to sustain America’s progress and keep the coalition moving toward its long-term goals (Box 3; see Appendix for specific assumptions).

The Alliance is projected to continue reducing emissions at a faster rate than the rest of the country, even with federal rollbacks.

Key takeaways

The Alliance successfully reduced its collective net GHG emissions by 24 percent between 2005 and 2023 and is within the margin of error to achieve its 2025 target of reducing net GHG emissions by 26 percent (Figure 6), driven by adoption and implementation of ambitious state and federal actions. While the new federal administration’s efforts are expected to slow progress through at least 2028, the actions Alliance governors are taking will sustain the coalition’s progress: the Alliance is projected to continue reducing emissions at a faster rate than the rest of the country, even with federal rollbacks. This is largely due to the policies and programs Alliance members already have in place.

Importantly, the Alliance has identified a pathway to help mitigate the loss of federal ambition over the coming years. This pathway reflects broad adoption of state-level policy solutions that aim to save households money, cut harmful pollution, and protect communities. What’s more, E3’s analysis continues to show that transitioning to a net-zero economy by 2050 would deliver significant monetary benefits that vastly outweigh the costs. Recognizing that every fraction of a degree of avoided warming matters, Alliance governors will keep pressing forward for the health, safety, and economic prosperity of Americans across the country.

BOX 3. Modeled Scenarios

1. Previous Federal Approach

This scenario estimates emissions under current state policies and all federal policies and regulations implemented as of January 2025.

2. Current Federal Approach

This scenario estimates emissions under current state policies while assuming key federal policies and regulations targeted by the current administration are rolled back, even if the status is uncertain or subject to ongoing litigation or regulatory processes.

3. Collective State Action

This scenario builds on the Current Federal Approach and estimates emissions impacts of Alliance members collectively pursuing additional ambitious near-term actions between now and 2035, based on policies already being implemented or considered in at least one Alliance state or territory.

Results in detail

Slower progress expected under new federal administration

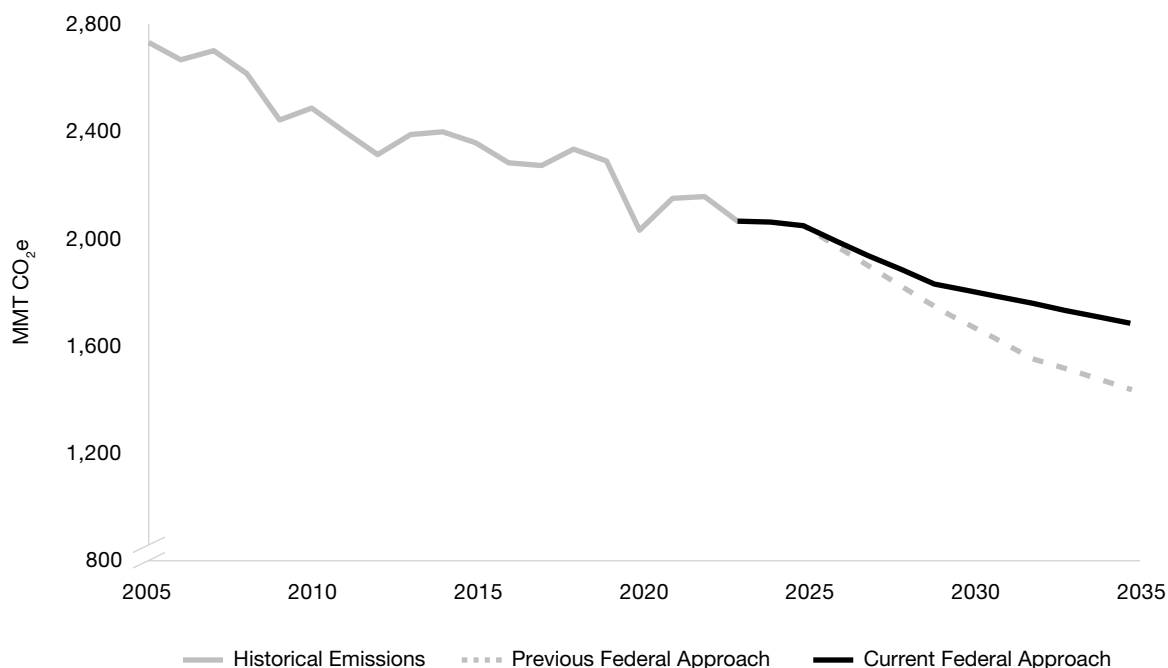
Under the suite of policies and actions advanced by the prior federal administration, including the *Inflation Reduction Act* and other federal laws, the Alliance was projected to make significant progress toward its near-term and long-term climate goals. Those federal policies also helped drive record levels of manufacturing and deployment of clean energy and clean technologies like solar, wind, battery storage, heat pumps, and electric vehicles. Together, these investments led to the highest levels of factory construction in America since 1950 and created hundreds of thousands of jobs across the nation,⁷¹ reshaping local economies while slashing climate pollution, saving households money, and bolstering energy security.

The new federal administration has initiated a series of actions to slow, roll back, or terminate many of these policies and actions, undermining America's clean energy boom and undercutting the economic and health benefits it was delivering, including:

- Legislative rollbacks to clean energy and clean vehicle tax credits in the *Inflation Reduction Act* through an anti-climate megabill that is projected to spike household electricity prices, cost jobs and investment, hurt America's energy security, and increase pollution.
- Regulatory rollbacks of greenhouse gas pollution standards for fossil fuel-fired power plants, motor vehicles, oil and gas operations, and other sectors.
- Federal efforts to stall deployment of wind and solar projects and dismantle state clean vehicle programs adopted by many Alliance states.

As a result of these and other potential actions by the current federal administration, the Alliance's collective emissions are expected to decline only 34 percent by 2030 and 39 percent by 2035, both below 2005 levels. By comparison, the Alliance was previously on track to reduce emissions by 39 percent in 2030 and 48 percent in 2035 (Figure 6). However, even under the current federal approach — and without any additional state action — emissions are still projected to continue decreasing across the Alliance through 2035.

FIGURE 6. While federal actions will slow progress, Alliance emissions are still projected to decrease through 2035.



Existing Alliance member actions will continue to drive down emissions

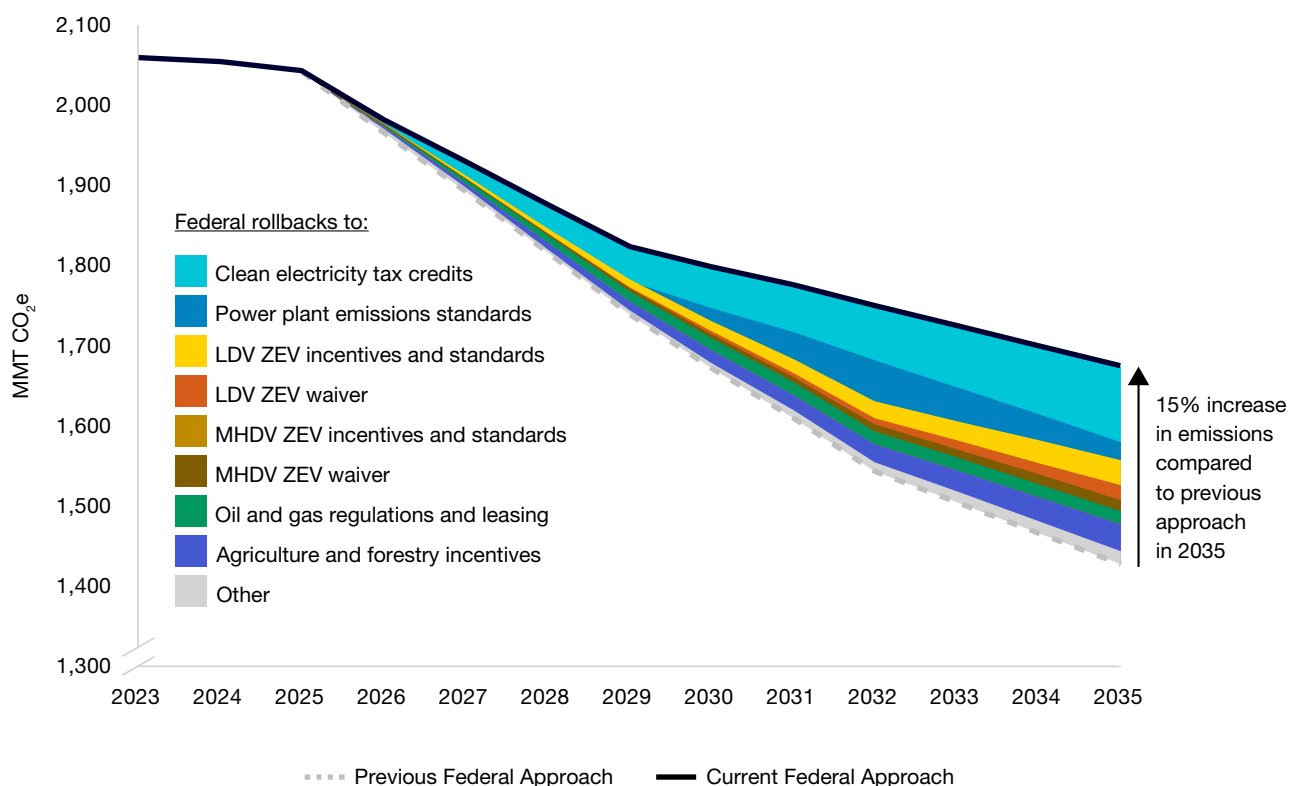
Analysis makes clear that what Alliance governors are doing is working. As of 2023, the Alliance has already cut its net collective GHG emissions by 24 percent below 2005 levels, and the coalition is within the margin of error to achieve its near-term climate target of collectively reducing net GHG emissions 26–28 percent by 2025. This progress is the result of years of leadership and thousands of climate actions advanced by Alliance members across all sectors of the economy, and is a demonstration that climate pollution remains a solvable challenge when effective solutions are adopted and implemented.

While the federal government's efforts are expected to slow progress over the coming years, the Alliance is still expected to continue reducing its collective GHG emissions through 2035 and beyond, at a rate faster than the rest of the country. This is largely due to policies and programs Alliance members have already

put into place. State-led climate solutions projected to continue driving down emissions include statewide and regional carbon markets; renewable and clean energy standards; state clean vehicle incentives; building decarbonization policies; and methane reduction programs for the oil and gas, waste, and agricultural sectors.

Emissions in the Alliance's electricity and transportation sectors are expected to be those most impacted by federal rollbacks, absent additional state action (Figure 7). In particular, elimination of clean electricity tax credits and the proposed repeal of carbon pollution standards for power plants are expected to have a significant impact on states that do not currently have strong renewable and clean energy standards. Elimination of clean vehicle incentives and standards and the administration's efforts to dismantle state clean vehicle programs are also projected to slow the coalition's progress.

FIGURE 7. Emissions in the Alliance's electricity and transportation sectors are expected to be most impacted by federal rollbacks.



Definitions: Light-duty vehicle (LDV); Medium and heavy-duty vehicle (MHDV); Zero-emissions vehicle (ZEV)

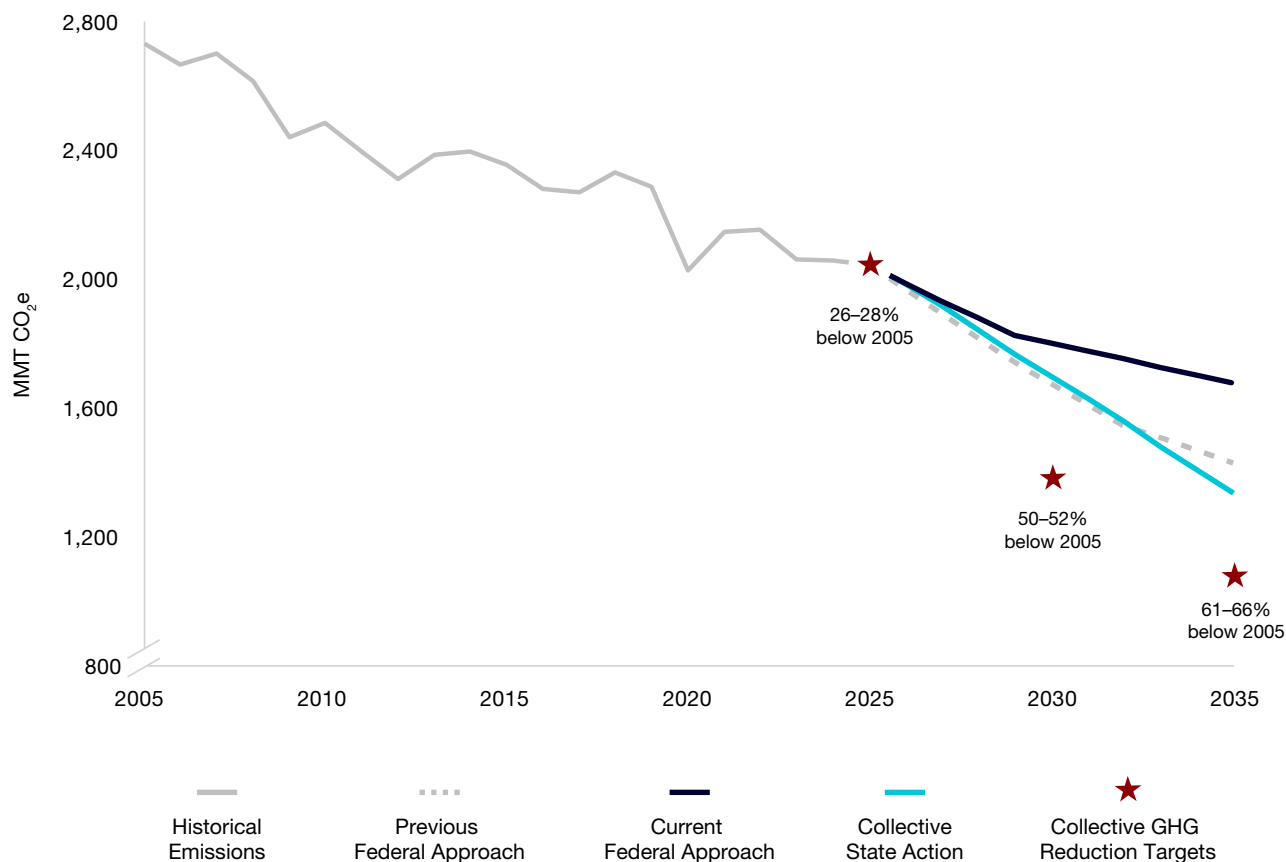
Alliance members can help mitigate the loss of federal ambition

The Alliance has identified a collective pathway to help mitigate the loss of federal ambition over the coming years. This pathway reflects broad adoption of policy solutions that aim to save households money, cut pollution, and protect communities. Most of these actions are already being developed or implemented by one or more states and territories across the country, and if taken collectively, can reduce the Alliance's GHG emissions by 20 percent below projections in 2035 under the Current Federal Approach scenario (Figure 8).



Photo credit: Office of New York Governor Kathy Hochul

FIGURE 8. While the federal government's efforts are expected to slow progress over the coming years, Alliance governors can work together to help mitigate the loss of federal leadership.

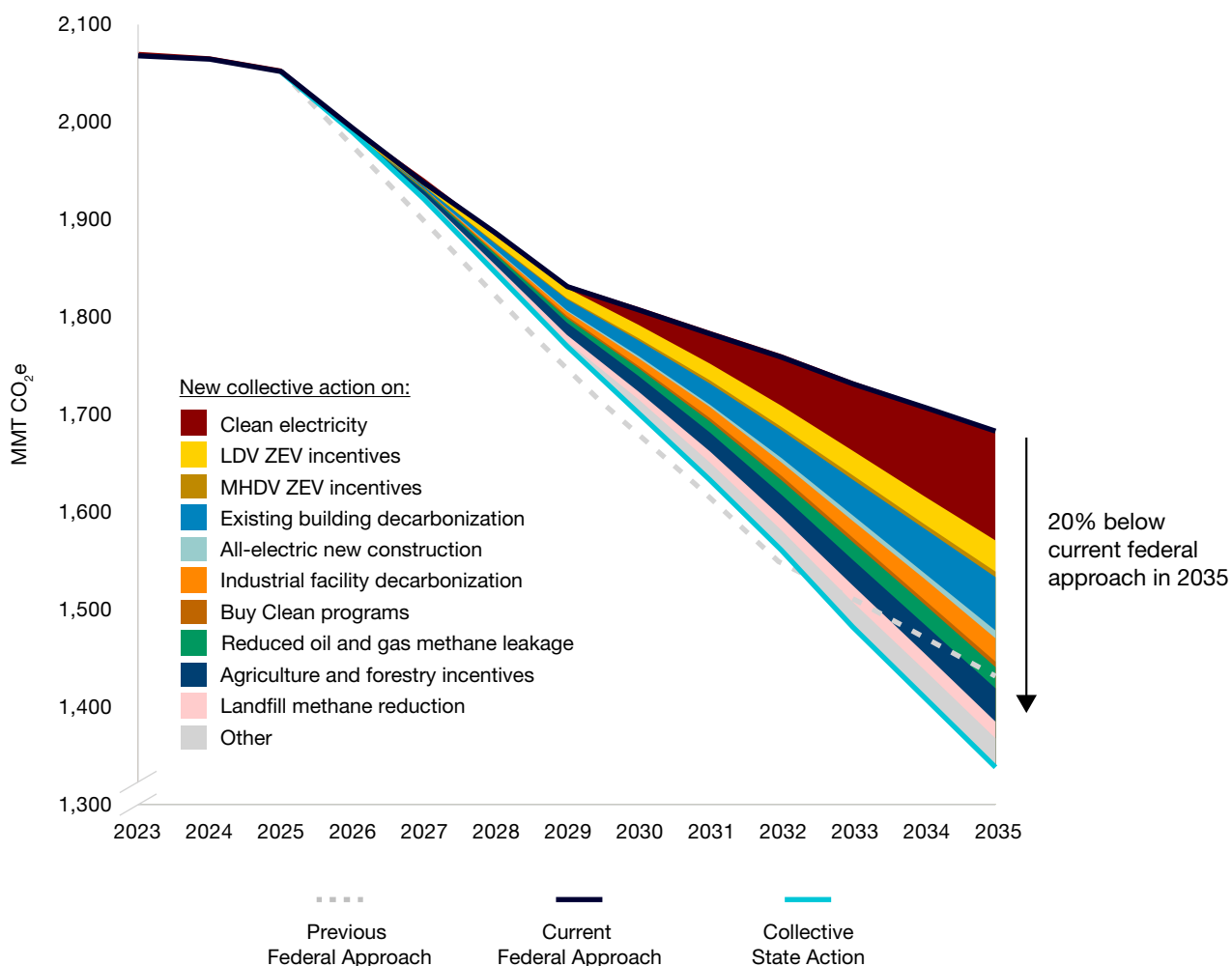


Note: Emissions projections use the the IPCC's 5th Assessment Report 100-year global warming potential. The last year of historical data is 2023; all years from 2024 onward are modeled.

As illustrated by the Collective State Action scenario (Figure 9), Alliance members can make significant progress over the next decade through advancement of additional state-led policies and programs. These include solutions that aim to:

- Support the quick deployment of additional clean energy generating capacity in the power sector.
- Electrify government fleets, offer consumer incentives, and reduce warehouse emissions.
- Ensure an increasing number of new buildings are all-electric while decarbonizing existing buildings with heat pumps and other efficient, zero-emissions appliances.
- Target air pollution while maximizing energy efficiency practices at industrial facilities and procure low-carbon products through Buy Clean programs.
- Reduce methane emissions from oil and gas systems, agriculture, landfills, and other waste sources.
- Leverage nature-based solutions to strengthen the ability of natural and working lands to serve as robust, resilient natural carbon sinks.

FIGURE 9. By working together to advance actions that aim to save households money, cut emissions, and protect communities, Alliance members can help mitigate the loss of federal leadership.



Securing a net-zero future means cleaner air, lower costs, and healthier communities

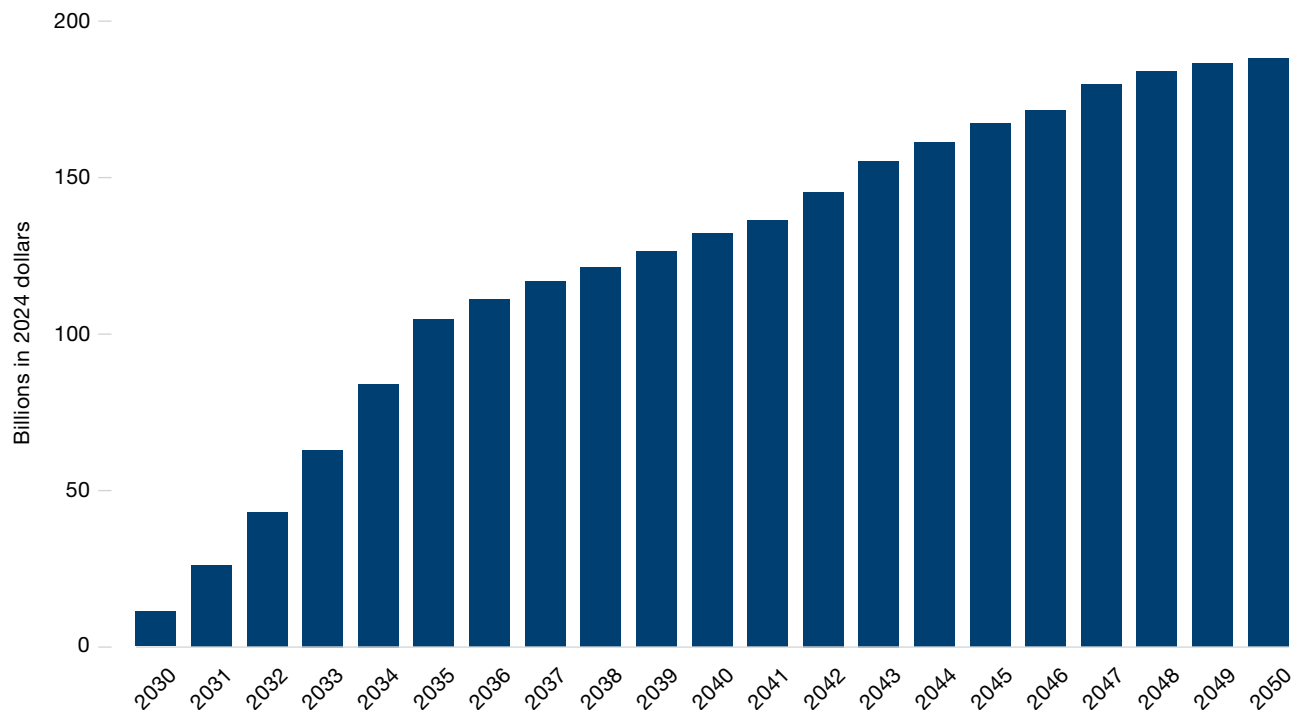
The Alliance continues to demonstrate the substantial benefits of advancing clean energy and clean technologies in every U.S. state and territory. In addition to contributing to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and limit global temperature increases, climate solutions are also improving the lives of workers and families while creating positive economic opportunities for businesses of all sizes. The policies and programs adopted by Alliance members to address climate change are strengthening local economies, creating good-paying jobs, supporting healthier communities, and making the country more energy independent.

On a monetary basis, E3's analysis estimates that achievement of the Alliance's collective climate goals would deliver \$11 billion in annual net savings by 2030, \$103 billion by 2035, and \$185 billion by

2050 — leading to trillions of dollars of cumulative net benefits to Americans over the coming years (Figure 10). These savings are estimated to be derived from improved public health, reduced spending on fossil fuels, and avoided climate damages. Importantly, the analysis does not include a broad array of additional benefits likely to accrue from achieving net-zero emissions, such as job creation, economic growth, and non-air-quality public health benefits.

Alliance governors recognize that communities across the country are already bearing the cost of climate change through such kitchen-table expenses as higher food prices,⁷² rising utility bills,⁷³ lost productivity from extreme heat,⁷⁴ and rapidly mounting housing insurance costs.⁷⁵ Additional societal costs are also accumulating from worsening wildfires and flooding events, increased spread of diseases, and damages to public infrastructure from extreme weather events, among other impacts. These immediate costs help underscore the economic imperative of climate action as Alliance states and territories redouble their efforts in the years to come.

FIGURE 10. Annual net benefits from transitioning to a net-zero economy.





HIGHLIGHTING SOLUTIONS across the Alliance

In March 2025, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro visited a York-based hydropower plant to announce key components of a “Lightning Plan,” a comprehensive energy plan coordinated with a coalition of labor, industry, environmental, and consumer leaders. The plan aims to lower energy costs, create good-paying jobs, streamline permitting, and boost in-state energy production across Pennsylvania.

Photo credit: Office of Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro

Enduring Growth of Clean Energy and Clean Technologies

Clean energy and clean technologies have experienced unprecedented growth in investment and innovation in recent years, across the country and around the world, fueled by efforts to reduce emissions and combat climate change while increasing energy security and bolstering resilience. In 2025, global investment in clean energy is on track to exceed investment in upstream oil and gas for the first time.⁷⁶ Electric vehicles made up over 20 percent of new cars sold worldwide in 2024, with 2025 forecasts expected to grow further and exceed 25 percent, representing over 20 million electric cars sold worldwide.⁷⁷ And according to the United Nations, over 92 percent of the world's new electricity capacity additions in 2024 were renewables, representing nearly 75 percent of all electricity generation growth last year.⁷⁸

In the U.S., Americans have directly benefited from record levels of investment in the manufacture, deployment, and purchase of clean energy and clean technology over the last two years, fueled by the *Inflation Reduction Act* and other federal laws. This growth supercharged the development of renewable energy sources,⁷⁹ the most cost-effective form of electricity generation to build. It also spurred the creation of more than 400,000 good-paying jobs and over \$422 billion in investments in new or expanded manufacturing facilities for batteries, electric vehicles, and other clean energy technologies.⁸⁰ These investments are transforming local communities and delivering cleaner air, lower costs, and stronger economies.

While the new administration has taken steps to slow this growth, the U.S. market is demonstrating that the transition to cleaner energy and technologies is increasingly durable and likely irreversible. Clean energy sources and clean technologies are offering Americans greater freedom from volatile fuel costs and more choices to lower their out-of-pocket costs on utilities and gas, while providing a pathway for communities and companies to prepare to meet growing energy demand, including from data centers. Even at a slower pace, the clean transition in America has continued throughout 2025 and will keep gaining traction over the coming years.

Clean energy and battery storage

States and territories in the U.S. have long led the way toward cleaner sources of energy, dating back to the early 2000s. Renewable energy generation has grown significantly since then, at a far faster rate than what is required under state policies like renewable and clean energy standards.⁸¹ Between 2000 and 2024, market forces drove renewable energy generation growth by 740 TWh, with only 300 TWh required under existing state policies. Specifically, electricity from wind and solar sources increased from less than one percent of total generation in 2005 to nearly 16 percent in 2024, with zero-carbon sources now generating more than 40 percent of the nation's electricity.⁸² California, the largest state in the nation by population and GDP, saw fully two-thirds of its retail electricity sales made up of renewable and zero-carbon electricity generation in 2023, compared to just 61 percent the previous year and around 41 percent a decade ago.⁸³

There are mounting indicators that America's transition to clean energy cannot be stopped, regardless of federal actions. A recent analysis of U.S. electricity generation finds that wind and solar are now the most cost-effective — and among the fastest — forms of electricity to build and operate, even without federal incentives.⁸⁴ The United States added 2.1 GW of new wind capacity in the

Community Impact Story

Illinois creates solar jobs and brighter futures



Under Governor JB Pritzker's leadership, the *Climate and Equitable Jobs Act* (CEJA) is transforming Illinois's energy economy by creating thousands of good-paying clean energy jobs, particularly in communities historically excluded from climate investments.^a "CEJA was written with equity at its core, so Black and Brown people aren't just getting jobs, they are building rewarding careers," said Delmar Gillus of Elevate, one of CEJA's lead negotiators.^b A standout example is the Gooseberry Solar project in Ford Heights, where CEJA has supported union job creation, partnerships with local minority- and women-owned businesses, and direct savings for low- to moderate-income households through community solar. With equity, workforce development, and energy affordability at its core, CEJA is delivering on the promise of a just and inclusive clean energy transition.



a "Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition | Home page." Accessed September 2025. <https://ilcleanjobs.org/>.

b Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition. "2nd Anniversary of *Climate and Equitable Jobs Act* (CEJA) Shows Huge Jump in Clean Energy." [Press Release] September 15, 2023. <https://ilcleanjobs.org/2023/09/15/2nd-anniversary-of-climate-and-equitable-jobs-act-ceja-shows-huge-jump-in-clean-energy/>.

first quarter of 2025, surpassing 2024's pace,⁸⁵ as well as nearly 11 GW of solar capacity, the fourth-highest quarter on record.⁸⁶ Looking ahead, a strong majority of the new capacity currently under construction and expected to come online in the United States through 2031 will also be powered by solar and wind (47 GW or 63 percent of total).⁸⁷

Battery storage is also seeing rapid growth across the country. In 2024, battery storage capacity nearly doubled, with total installed capacity reaching almost 29 GW.⁸⁸ As of May 2025, 18 additional GW of battery capacity was under construction.⁸⁹

This additional capacity is both lowering costs for Americans and strengthening the nation's grid, particularly during times of peak demand. For example, in Vermont, Green Mountain Power estimates that its network of batteries saved about \$3 million in total and avoided power purchases as temperatures soared to their highest levels of the year in June 2025.⁹⁰ Nationwide, the U.S.

Energy Information Administration found that increased battery capacity, coupled with generation from low-cost renewable energy, helped drive lower average wholesale electricity prices in 2024 compared to the year prior.⁹¹

Rooftop and community solar

Across the United States, a rapidly growing number of homeowners, businesses, and institutions are installing onsite solar, which not only reduces reliance on higher -polluting energy sources but also lowers electricity costs, strengthens grid resilience, improves air quality, and bolsters energy independence. Between 2020 and 2024, behind-the-meter solar capacity nearly doubled in the U.S. — increasing from 28 GW to 53 GW. By the end of 2024, over 5 million American households had installed rooftop solar.⁹² The federal government's own projections show this acceleration will continue in the coming years, with another 15 GW expected to be installed by the end of 2026.⁹³

These installations play an especially important role as the nation faces more extreme weather events — such as heat waves — that stress reliability of the grid and cause wholesale energy prices to soar. In one recent example, behind-the-meter solar panels installed across the New England region were found to have helped keep the power on, avoid blackouts, and save consumers at least \$8.2 million during a historic heat wave in June 2025, which saw the region's highest peak demand in several years.⁹⁴

Heat pumps and electric appliances

Heat pumps continued to outsell gas furnaces in the United States by an even larger margin in 2024 than in previous

years. These innovative electric technologies, which provide both heating and air conditioning, are far more energy efficient than traditional heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) appliances and offer considerable health and cost benefits to consumers, in addition to lower greenhouse gas emissions. Sales of heat pumps have now outpaced sales of gas furnaces in the U.S. consistently since 2022 and they led by the highest-ever margin in 2024, with Americans buying 32 percent more heat pumps than gas furnaces last year — beating the previous record-setting lead of 21 percent from 2023.⁹⁵

The vast majority of American households — up to 95 percent — would see lower energy bills by upgrading to a heat pump, according to one recent study.⁹⁶ Transitioning

Community Impact Story

Oregon builds community resilience through climate action



Under the leadership of Governor Tina Kotek, Oregon launched the Community Renewable Energy Program (C-REP), which provides \$12 million to support renewable energy or energy resilience projects for Tribes, public bodies, and consumer-owned utilities.^a The Gloria Center is a social service hub and emergency shelter for low-income community members of Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman counties. The center received over \$750,000 in C-REP grants for solar power, backup energy, and generators. These upgrades allow the facility to remain open during power outages, provide clean air and warming shelters during times of extreme weather, and reduce operating costs so more resources can go directly to community services like housing, food, and mental health support. Sarah Kellems, development and partnerships director for the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council, says that “having the energy resiliency components of the facility keeps our operational costs lower, which then results in each of our organizations having more funds available to directly serve our community.”^b



Photo credit: Mid-Columbia Community Action Council

a U.S. Climate Alliance. “Oregon: Building Community Resilience Through Climate Action.” YouTube, 2025. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xRfq0ImJWo>.

b Oregon Department of Energy. *Community Renewable Energy Grant Program: 2024 Program Report*. December 2024. <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Documents/2024-CREP-Program-Report.pdf>

to electric appliances like heat pumps can also improve indoor air quality in homes and businesses. Multiple studies have found that gas appliances emit harmful air pollutants like nitrogen oxides, benzene, and particulate matter, among others, which are linked to asthma, cancer, heart disease, and other health problems.⁹⁷ Upgrading to electric appliances can also help protect homeowners from unpredictable hikes in the price of fuel, which can fluctuate due to extreme weather, supply constraints, gas exports, and global demand pressures.⁹⁸

In 2023, Alliance governors set an ambitious target to collectively quadruple heat pump installations by the end of the decade, with the goal of reaching 20 million heat pumps installed across the coalition by 2030.⁹⁹ Initial sales data in 2024 demonstrates significant progress toward the achievement of that goal. Member states and territories continue to implement a suite of policies, programs, and investments to help more Americans reap the benefits of these technologies. This includes statewide programs, such as Oregon's new Heat Pump Purchase Program launched in 2025, as well as regional programs, such as the New England Heat Pump Accelerator that will leverage \$450 million in federal funding to rapidly

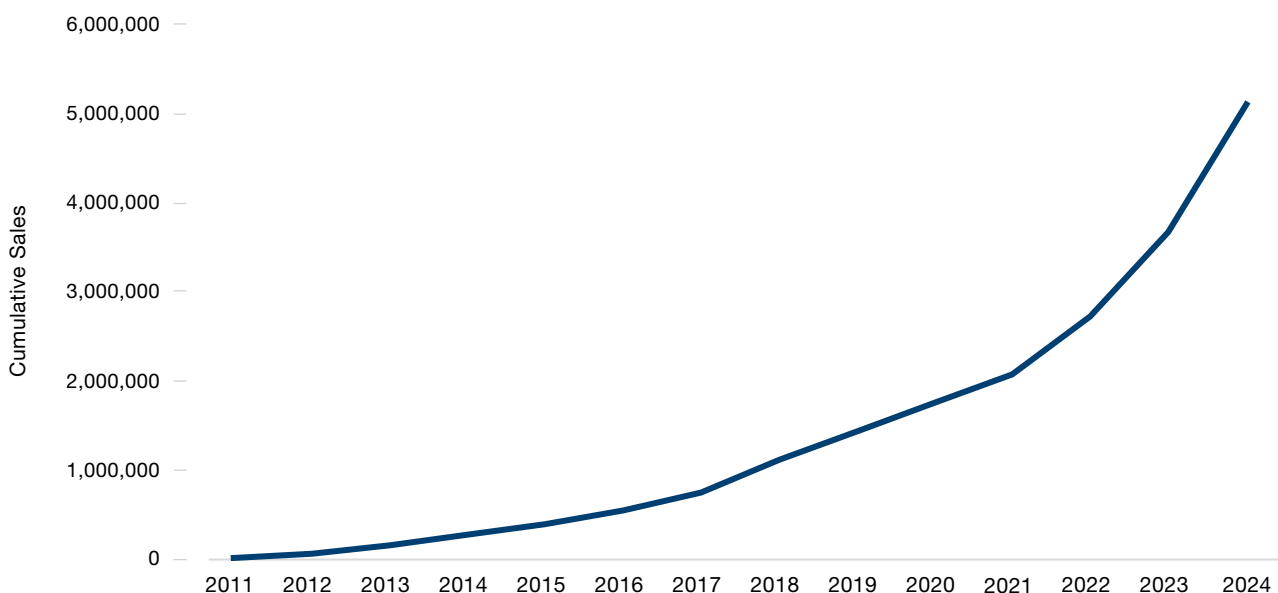
increase heat pump adoption in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Electric vehicles and charging infrastructure

Electric vehicle (EV) sales — including both fully electric and plug-in hybrid electric passenger vehicles — have surged in the U.S. in recent years (Figure 11). EV sales have grown by more than five times since 2020, such that last year, one of every 10 cars and trucks sold in America was an EV.¹⁰⁰ Manufacturers now offer more than 100 clean vehicle models for U.S. consumers to choose from, with more forthcoming, creating a dynamic market for these cutting-edge vehicles.¹⁰¹ The used market for EVs is also thriving, with one of the nation's top used vehicle sales platforms reporting that its share of used EV sales increased by a staggering 182 percent between 2023 and 2024.¹⁰²

Public charging infrastructure for EVs is more widely available in the United States than ever before, allowing Americans to more confidently recharge on longer trips

FIGURE 11. The United States surpassed 5 million EVs sold in 2024.



Source: Argonne National Laboratory Transportation Research Center (2011–18) and Atlas Public Policy EV Hub (2019–24)

and at destinations closer to home. The United States has nearly 14,000 public fast-charging stations, totalling 63,000 ports – nearly three times the number of fast-charging ports available as of 2021.¹⁰³ A recent report projects that 16,700 new fast-charging ports will open across the country in 2025, outpacing 2024.¹⁰⁴ If this rate of growth continues, the country is on track to surpass 100,000 total fast-charging ports in 2027. Fast-charging ports are also increasing in reliability and speed, with a rising share of ports featuring higher-power chargers.

EVs are not only reducing GHG pollution but also improving health outcomes for Americans. As EV adoption increases, data show that local air pollution levels and asthma-related emergency room visits both decrease.¹⁰⁵ Additionally, clean cars are saving people money at the pump, with an estimated \$1,200 in annual savings on fuel costs alone and an average of \$10,000 in savings over a car's

lifespan. It is no surprise, then, that the vast majority of EV owners say they would prefer to continue driving fully electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles for their next car, rather than switch back to a gas-powered vehicle.¹⁰⁶

Alliance members have helped spearhead this transition through clean vehicle programs and other state-led solutions that strengthen consumer choice, drive innovation, improve efficiency, and make EVs more affordable and accessible. Their leadership is delivering real results. This year, 10 states announced they had achieved an ambitious collective goal set in 2013 to put 3.3 million EVs on their roads by 2025 – hitting the milestone one year ahead of schedule.¹⁰⁷ In California, a longtime clean vehicle leader, EV sales reached more than double national levels, with EVs representing 25.5 percent of all new vehicle sales through the third quarter of 2025.¹⁰⁸ And in December 2024, Colorado announced it had reached the highest EV share

Community Impact Story

California prioritizes cleaner commutes for kids



Under Governor Gavin Newsom, California has significantly expanded access to zero-emissions school transportation by funding over 1,000 electric school buses across the state.^a This transition is already under way in districts like Oakland Unified, which now operates a fully electric fleet to reduce emissions and improve student health.^b “This is a landmark achievement, especially in Oakland, where families are disproportionately impacted by exposure to air pollution and high rates of asthma,” said Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell. “Zum’s electric school buses provide our students quieter, cleaner rides to and from school, giving them a better chance at success in the classroom, while ensuring the district is doing its part to cut down on air pollution to the benefit of all Oakland residents.” By prioritizing investments in pollution-burdened communities, California is slashing transportation emissions while delivering tangible health and education benefits for its youngest residents.



Photo credit: California Climate Investments

^a “Clean Mobility Options.” California Climate Investments. Accessed September 2025. <https://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/clean-mobility-options>.

^b California Climate Investments. “A Clean Ride to School: School Districts Go 100% Zero-Emission.” Accessed September 2025. <https://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/2025-profiles/a-clean-ride-to-school>.

of any state in the United States, with new EV purchases exceeding 30 percent of all light-duty vehicle sales in the fourth quarter of 2024.¹⁰⁹ Some of Colorado's success in increasing its EV share during 2024 can be attributed to state tax credits and rebate programs, such as Vehicle Exchange Colorado and utility provider incentives.¹¹⁰

While still a small share of total heavy-duty vehicles on the road, sales of new zero-emissions buses and trucks are also rising rapidly in the U.S., with new registrations growing by over 80 percent between 2023 and 2024. This was largely driven by a 128 percent increase in new zero-emissions bus registrations, with electric buses representing seven percent of all new bus registrations in 2024. Especially significant growth has been seen in school districts, which are moving to replace old diesel buses with new electric buses thanks to state and federal funding making the transition more affordable — providing students across the country with cleaner and healthier rides to and from school. In total, the number of electric school buses that have been awarded, ordered, delivered, or in operation in the United States has grown more than 12-fold since 2021.¹¹¹

Helping people and businesses access clean energy and clean technologies

There are many tax credits, rebates, and grant programs across the U.S. from multiple levels of government to help consumers save money on clean energy and clean technologies like EVs, heat pumps, induction cooktops, battery storage, geothermal systems, and more. As the number of these programs has grown, it has become increasingly complex for individuals and businesses to navigate the varied available resources, eligibility requirements, and

application and enrollment processes. To help Americans find and access all the relevant incentives for which they qualify, a growing number of Alliance states are developing unified resources or “one-stop shops” that help maximize the use of these rebates to reduce household energy costs while advancing state climate goals. Examples include:

Colorado: Launched the Colorado Energy Savings Navigator, which provides customers with an online interactive tool to navigate over 500 federal, state, and local clean energy rebate and incentive programs.¹¹² The tool is intended to streamline energy incentive and assistance information for customers, which ultimately will assist Colorado in meeting and exceeding projections for customer adoption of heat pumps, EVs, solar, and battery storage; accelerating adoption of energy efficiency and weatherization projects; and increasing adoption and accessibility of utility bill assistance. This digital tool is designed to help Coloradans quickly identify the rebates, incentives, and bill assistance programs for which they may qualify by answering a few simple questions in 10 minutes or less.¹¹³

New Jersey: Launched several tools aimed at helping users navigate the multitude of state, federal, and utility decarbonization incentives. The Department of Environmental Protection's Clean Energy Incentive page guides users to programs that will lower the overall cost of choosing environmentally sound, healthy, reliable, and money-saving ways to power, heat, and cool their homes and get them to and from those homes.¹¹⁴ Additionally, a robust multi-sector interactive tool was recently launched that connects efficiency, electrification, and other sustainability-focused projects with federal, state, and utility funding programs.¹¹⁵ Based on answers to a few simple questions, the tool estimates the total amount of eligible incentives and the percentage of project costs covered.



CONNECTICUT
Governor Ned Lamont

“In 2013, Connecticut took the bold step of joining several states in committing to put 3.3 million EVs on the road by 2025. I’m proud to stand with our partners today, recognizing the benefits of regional collaboration to celebrate how collectively we have met this historic milestone.”^v

Oregon: Launched the Energy Hub for Incentive Programs and Projects in Oregon to help homeowners, renters, and contractors learn more about what energy rebates they qualify for without having to navigate multiple websites or government departments.¹¹⁶ Homeowners can also leverage this tool to combine several different incentives to make their energy projects more affordable.

Pennsylvania: Developed the Energy Funding and Assistance Finder to assist communities and organizations in identifying opportunities to receive funding and technical assistance for energy projects that can help to help reduce pollution, lower bills, and drive the adoption of new, clean, and efficient technologies.¹¹⁷

Community Impact Story

Vermont powers down pollution at hospitals



Under Governor Phil Scott, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) developed the Diesel Emissions Reduction Financial Assistance Awards.^a The awards provide technical assistance and incentive funding for projects that reduce harmful diesel emissions from engines, vehicles, and equipment. Through this program, DEC has funded awards for Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Porter Medical Center, and Rutland Regional Medical Center to take an innovative approach to reducing diesel. Ambulances often idle after patient drop-off, releasing exhaust that can infiltrate emergency rooms and expose patients, staff, and visitors to harmful air pollutants. The hospitals installed a total of seven electric idle-reduction kiosks, so that ambulances can plug into the electric grid instead of idling their engines. In addition to reducing diesel pollution, this saves on both fuel use and engine wear. Vermont is the first state to implement this innovative technology, which improves local air quality and raises awareness about diesel pollution. As Rob Prohaska, director of plant services at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, explained, “Ambulance companies save diesel fuel and reduce wear and tear on the ambulances’ engines. For our patients, staff, and the community, it means healthier air.”^b



Photo credit: Artaxerxes, Wikimedia

- a Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. “Diesel Emissions Reduction Projects.” Accessed September 25, 2025. <https://dec.vermont.gov/air-quality/mobile-sources/diesel-emissions/vt-diesel-grant>.
- b Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. “Diesel Emissions Reduction Assistance.” Accessed September 25, 2025. <https://dec.vermont.gov/air-quality/mobile-sources/diesel-emissions/diesel-projects>.



HIGHLIGHTING SOLUTIONS across the Alliance

In early 2025, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey announced visits to communities across the state to highlight comprehensive plans to upgrade transportation infrastructure, including investments to modernize public transit. Governor Healey's administration continued to announce investments throughout the year, and, in August, announced it will allocate \$46 million through FY27 for EV charging infrastructure across Massachusetts.

Photo credit: Office of Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey

Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Throughout 2025, Alliance members have worked individually and together to defend and advance bold, high-impact actions across 10 key policy areas: GHG targets and governance; buildings; climate finance; electricity; industry; just transition and equity; natural and working lands; pricing carbon and valuing damages; resilience; and transportation. This chapter includes innovative actions that Alliance members have taken in each policy area during the past year. These state-led climate efforts are being deployed at scale to help address affordability, safeguard public health, grow the economy, and build climate resilience. For the most up-to-date, in-depth look at climate actions across each policy priority, explore the U.S. Climate Alliance Policy Database at data.usclimatealliance.org.

Policy Priorities

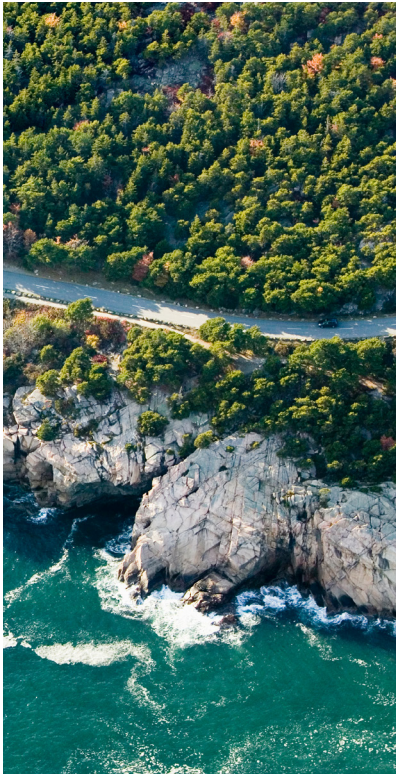
	GHG Targets & Governance	44
	Buildings	50
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	Electricity	62
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Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

GHG Targets & Governance

Alliance members are setting ambitious climate targets, developing and implementing detailed action plans, adopting programs that reduce emissions simultaneously across multiple sources, tracking progress, and engaging with communities, businesses, and other stakeholders to chart a path toward a net-zero future.



Member Action

The table below includes the number of members that have adopted — or are in the process of adopting — statutory and executive policies and actions. These counts are current as of October 2025.

Policies	# of Members
State climate action plans	24
Lead by Example programs and goals	23
Economy-wide GHG goals	20
Net-zero GHG goals	15

For the most up-to-date, in-depth breakdown of climate actions across the coalition, explore the Alliance Policy Database.

data.usclimatealliance.org

GHG Targets and Governance

Throughout the year, Alliance members have demonstrated their continued commitment to tackling climate change by both reducing their carbon emissions today and identifying ambitious pathways to drive further reductions tomorrow and in the years to come. Member states and territories have established new individual and collective climate targets, tracked and monitored progress toward their existing targets, and identified opportunities to raise ambition through progress reports and updated climate action plans.

Measuring progress

Alliance members are actively evaluating progress toward their existing climate goals, identifying opportunities to raise ambition, and improving their capacity to monitor and support continued emissions reductions. They are publishing progress reports, pursuing mandatory GHG emissions disclosure regulations, and continuing to engage with communities and stakeholders on emissions-reduction opportunities. In the last year, 15 states released updated statewide GHG emissions inventories: **California**,¹¹⁸ **Colorado**,¹¹⁹ **Connecticut**,¹²⁰ **Delaware**,¹²¹ **Hawai'i**,¹²² **Minnesota**,¹²³ **New Jersey**,¹²⁴ **New Mexico**,¹²⁵ **New York**,¹²⁶ **North Carolina**,¹²⁷ **Oregon**,¹²⁸ **Pennsylvania**,¹²⁹ **Rhode Island**,¹³⁰ **Vermont**,¹³¹ **Washington**,¹³² and **Wisconsin**.¹³³ Additional examples include:

California: According to its most recent GHG inventory,¹³⁴ the state's 2022 emissions were 14 percent below the 2020 target of returning to a 1990 baseline that was set forth in Assembly Bill 32.¹³⁵ The state inventory relies on a mandatory GHG reporting program that was established in 2007.¹³⁶ Additionally, California recently launched a process to develop regulations for the reporting of corporate GHG emissions and climate-created financial risk disclosure, the first reports of which are due in 2026.¹³⁷

Massachusetts: Released the second annual *Massachusetts Climate Report Card*,¹³⁸ which assesses the state's progress toward its climate goals and identifies remaining gaps. Per this report card, the state has made

significant progress in the past year, including securing unprecedented federal funds, advancing clean energy infrastructure siting and permitting reforms, significantly increasing the pace of heat pump installations and building weatherization, and expanding state and local investments in climate resilience.

Michigan: Published its *2024 MI Healthy Climate Plan Report*,¹³⁹ which annually assesses the state's progress toward its goal of 100 percent carbon neutrality, as codified by the MI Healthy Climate Plan. The 2024 report highlights legislative action, state and federal funding, state programs, and robust stakeholder engagement efforts that are growing the economy, creating good-paying jobs, lowering costs, and protecting the state's natural resources.

New Mexico: Published its *2022–2024 Climate Progress Report*, which evaluates the state's advancement toward its climate objectives. The new report outlines substantial progress, including enacted legislation, investments from state and federal sources, implementation of state programs, and building the state's resilience to climate change.

New York: Proposed regulations to establish a mandatory GHG reporting program that would require large emitters to report their emissions annually to the state.¹⁴⁰

North Carolina: Published the *Natural and Working Lands Action Plan 2024 Progress Report*,¹⁴¹ which provides a review of recommendations from the state's *2020 Natural*

and *Working Lands Action Plan*, status updates on the implementation of those recommendations between January 2021 and June 2024, and a path forward for protecting and restoring natural and working lands in North Carolina.

Oregon: Released its *2024 Biennial Report*,¹⁴² which provides key foundational information about the state's climate change impacts, emissions trends, and progress toward achieving Oregon's GHG emissions reduction goals. The report uplifts several key *Oregon Climate Action Roadmap* recommendations that continue to require action by the legislature¹⁴³; recommends new actions based on GHG emissions reduction potential and importance to a rapid and equitable transition to clean energy and a sustainable future; and identifies opportunities for advancing climate action in 2025 and 2026.

Mapping pathways to long-term decarbonization

Alliance members are continuing to raise the ambition of their climate targets while identifying new strategies to achieve net-zero emissions. In December 2024, the Alliance adopted a new collective target to reduce GHG emissions by 61–66 percent below 2005 levels by 2035, aligning with the new U.S. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) established by the outgoing federal administration. During summer 2025, Alliance members submitted comprehensive climate action plans under the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. At the same time, states and territories are exploring ways to strengthen their own climate plans and climate-planning processes. Examples include:

Connecticut: Enacted legislation that establishes new and ambitious state-wide emissions reductions targets of 45 percent from 2001 levels by 2030; 65 percent from 2001 levels by 2040; and net zero by 2050, provided direct and indirect emissions of GHGs are at least 80 percent from 2001 levels. The bill further mandates the annual publication of a GHG emissions inventory and triennial publication of a progress report toward the state's economy-wide GHG emissions reduction targets from January 1, 2026, onward.¹⁴⁴

Delaware: Published the *2024–2028 Delaware State Energy Plan*,¹⁴⁵ which outlines strategies to fulfill the state's energy goals as established by the *Delaware Climate Change Solutions Act* of 2023.¹⁴⁶ The state also began working with communities, stakeholders, and subject matter experts to draft its 2025 climate action plan, which will be published in late 2025.¹⁴⁷ This plan will build on the work outlined in the state's 2021 climate action plan, and will highlight strategies to reduce emissions, increase resiliency, and achieve the goals of the *Climate Change Solutions Act*.

Guam: Based on public surveys and strong community input, Guam is developing its *Guåhan 2050 Sustainability Plan*. This plan will center on building a sustainable future for Guam, with a focus on economic growth, affordable housing, clean water, reliable infrastructure, environmental protection, cultural preservation, and public health and safety.¹⁴⁸

Maine: Released an updated version of its four-year *Maine Won't Wait* climate action plan following a comprehensive public feedback process from over 1,000 people across the state.¹⁴⁹ The updated plan advances many of the goals of the 2020 report, with a sharpened focus on energy affordability for Maine people and businesses and a renewed effort to ensure that all Maine people have access to climate action, investments, and opportunities.¹⁵⁰

Michigan: Began updating its 2022 Climate Action Framework,¹⁵¹ which identified near-term actions the state must take to achieve its long-term goal of a carbon-neutral, resilient, and equitable future. The updated framework will include a more comprehensive set of actions with a stronger focus on collaboration, community benefits, and workforce needs.¹⁵² The framework, which will also include input from stakeholders, is expected to be released in late 2025.

Minnesota: Began updating the 2022 Climate Action Framework with a target release date of early 2026. The update to Minnesota's Climate Action Framework will add a chapter to focus specifically on energy efficiency in buildings, an enhanced discussion of climate financing options, and a stronger focus on ensuring equity in climate action. The framework will also highlight short-term actions needed to meet the current moment of climate policy and long-term strategies needed to meet the 2050 net-zero goal.

New Mexico: Developing a 25-year emissions-reduction roadmap that identifies concrete actions to meet the state's GHG reduction targets and aligns with the state's climate action plan to be released in 2025. The climate action plan has been developed following extensive outreach and engagement with state agencies, Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos, and the general public, and will provide a comprehensive and actionable framework to reduce emissions and meet the state's GHG reduction targets.

Oregon: Published the *Oregon Energy Strategy*, which identifies pathways to achieve the state's clean energy policy objectives and identify strategies and near-term actions to reduce emissions and maintain and expand access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy.¹⁵³

Pennsylvania: Released new versions of the state's *Climate Impacts Assessment Report* and its climate action plan. The *Climate Impacts Assessment Report* takes a risk-based approach to analyzing the consequences of climate hazards across different sectors in Pennsylvania

— such as warmer winters and increased tick and mosquito activity — and identifies 10 priorities for adaptation at the state level.¹⁵⁴ The climate action plan outlines a pathway for reducing the commonwealth's GHG emissions across all major contributing sectors and identifies 22 strategies to help Pennsylvanians adapt to the climate changes already taking place.¹⁵⁵

Rhode Island: Developing its 2025 Climate Action Strategy,¹⁵⁶ as required by the state's *Act on Climate* law.¹⁵⁷ The strategy, due at the end of 2025, will provide a comprehensive plan to reduce emissions and meet the state's GHG reduction goals.

Vermont: Published its *Vermont Climate Action Plan 2025*, which includes more than 250 recommendations and identifies the top 10 actions to reduce climate pollution and help Vermont communities become more resilient.¹⁵⁸ The plan was developed by the Vermont Climate Council, which relied on early and robust engagement from a variety of citizens, organizations, and businesses.

Community Impact Story

Hawai'i elevates youth climate leadership

Led by Governor Josh Green, Hawai'i hosted a statewide Youth Climate Summit at the state capitol, inviting youth and young adults ages 14–26 to shape climate policy and engage directly with lawmakers.^a The centerpiece of the event was the Climate Future Forum, a youth-led platform where over 80 students from across the islands worked alongside more than 20 partner organizations to advance climate solutions through five dynamic policy groups. “We amplify youth voices, ensuring that young people aren’t just included in environmental decision-making, but leading it head-on,” said student leader Mia Nishiguchi, reflecting on the momentum built since the forum’s first Capitol event and the record-breaking turnout in 2024. With Governor Green’s continued support, Hawai'i is showing how intergenerational collaboration can turn youth advocacy into meaningful action.



Photo credit: The East-West Center

^a Hawai'i State Department of Education. “Student Voice: We Must Fight for a Safe and Healthy Climate.” March 10, 2025. <https://hawaiipublicschools.org/2025-student-voice-we-must-fight-for-a-safe-and-healthy-climate/>.



MAINE
Governor Janet Mills

“Climate change is real, and it is harming our lives, our health, and our economy. In the last two years alone, Maine has experienced nine devastating natural disasters that have brought severe wind and flooding, prolonged power outages, and tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure damage. [Maine’s] updated climate action plan will build on my administration’s work to make our communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change to ensure that the Maine we love today remains the Maine that our children and grandchildren can love tomorrow.”^{vi}

More than 850 people took part in virtual and in-person input sessions and about 250 Vermonters or Vermont-based organizations submitted written comments.

Leading by example

Alliance members are leading by example in the clean energy transition by adopting comprehensive, equitable, and lasting climate solutions within government operations. Examples include:

Connecticut: Enacted legislation that establishes new emissions reductions targets for state agencies of 45 percent from 2001 levels by 2030; 70 percent from 2016 levels by 2040; and net zero by 2050.¹⁵⁹ The law further establishes that state agencies shall reach zero-carbon electricity by 2030 and directs the development of guidelines on the use of social cost of GHGs for state agencies when evaluating the costs and benefits of activities and improvements to state facilities. Connecticut’s executive branch emissions have decreased by over 14 percent since fiscal year (FY) 2019, including an eight percent reduction in annual building emissions. In July, Connecticut held its annual GreenerGov awards to honor the contributions of 12 state agencies making exceptional contributions to these goals.¹⁶⁰

Delaware: Enacted legislation establishing a requirement that all passenger vehicles and light-duty vehicles owned and operated by the state be zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs) by 2040. The law sets interim targets to help gradually transition the entire state fleet to ZEVs.¹⁶¹

Maine: Released its third *Lead By Example* report highlighting how Maine state operations were supplied by 100 percent renewable electricity for the first time in state history and generated nearly 6 million kilowatt hours from solar assets, while also progressing on more than 20 state building efficiency projects using \$3.5 million in Volkswagen settlement funds.¹⁶² The state has seen a seven percent decrease in emissions from buildings and facilities since 2020, driven mainly by the switch from fossil fuels to clean and efficient heat pump technology. The Maine Legislature also established the first Lead By Example fund, providing funding for a competitive, revolving grant program for state agency renewable energy projects, purchase of electric vehicles, construction of electric vehicle charging stations and initiatives that support maintenance, and upgrades and upkeep of renewable energy systems.¹⁶³

Maryland: Released climate plans submitted by 25 agencies to activate a whole-of-government strategy.¹⁶⁴ Following Governor Moore’s June Executive Order, *Leadership by State Government: Implementing Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan*,¹⁶⁵ these collective agency plans include over 100 priority actions to meet the state’s climate goals, including workforce development for installing clean appliances such as heat pumps, electrifying vehicle fleets, making state buildings more energy efficient, and diversifying the state’s energy portfolio.¹⁶⁶ The Governor’s Subcabinet on Climate also published its first annual progress report, which outlines a holistic approach to tackling climate change that prioritizes collaboration and coordination between all principal state agencies and proposes a suite of metrics that will be tracked regularly to ensure agencies are advancing policies and programs that maximize positive environmental, economic, and human health benefits for Marylanders.¹⁶⁷



Photo credit: U.S. Climate Alliance

Michigan: Michigan State Police announced the addition of its first electric vehicle to be used on patrol. The 2024 Ford Mustang Mach-E is assigned to state security operations to be used at state-owned and leased facilities in the Lansing area.¹⁶⁸

New Jersey: The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection launched a Lead by Example initiative,¹⁶⁹ which began with an October 2024 emissions inventory of its building and vehicle stock, and identified opportunities to implement energy efficiency and climate mitigation projects. Energy audits have been completed or are in progress at one-third of the department's facilities, 50 electric trucks have been purchased for field operations, and energy efficiency measures such as lighting, HVAC, hot water heater, and building envelope upgrades are being evaluated. Additionally, the department is evaluating its facilities for solar potential, with the goal of offsetting 100 percent of its building electricity consumption.

New Mexico: Enacted legislation establishing the Innovation in State Government Fund, which provides money to state agencies to develop master plans and build capacity to achieve net-zero emissions; implement sustainable economic policies; provide technical support to entities applying climate-related funding; and implement, enable, or reduce the barriers to implementing climate change policy.¹⁷⁰

Wisconsin: State agencies and University of Wisconsin campuses advanced clean energy leadership with five new solar projects that are either completed or under construction, and expanded EV adoption — including 25 new hybrid and electric vehicles — and the installation of charging infrastructure across the state enterprise. Supported by a dedicated interagency technical advisory team, these efforts — also including energy-efficient building projects, sustainable procurement initiatives, and leveraging federal tax incentives — demonstrate Wisconsin's commitment to building a cleaner, more resilient, and equitable state enterprise.



Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Buildings

Alliance members are committed to decarbonizing the buildings sector, including collectively achieving zero-emissions new construction as soon as practicable, accelerating efforts to eliminate emissions from existing buildings, and collectively quadrupling heat pump installations across the coalition by 2030.



Member Action

The table below includes the number of members that have adopted — or are in the process of adopting — statutory and executive policies and actions. These counts are current as of October 2025.

Policies	# of Members
Energy efficiency resource standards	22
Appliance efficiency standards	15
Statewide building performance standards	4
Clean heat standards	4
Emissions-based equipment standards	3

For the most up-to-date, in-depth breakdown of climate actions across the coalition, explore the Alliance Policy Database.

data.usclimatealliance.org

Buildings

Direct and indirect emissions from the buildings sector account for more than 30 percent of total nationwide GHG emissions. During the past year, Alliance members have worked to address this sector by developing and implementing innovative new policies to improve energy efficiency and building performance, while increasing electrification of building energy use — including accelerating heat pump deployment (Box 4, see page 53). Through these approaches, states and territories are also delivering health and economic benefits such as lower energy costs, improved public health and well-being, and increased resilience for building owners and operators, families, and communities alike.

Adopting more efficient building codes and standards

Updated residential and commercial building codes and standards are a critical tool to address GHG emissions in the buildings sector. Updated codes improve energy efficiency and also improve building occupant comfort and safety, reducing energy bills and supporting clean energy jobs. In addition, enhanced building codes enable a building's readiness to support EVs and solar energy, which is crucial to achieving broader decarbonization goals. Building benchmarking and performance standards also improve transparency regarding energy use and assist large multifamily and commercial building owners in identifying energy-saving upgrades. Examples include:

Colorado: Continued its work in elevating building energy code adoption from HB22-1362.¹⁷¹ Additionally, the Energy Code Board adopted its Model Low Energy and Carbon Code, which will take effect for jurisdictions updating building and energy codes after July 1, 2026.¹⁷² Following the passage of HB25-1269 *Building Decarbonization Measures*, the Colorado Energy Office is also creating a building decarbonization enterprise fund to provide financial assistance and technical assistance to aid compliance for buildings covered by performance standards under Building Performance Colorado.¹⁷³

Hawai'i: Joined the National Building Performance Standard Coalition, a collaboration between state and local governments led by the Institute for Market Transformation. Through this coalition, Hawai'i will initiate state building retrofits and lead by example, with the aim of advancing building performance legislation or regulation by April 2026.¹⁷⁴

Illinois: The Illinois Capital Development Board approved the first Illinois Stretch Energy Code, an alternative to the base code with more ambitious energy efficiency and electrification targets. All state-funded facilities had to comply with the Stretch Energy Code starting January 2025, and municipalities can voluntarily adopt the stretch code in place of the base code.¹⁷⁵

Maine: Updated the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code from the 2015 version to the 2021 version for residential and commercial construction. The state is providing outreach and support to stakeholders regarding the updated building code. Maine municipalities may also voluntarily adopt a new stretch code, which establishes higher energy efficiency standards for buildings in the state.¹⁷⁶

New York: The State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council signed off on new rules requiring new buildings to go all-electric starting in 2026.¹⁷⁷ The new code requires new single-family homes, small commercial buildings, and new residential construction with less than eight stories to be electrified starting next year. New York also enacted legislation that directs the state energy conservation construction code to set standards for EV charging stations and EV-ready parking spaces in certain new buildings.¹⁷⁸ In addition, the state announced \$30 million in funding through the Empire Building Challenge Hospitals Program for electrification of building heating and cooling, electric-readiness measures, and energy efficiency improvements. The program prioritizes projects in disadvantaged communities and provides additional support for training on building operations and maintenance.¹⁷⁹ These efforts align with the state's emissions reduction plans, as buildings account for 40 percent of New York's emissions.

Washington: Awarded \$45 million in Clean Buildings Performance Grant funding to 70 public and private building owners across the state to assist building owners in making energy efficiency upgrades in accordance with the state's Clean Buildings Performance Standard. In addition, the Washington State Department of Commerce launched the Energy Audit Incentive Program, allocating \$14.5 million in additional funding to assist public building owners in identifying opportunities for efficiency upgrades.¹⁸⁰

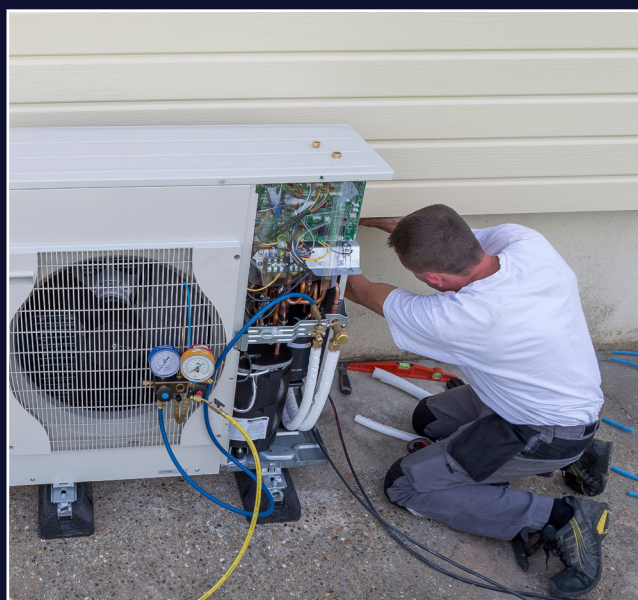
Wisconsin: After a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision ruled that a legislative committee was unconstitutionally blocking Wisconsin's building code update,¹⁸¹ Wisconsin's commercial building code will be modernized to be in line with the 2021 International Code Council standards — the first improvements to the commercial building code in a decade. Efforts are also underway to update the state's uniform dwelling codes for one- and two-family residential buildings.

Community Impact Story

Maine transforms residential heating one heat pump at a time



Maine is one of the most heating oil-dependent states in the U.S., sending more than \$4.5 billion annually out-of-state for petroleum imports. To reduce this reliance, Governor Janet Mills set a 2019 goal of installing 100,000 electric heat pumps, which use electricity and can significantly lower utility bills, by 2025. Thanks to state efficiency rebates of up to \$12,900, the state reached that goal two years early. The surge in installations has created local jobs, with Freeport-based Royal River Heat Pumps growing from a one-person operation in 2013 to over 50 employees installing 1,000 units per year. “With Governor Mills and the rebates that have been put in place ... it's made that transition to heat pumps more affordable,” said founder Scott Libby. Maine has now raised its target to install an additional 175,000 heat pumps by 2027, inspiring similar action nationwide and contributing to the Alliance's broader effort to quadruple installations by decade's end.^a



^a U.S. Climate Alliance. “Maine: Transforming America One Heat Pump at a Time.” YouTube, 2025. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjxqjEd-Zcg>.

BOX 4. Alliance Members Advance Heat Pump Deployment

In 2023, Alliance members committed to accelerating the pace of heat pump adoption by collectively reaching 20 million heat pump installations across Alliance states by 2030.¹⁸²

Heat pumps — super-efficient devices that can both heat and cool buildings — continue to build market momentum, outselling gas furnaces consistently since 2021.¹⁸³

Examples of state action to accelerate heat pump deployment include:

California: The California Heat Pump Partnership, a public-private partnership committed to achieving Governor Newsom’s goal of installing 6 million heat pumps by 2030, released a blueprint to address technical, market, workforce, and policy barriers to heat pump adoption. The blueprint identifies strategies to overcome these barriers and deliver on the state’s goals.¹⁸⁴ State Treasurer Fiona Ma also announced a \$30 million agreement with the California Energy Commission to expand the GoGreen Financing program for home energy efficiency upgrades.¹⁸⁵

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island: Along with New Hampshire, awarded \$450 million under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program to launch the New England Heat Pump Accelerator. Led by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the coalition is working to accelerate adoption of heat pumps and heat pump water heaters in residences across the region, while investing in historically underserved communities. In addition, the coalition is partnering with manufacturers, distributors, and installers,

and is advancing strategies to support workforce training and reduce barriers to affordability.¹⁸⁶

North Carolina: Launched its \$104 million Home-owners Managing Efficiency Rebates program as part of Energy Saver North Carolina in January 2025. The rebates are designed to make it more affordable for households to install cost- and energy-saving measures such as heat pumps, electrical panels, and insulation. Qualifying households are eligible for up to \$8,000 toward heat pumps for heating or cooling spaces through 2031 (or until funds are depleted).¹⁸⁷

Oregon: Launched its \$24 million Heat Pump Purchase Program, which offers homeowners, rental property owners, and home builders \$2,000 in rebates to install efficient heat pumps in Oregon residences. The program is part of the state’s broader Climate Equity and Resilience Through Action Program, funded by a \$197 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant through the IRA.^{188,189}

Community Impact Story

Washington invests in cleaner and healthier buildings



Washington, under Governor Bob Ferguson, awarded \$55.5 million in March 2025 to support building owners in meeting the state's Clean Building Performance Standards, with \$45 million dedicated to energy-efficient retrofits and \$14.5 million allocated for energy audits in public buildings. Funded by the state's *Climate Commitment Act*, the grants helped 70 building owners lower emissions, cut utility costs, and make upgrades such as LED lighting, smart controls, and HVAC improvements — particularly benefiting rural and underserved communities. In Pasco, the school district received nearly \$2 million to install 24 heat pumps and upgrade hot water systems across more than 20 buildings. "This funding allows us to make meaningful improvements that will enhance the learning environment for our students while also reducing energy costs," said Raúl Sital, Pasco School District assistant superintendent of operations and supports.^a



Photo credit: Office of Washington Governor Bob Ferguson

^a Washington State Department of Commerce. "Commerce Awards \$55.5 Million to Help Building Owners Meet Clean Building Performance Standards." [Press Release] March 19, 2025. <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/commerce-awards-55-5-million-to-help-building-owners-meet-clean-building-performance-standards/>.

Adopting next-generation appliance and equipment efficiency standards

Alliance members have accelerated the transition to safer and more efficient equipment and appliances by adopting expanded appliance efficiency standards and pursuing next-generation, zero-emissions standards. States adopting these standards are helping consumers save money on their energy and water bills while reducing wasted energy. Examples include:

Maine: Enacted legislation that expands appliance water and energy efficiency standards to include seven

new appliance categories: commercial battery chargers, commercial dishwashers, commercial food steamers, commercial fryers, commercial ovens, residential ventilating fans, and computer server power supplies.¹⁹⁰

Maryland: Solicited stakeholder input on modifying the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management's Model Rule for Nitrogen Oxides and GHG Emissions Standards for Space and Water Heaters to develop a similar standard for Maryland.¹⁹¹ The Maryland Department of the Environment intends to advance a zero-emissions heating equipment standard via regulation as early as 2026.¹⁹²

Advancing building decarbonization through utility planning and innovation

Alliance members are making progress in reducing building emissions by engaging utilities and fuel providers and pursuing pathways tailored to the specific needs and goals of their states. These pathways include energy efficiency resource standards and energy efficiency programs, gas utility planning and pipeline safety, clean heat programs, and thermal energy networks. Examples include:

California: Enacted legislation to create the Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating initiative (TECH) and the Building Initiative for Low Emissions Development program (BUILD) pursuant to Senate Bill 1477.¹⁹³ The TECH initiative accelerates the adoption of clean space and water heating technology across California homes to create an equitable pathway to carbon-free homes by 2045 and install 6 million heat pumps by 2030 in existing buildings.¹⁹⁴ The BUILD program is designed to provide technical assistance and incentives for new all-electric, low-income residential buildings that reduce GHG emissions.¹⁹⁵

Hawai'i: Enacted House Bill 1051 to update and extend the state's energy efficiency portfolio standard, targeting 6,000 GW hours in electricity savings by 2045.¹⁹⁶

Maine: Approved the *Efficiency Maine Trust Triennial Plan VI*, a strategic plan to reduce energy use, GHG emissions, and energy costs for Maine residents and businesses between 2026 and 2028. The plan is expected to result in 38,000 homes fully heated by heat pumps, 9,900 weatherized homes, and \$490 million in electricity rate suppression.¹⁹⁷

New Jersey: Approved the Triennium 2 energy efficiency programs, the second cycle of the state's multi-year programs established by the *Clean Energy Act of 2018*. The \$3.75 billion programs prioritize low-income customers with high energy burdens and support energy conservation and building decarbonization.¹⁹⁸

North Carolina: Implemented former Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order 80, which requires energy efficiency improvements in state government units (universities, cabinet agencies, and other agencies) in FY 2023–24. This has resulted in approximately 1,058,164 metric tons of avoided carbon dioxide-equivalent GHG emissions for state governmental units, and translated to \$196 million in avoided taxpayer costs.¹⁹⁹

Washington: Enacted legislation that encourages the deployment of low-carbon thermal energy networks (a next-generation district heating and cooling technology). Electric utilities are required to put forward plans that consider where and how thermal energy networks could be incorporated into their service territories and to consider providing discounted rates to thermal energy network customers.²⁰⁰



RHODE ISLAND
Governor Dan McKee

“Since launching Clean Heat RI in September 2023, many households in Rhode Island have updated their long-term heat and cooling needs while saving on energy costs. The expansion of Clean Heat RI [in July 2025 with Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative funding] will help more families modernize their energy systems while advancing the state’s clean energy economy.”^{vii}



Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Climate Finance

Alliance members are deploying a wide range of financial policies and programs, leveraging diverse funding sources, and partnering across the public and private sectors to finance the net-zero transition.



Member Action

The table below includes the number of members that have adopted — or are in the process of adopting — statutory and executive policies and actions. These counts are current as of October 2025.

Policies	# of Members
Solar for All programs*	23
Green and/or resilient infrastructure banks	18

* Federal Solar for All program currently subject to litigation

For the most up-to-date, in-depth breakdown of climate actions across the coalition, explore the Alliance Policy Database.

data.usclimatealliance.org

Climate Finance

Alliance members are leveraging public and private investments and innovative financing tools to support their climate mitigation and resilience efforts while ensuring affordability, accessibility, and a just economic transition. Over the past year, member states and territories have strategically utilized low-cost public capital and new financing mechanisms to advance a variety of climate and infrastructure projects and further unlock private investments for both grid-scale and distributed renewable energy, EVs and charging infrastructure, home energy efficiency projects, industrial decarbonization, and new advanced energy manufacturing facilities — all of which offer economic, public health, and quality-of-life benefits for Americans. In 2025, Alliance members also banded together to defend federal climate investments as Congress took up legislation rolling back key programs, and attorneys general from Alliance states collaborated to successfully secure restoration of frozen federal funds that are reducing energy costs, cleaning up pollution, and supporting the clean transition.

Leveraging partnerships and federal financing tools

Alliance members are bolstering the climate finance ecosystem and maximizing public investments to support locally-driven projects that tackle pollution and support healthier, safer communities. State-led coordination and outreach through webinars and technical assistance have helped industry, local governments, and consumers across the coalition connect to federal funding opportunities and identify solutions to funding gaps. Alliance members worked to implement projects funded by EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, including projects focused on financial incentives for heat pumps; industrial decarbonization; and siting, zoning, and permitting of renewable energy generation.²⁰¹ Alliance states also led by example — leveraging direct-pay clean energy tax credits to finance fleet decarbonization, electrification, and clean energy generation projects — and helped local governments, schools, and other tax-exempt entities claim tax credits as well. Examples include:

Arizona: Provided workshops and coordination to ensure public school systems could navigate federal tax credits.²⁰² As such, the Pendergast District leveraged group purchasing agreements to install rooftop solar supported by direct pay²⁰³ and Creighton School District has followed in their footsteps.²⁰⁴

Maine: Facilitated district-level planning assistance, including funding programs, to help streamline the *Inflation Reduction Act* tax credit process.²⁰⁵ The state treasurer also helped align state bonds to finance school construction projects in a collective effort to decarbonize school campuses.²⁰⁶ As a leading example, the South Portland Middle School installed ground source heat pumps, solar, and electric vehicle charging equipment.²⁰⁷

Minnesota: The Department of Administration, in coordination with four state agencies, led the leveraging of elective pay to upgrade state assets with two ground source heat pumps, four solar energy projects, and 110 EVs.²⁰⁸



Photo credit: Office of Colorado Governor Jared Polis

Pennsylvania: Filed for projects placed in service during FY 2023, including 37 EVs, seven solar projects, and seven vehicle charging stations. The forthcoming FY 2024 filing is expected to include 20 charging stations, seven electric vehicles, seven solar projects, and one large ground-source heat pump project at a state university. The state expects to receive more than \$3 million in elective payments for its initial filings.²⁰⁹

Washington: Launched the Clean Energy Tax Credit Assistance Program to help local governments, Tribes, nonprofits, and other tax-exempt entities take full advantage of clean energy tax credits.²¹⁰ For example, Seattle Public Schools received \$7.97 million via elective pay for installing ground-source heat pump systems at three elementary schools. The state's energy office helped the district access federal tax credits and ensure equitable job training opportunities.²¹¹

Wisconsin: Provided technical assistance, trainings, and webinars that helped school districts understand and apply for elective pay.²¹² The Oregon school district leveraged elective pay to become home to Wisconsin's first net-zero school.^{213, 214}

Catalyzing investments in key sectors

Throughout 2025, Alliance states made significant investments in climate and clean energy while helping stand up new green banks, strengthen financing tools, and launch accelerator programs to catalyze further support for climate solutions. These strategies aim to leverage federal, state, and private sector funds to finance projects

that reduce emissions and increase resiliency, including offering low-interest loans, grants, and other favorable terms for project proponents. Additionally, green banks in 23 Alliance states and territories joined the new U.S. Green Banks 50 Coalition, which launched in fall 2024 to build political and public support across regions, support peer learning and technical assistance, standardize tools and reporting, and strengthen collaboration to effectively deploy investments. Examples include:

Michigan: Announced the Michigan Climate Investment Accelerator to scale green lending across the state. Comprising the \$11 million Michigan Climate Investment Fund and the Michigan Climate Investment Hub, the accelerator helps community lenders secure funding for clean energy projects.²¹⁵

Minnesota: Released the statutory framework for the Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority, which provides a first-of-its-kind elective pay bridge loan for a geothermal energy system serving affordable housing and community development.²¹⁶ The Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority used state funding to provide clean energy financing to seven projects, totaling \$21.1 million invested. One of these projects establishes a revolving loan fund for small loans for energy-efficient homes throughout the state.²¹⁷

New Mexico: Enacted a suite of climate finance legislation, which includes additional appropriations for solar energy,²¹⁸ a new tax incentive for ground-coupled heat pumps,²¹⁹ and other sustainability efforts, and creates a new \$210 million Community Benefit Fund to finance state projects that reduce emissions and enhance sustainability efforts.²²⁰

Community Impact Story

New York reduces traffic and pollution in and around Manhattan



In January 2025, New York Governor Kathy Hochul celebrated the start of congestion pricing, which charges motorists \$9 during peak hours to enter Manhattan through certain routes. This policy — the first of its kind in the U.S. — followed the example of other international cities in hopes of reducing traffic and generating revenue for public transportation. In just a few months, the toll has cut Manhattan traffic delays by 25 percent and reduced gridlock in nearby counties by as much as 14 percent, all while raising \$216 million for the MTA.^a “With gridlock down, buses moving faster, and revenue rolling in for reliable trains and accessible stations, New York is proving that our government can work for the people,” said Danny Pearlstein, Riders Alliance director of policy and communications.^b



a Bloomberg. “NYC Congestion Toll Cuts Manhattan Gridlock by 25%, RPA Reports.” June 18, 2025. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-18/nyc-s-congestion-toll-slashes-traffic-jams-in-manhattan-by-25>.

b NBC New York. “NYC Congestion Pricing Has More Support Than Ever as Trump Deadline Looms, New Poll Finds.” March 10, 2025. <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nyc-congestion-pricing-support-grows/6165502/>.

New York: Implemented a congestion pricing policy, creating dedicated revenue to support Metropolitan Transit Authority’s \$15 billion capital plan, financed through climate bonds that fund infrastructure upgrades such as climate resilience efforts and electric buses.^{221,222}

North Carolina: Established the North Carolina Commercial Property Assessed Capital Expenditure program, a public-private partnership that allows commercial property owners to access long-term financing from private lenders for energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and resiliency improvements. The program is administered by the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, with local governments voluntarily opting in to allow repayment through property tax assessments, leveraging public tools to attract private capital.²²³

Washington: Conducted a market assessment, in partnership with the City of Seattle, to ground WA Green

Bank in the most pressing statewide climate finance needs. The state’s Department of Commerce hired WA Green Bank’s first executive director, who will begin fundraising and building programs that align with market assessment findings, with the goal of launching programs in 2026.²²⁴

Leveraging existing financial tools for climate solutions

States are aligning budgets with their climate goals and integrating climate into their operations and strategic plans, including through executive orders, climate action plans, emissions-reduction targets, and internal budget processes. By embedding climate considerations across government, Alliance members are working to ensure that public funds support their states’ long-term environmental and economic resilience. At the same



Photo credit: Office of Colorado Governor Jared Polis

time, states are helping deliver low-cost upfront capital to finance clean energy and climate resiliency projects, including through bonds that can yield a higher rate of return and generate long-term savings from lower energy bills, reduced disaster recovery costs, job creation, and economic growth. Examples include:

California: In 2024, California Climate Investments programs funded by the state's cap-and-invest program collectively implemented nearly \$1.9 billion, with roughly \$1.2 billion of these investments benefiting priority populations. California Climate Investments continue to drive climate action, advance environmental justice and equity, and build resilient communities through investments in projects across sectors like transportation, housing, energy, agriculture, and natural and working lands, contributing significantly to the state's climate, environmental, public health, economic, and equity goals. In 2024 alone, these programs leveraged an additional \$2.8 billion in funding from various sources such as federal, private, and local contributions.²²⁵

Delaware: Allocated \$24.7 million in its FY 2025 operating budget for shoreline and waterway resiliency initiatives. A \$7.5 million allocation was made for EV infrastructure and clean energy projects.²²⁶

Michigan: Secured \$337 million for the Make It in Michigan Competitiveness Fund, a pool of state money that provides enabling funds to unlock federally backed investments in climate and clean energy. The fund identifies competitive projects that create good-paying jobs, advance the goals of the MI Healthy Climate Plan, and improve the state's economic competitiveness in strategic sectors like mobility and electrification, climate and the environment, health, and public safety.²²⁷

New York: Allocated \$500 million in the FY 2025 budget for clean water infrastructure, \$425 million for the Environmental Protection Fund, \$150 million for resilient infrastructure, and \$47 million for tree plantings.²²⁸

Community Impact Story

Delaware Delivers Energy Relief & Long-Term Savings



Under Governor Matt Meyer, Delaware coordinated with the Sustainable Energy Utility (Energize Delaware) and Delmarva Power to provide immediate bill relief for families hit by winter spikes—while requiring participants to enroll in free home energy-efficiency programs like the Home Energy Counseling and Checkup program so monthly costs come down for good. By pairing urgent help with efficiency upgrades, Delaware is protecting wallets today and reducing waste tomorrow. “At a time when energy prices have stretched household budgets through both winter and summer, this agreement will bring nearly \$6.5 million in total relief and energy-saving support to our communities—without shifting any of the cost burden onto customers,” said Governor Meyer.^a The package also created the Delaware Energy Fund—administered by the SEU—to assist households up to 350 percent of the federal poverty level and tie assistance to participation in energy-saving programs.^b It’s a practical, equitable approach that lowers bills now and locks in long-term savings for Delawareans.



- a Office of Delaware Governor Matt Meyer. “Governor Meyer Announces \$6.5 Million Credit Program For Delawareans Struggling With Utility Bills.” [Press Release] June 18, 2025. <https://news.delaware.gov/2025/06/18/governor-meyer-announces-6-5-million-credit-program-for-delawareans-struggling-with-utility-bills/>.
- b Energize Delaware. “Delaware Energy Fund.” Accessed October 31, 2025. <https://energizedelaware.org/delaware-energy-fund/>

Oregon: Aligned public spending for FY 2025–27 with climate-related priorities, including wildfire response, public safety, and climate action efforts.²²⁹ For example, the Legislative Fiscal Office 2025–57 Budget Review for Oregon’s Department of Transportation²³⁰ aligns transportation strategies and spending with Executive Order 20-04, which calls for significant reductions in GHG emissions by 2035 and 2050. This action is consistent with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan 2024–2027, which requires evaluating construction-related GHG emissions.²³¹ Oregon Parks and Recreation also identifies climate adaptation allocation strategy in its FY 2025–27 plan.²³²

Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority released its 2025 draft Energy Development Plan, which articulates the agency’s energy policy goals and its plan for the allocation and distribution of financial and technical assistance to achieve its mission.²³³

Wisconsin: The FY 2025–27 biennial state budget signed into law by Governor Evers includes over \$700 million for clean water infrastructure, invests millions to bolster Wisconsin’s forestry industry, and provides \$27 million for energy conservation projects in state buildings.²³⁴



Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Electricity

Alliance members are developing policy pathways and programs to decarbonize the electricity grid, including establishing interim targets and identifying opportunities to better align planning and procurement processes for generation, distribution, and transmission resources with our collective climate goals.



Member Action

The table below includes the number of members that have adopted — or are in the process of adopting — statutory and executive policies and actions. These counts are current as of October 2025.

Policies	# of Members
Clean electricity standards	24
100% clean electricity goals	19
Offshore wind goals	9
Energy storage goals	8

For the most up-to-date, in-depth breakdown of climate actions across the coalition, explore the Alliance Policy Database.

data.usclimatealliance.org

Electricity

Alliance members are developing policy pathways and programs to decarbonize the electricity grid, including establishing interim targets and aligning planning and procurement processes for energy generation, distribution, and transmission with their climate goals. Reducing climate pollution from electricity generation is also critical to support rapid decarbonization of the transportation, buildings, and industrial sectors. Growing demands on America's electricity system — including expansion of domestic manufacturing and growth of large data centers — have posed new challenges and opportunities to Alliance member efforts. Throughout the year, states and territories advanced bold solutions to expand and modernize energy distribution and transmission and to deploy more zero-carbon energy sources to ensure all communities have access to affordable, clean, reliable, and resilient energy.

Progressing toward 100 percent clean electricity

Transitioning to cleaner sources of electricity is critical to reducing overall GHG emissions and strengthening America's energy independence, security, and affordability. Alliance members continue to drive clean energy progress forward, including by adopting ambitious clean electricity goals that exceed national standards, expanding proven clean energy programs, and undertaking intentional planning and procurement processes to advance their clean energy goals. Examples include:

California: Announced that California was powered by 67 percent clean energy in 2023, compared to 61 percent the previous year and around 41 percent a decade ago. California's battery storage capacity now exceeds 15,700 MW, helping create a safer and more reliable power grid.²³⁵ Additionally, in June 2025, the California Energy Commission approved what will be the world's largest solar and battery storage project — the first to be permitted under the state's accelerated permitting program.²³⁶

Colorado: Enacted legislation that aims to support geologic carbon sequestration and geothermal energy production in the state. This law creates the geologic storage stewardship enterprise within the Department of Natural Resources to take on long-term stewardship of carbon sequestration facilities, and makes updates to laws concerning the administration of underground geothermal resources.²³⁷ The Colorado Energy Office also announced \$14.4 million in awards to support 16 geothermal heating projects across the state. Awards from the Geothermal Energy Grant Program and the Geothermal Energy Tax Credit Offering allow awardees to install geothermal heat pumps and thermal energy networks to efficiently heat and cool homes, schools, churches, hospitals, and other buildings across the state.²³⁸ Colorado also enacted legislation that clarifies that nuclear energy is an eligible clean energy resource to meet the state's clean energy targets.²³⁹

Connecticut: In May of this year, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection launched the Community Renewable Energy Siting Tool to assist in solar siting. This tool, which is free and open to the public, will enable a more transparent and efficient siting and permitting process for large-scale renewable energy projects.^{240,241}

Hawai'i: Governor Josh Green issued an executive order accelerating renewable development for island communities to reach 100 percent renewable energy in 2035 (10 years early), setting a statewide goal of 50,000 distributed renewable energy installations such as rooftop solar and battery systems by 2030. The executive order also directs state departments to streamline and accelerate the permitting of renewable developments to reduce energy costs and project development timelines.²⁴²

Illinois: Enacted the *Electric Transmission Systems Construction Standards Act*, which changes how the state funds renewable energy developments.²⁴³ This law establishes prevailing wage requirements and tax incentives for high-voltage transmission lines and utility-scale battery storage projects.

Maine: Enacted legislation to codify Maine's plans to reach 100 percent clean energy by 2040, 10 years earlier than its previous clean energy goal.²⁴⁴ The law requires the state's energy office to expand Maine's existing renewable portfolio standard to 90 percent by 2040, focusing on rooftop solar, wind, and other local clean energy resources. The remaining 10 percent will be dedicated to a new category of energy resources.

Maryland: Enacted a series of energy reform bills aimed at increasing in-state electricity generation and reducing utility rate increases for customers. The *Next Generation Energy Act* creates a procurement process for new nuclear energy, provides rebates to electric customers on their bills, cuts back on red tape for solar energy deployment, provides incentives for battery storage, and creates additional ratepayer protections, among other provisions.²⁴⁵ The *Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act* establishes a state office devoted to energy planning²⁴⁶ and the *Renewable Energy Certainty Act* lays out uniform siting standards for solar and storage projects.²⁴⁷

Massachusetts and Rhode Island: Announced the largest offshore wind selection in New England history.²⁴⁸ Three projects will power the equivalent of 1.6 million homes across the two states and are expected to create thousands of jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic activity.

Michigan: Awarded \$21.3 million in grants to 19 recipients, including schools, community groups, Tribes, and other organizations to conduct planning for, or construction of, renewable energy and electrification projects.²⁴⁹

New Jersey: Reached a milestone achievement of 5 gigawatts of installed solar capacity in December, more than doubling its solar energy output since 2017.²⁵⁰ New Jersey also launched a comprehensive Solar Incentive Siting Tool, which provides solar developers with mapping support and analysis to aid in identifying preferred and allowable locations for siting solar photovoltaic projects under the current solar incentive programs offered by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.²⁵¹ This web-mapping application contains a suite of mapping tools to support each of the following solar incentive programs: the Competitive Solar Incentive Program, the Community Solar Energy Program, the Dual-Use Solar Pilot Program, and the Remote Net Metering Program. A specialized solar siting tool was also developed to encourage the repurposing of capped landfill sites for solar energy generation.²⁵² This innovative approach not only transforms previously unusable land into productive renewable energy sources but also contributes to environmental remediation and sustainable development goals at no cost to municipalities.

New Mexico: Infused funding into two state funds created in 2024 to facilitate the deployment of geothermal energy: the Geothermal Projects Development Fund and the Geothermal Projects Revolving Loan Fund. These funds support studies on the costs and benefits of proposed



MINNESOTA
Governor Tim Walz

“We’re a state that set 2040 [to be] carbon-free electricity generating. Everybody says ‘you’ll never make it.’ They’re right, we’re not going to make it — we’re going to make it in 2035 ... We’ve set — and this is good — aspirational goals, but no one truly believes we’re going to get there. Now all of a sudden, when we talk about ‘we’re going to have 100 percent carbon-free electricity’ in Minnesota, now it’s 10 years away.”^{viii}

geothermal projects and provide financing for their development.²⁵³ Additionally, HB 361 was passed, which allows for the conversion of certain oil and gas wells for use as geothermal development assets. The state also conducted a rulemaking and launched the Geothermal Ground-Coupled Heat Pump Income Tax Credit, displacing emissions from fossil fuel heating sources.²⁵⁴

New York: Directed the New York Power Authority to develop and construct a zero-emissions advanced nuclear power plant in upstate New York.²⁵⁵ The New York Power Authority, in coordination with the Department of Public Service, will seek to develop at least one new nuclear energy facility with a combined capacity of no less than 1 GW of electricity, either alone or in partnership with private entities. The state also executed contracts for 23 large-scale land-based renewable energy projects that are expected to provide more than 2.3 GW of clean energy, due to the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority's 2023 Tier 1 Renewable Energy Standard solicitation.²⁵⁶ Several projects have commenced construction, and all projects are expected to be operational by 2028.

North Carolina: Governor Josh Stein issued Executive Order No. 23, establishing a new Energy Policy Task Force.²⁵⁷ The task force, which includes stakeholders from state agencies, electricity ratepayers, nonprofits, colleges and universities, large-load data center customers, and others, will recommend policies and actions to reduce carbon emissions and maintain affordable and reliable electricity, while managing growing electricity demand in the state. The task force will include load growth and technical advisory subcommittees, which will focus on issues of energy demand and applicable policy solutions, with reports due to the governor and general assembly by February 15, 2026.

Pennsylvania: Released the state's Lightning Plan to support Pennsylvania's clean energy future.²⁵⁸ Included in the plan are a new tax credit for clean, reliable, and affordable energy projects, a new state energy siting board to cut red tape and streamline project approvals, updates to Pennsylvania's energy efficiency and conservation program and energy portfolio standards, and a new community energy tool to allow communities to jointly invest in shared energy resources. Additionally, Governor Josh Shapiro announced in July that the amount of solar energy in Pennsylvania had hit 2 GW, just 17 months after crossing the 1 GW threshold — enough to power 350,000 homes.



Photo credit: Office of Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro

As of July, more than 500 MW of additional grid-scale solar was already under construction in the Commonwealth.

Washington: Announced 46 grants funded by the *Washington Climate Commitment Act*, along with additional state funding to boost clean energy technology innovation and support clean energy planning, design, and construction projects throughout the state.²⁵⁹ A total of \$37 million awarded through two clean energy programs furthers the goals of the *Washington 2021 State Energy Strategy*.²⁶⁰

Wisconsin: Governor Evers signed a pair of bipartisan bills to strengthen nuclear power. The legislation orders a \$2 million study to identify suitable locations for new nuclear development in the state²⁶¹ and creates a new board to advance nuclear power and fusion technology in Wisconsin and host a national summit on nuclear power in Madison.²⁶²

Maximizing federal clean energy incentives

In the face of Congress passing its anti-climate megabill, Alliance members are taking concrete action to support eligible projects to maximize the original incentives in the *Inflation Reduction Act* before they expire. States are committed to helping clean energy projects move forward while federal tax credits remain available and raising public awareness about existing opportunities to help individuals lower their monthly energy bills for years to come. Examples include:



Photo credit: Office of Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont

Arizona: Through an executive order issued in September, directed the acceleration of clean and affordable energy deployment, optimization of the use of state lands for energy generation and transmission, and maximization of uptake of federal energy and manufacturing tax credits.²⁶³ Additionally, the Governor's Office of Resiliency hosted a webinar to educate stakeholders on federal policy changes, including revised tax credit eligibility and timelines, and launched a program to provide one-on-one support to projects across the private and public sectors. Governor Katie Hobbs also urged Arizonans to take advantage of expiring federal tax credits through the Arizona Clean Energy Hub, a digital tool available in both English and Spanish to connect them with available energy incentives.²⁶⁴

California: Through an executive order, directed state agencies to take action to accelerate clean energy projects to secure federal tax credits before they expire.²⁶⁵ The order directs the Public Utilities Commission, California Independent System Operator, California Energy Commission, California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, and California State Transportation Agency to prioritize actions within their purview to support clean energy projects that are eligible for federal tax credits. Actions include prioritizing grid connections and streamlining permitting processes. The order also designates the Energy Working Group of the Governor's Infrastructure Strike Team to track projects eligible for tax credits and state agencies' actions to accelerate clean energy project development.

Colorado: Through a letter sent to state agencies, directed the acceleration of the deployment of clean energy projects and infrastructure to ensure Colorado maximizes

expiring federal tax credits.²⁶⁶ The letter directs agencies to remove administrative barriers by streamlining permitting, fast-tracking utility-scale and community solar projects, updating interconnection standards, and prioritizing siting on state lands and rights of way.²⁶⁷ The state also launched the Colorado Energy Savings Navigator, a digital tool to help Coloradans identify utility bill assistance programs, along with clean energy tax credits and rebates, for which they are eligible.²⁶⁸ In its first month, more than 2,000 people used the tool, and hundreds have gone on to research or apply for assistance, tax credits, or rebates. Resulting from the governor's directive, in August 2025 Xcel Energy — Colorado's largest electric utility — in conjunction with three state agencies, filed a motion seeking Colorado Public Utilities Commission approval to acquire up 4,500 MW of predominantly wind, solar, and battery storage, as well as other generation or storage resources.²⁶⁹ The approved resource acquisition speeds up the typical review and approval process from approximately 560 days to 171 days. This timeline allows approved projects, which will be selected in late 2025 or early 2026, to have regulatory certainty in time to qualify for expiring federal clean energy tax credits. A full approval of 4,500 MW, if projects are shown to be deliverable and cost effective, would represent a more than 50 percent increase in clean energy capacity in Colorado.

Connecticut: Briefed stakeholders and developers in July on the changes to credits in the reconciliation package and solicited feedback on how they can remove barriers to help projects stay on track.²⁷⁰ Subsequently, the agency solicited bids on an expedited schedule to identify late-stage projects for solar and onshore wind to take advantage of federal tax credits before they expire.

Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island: Through a joint statement issued on Labor Day, Governors Lamont, Healey, Murphy, Hochul, and McKee honored the workers in the offshore wind industry and called on the Trump administration to uphold already-granted offshore wind permits and allow projects to be constructed.²⁷¹

Maine: Enacted legislation directing the Maine Public Utilities Commission to fast-track a procurement for new clean energy resources. On September 16, the commission announced the initial selection of five projects totaling 257 MW of new renewable energy resources that may begin construction before key federal tax credits expire.^{272, 273} The solicitation is an initial effort to bring on new projects that can assist in helping to meet the state's new target of 100 percent clean energy by 2040.

Michigan: Launched two new programs to help nonprofits, schools, local governments, and other entities unlock federal clean energy tax credits through elective pay.²⁷⁴ The Unlocking Elective Pay Challenge offers up to \$2 million in competitive grants to support project planning, aggregation, and technical assistance to uptake clean energy tax credits. The second program, the Elective Pay Ambassador program, will place 10 trained ambassadors across the state to help communities uptake the credits. Michigan also continues to offer free elective pay accounting services and outreach and engagement with Michigan communities.

Minnesota: Directed utilities to outline how they will accelerate construction and in-service dates for carbon-free projects to maximize federal tax credits before they expire. The order also extends the duration of renewable energy credits from new solar and wind projects, ensuring that they remain usable through at least 2034.²⁷⁵

North Carolina: Launched an awareness program to help North Carolinians take advantage of expiring residential, energy efficiency, and EV tax credits.²⁷⁶ Governor Stein's office also convened a roundtable of clean energy developers and other stakeholders to meet with relevant state agencies on accelerating tax credit-eligible projects. The administration has also formed an interagency working group to coordinate efforts across state government and work with developers and utilities.

Oregon: Governor Kotek is coordinating with renewable energy developers and state siting and permitting

authorities to streamline processes and accelerate development timelines for clean energy projects. The Public Utilities Commission urged utilities to speed up construction and Portland General Electric responded by making an open call for power purchase agreements for projects that would meet federal tax credit deadlines.²⁷⁷

Making energy more affordable

Electricity bills are rising across the country due to a combination of volatile fuel prices, federal tariffs, federal funding cuts, early phaseout of federal energy tax credits,²⁷⁸ federal barriers to clean energy permitting and siting, ongoing needs to invest in grid infrastructure, and delays by grid operators in connecting new clean energy resources to the grid. The anti-climate megabill enacted by Congress this year is expected to raise household energy prices by more than \$110 annually next year and as much as \$415 annually within a decade.²⁷⁹ In response, Alliance governors are stepping up to deliver near-term relief for customers today while improving energy affordability in the long run through a series of executive, statutory, and regulatory actions. Examples include:

California: Governor Newsom issued an executive order designed to reduce electric costs for Californians in October 2024.²⁸⁰ Less than a year later, the governor enacted laws that will increase the amount and visibility of climate credits that show up on customer utility bills and help offset consumer utility expenses with funds derived from California's cap-and-invest program.²⁸¹

Colorado: The state established a new fuel-cost sharing mechanism to more fairly distribute gas price fluctuations between customers and utilities, helping insulate customers from volatile gas prices in the future.²⁸²

Connecticut: Enacted a new law to reduce electric bills and deliver consumers hundreds of millions of dollars in annual savings in the short term. It also lays the groundwork for longer-term cost reductions in public benefits charges and supply, delivery, and transmission fees.²⁸³

Delaware: Enacted a sweeping package of energy laws to address rising energy costs in Delaware and strengthen consumer protections. It establishes the Delaware Energy Fund to provide utility assistance to low- and moderate-income households,²⁸⁴ creates an energy bill assistance

fund for low-to-moderate income households,²⁸⁵ and restricts regulated utilities from using customer funds to subsidize unregulated activities like lobbying.²⁸⁶ Governor Matt Meyer also announced a comprehensive plan that includes near-term actions to demand immediate bill rate adjustments for Delmarva Power customers; appointed a new Delaware public advocate who will focus on protecting ratepayers and improved communication with Delawareans about why their bills may be high and what steps the state is taking to lower them and ensure reliability; reappointed a PSC commissioner to strengthen oversight and review; and overhauled the PSC dispute resolution process.²⁸⁷

Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania: Governors Meyer, Pritzker, Moore, Whitmer, Murphy, and Shapiro joined together to call on PJM to improve its transmission planning, generation interconnection, and capacity market processes to improve clean energy deployment and lower the impact of capacity charges on customer bills through joint letters and comments at PJM hearings.^{288,289,290} These governors worked alongside other governors in the PJM region to host a conference exploring deeper reforms to PJM's structure to systematically incorporate the interests of ratepayers.²⁹¹

Hawai'i: Signed an executive order urging the Public Utilities Commission to provide direct bill savings and other benefits to communities that host large-scale energy generation, prioritizing bill savings for low- and moderate-income households. The commission also developed a performance-based ratemaking framework with several components designed to reduce costs, lower emissions, and enhance resilience.²⁹²

Illinois: The Illinois Commerce Commission approved low-income discount rates for electric utilities, which will take effect in 2026, while low-income discount rates for gas utilities went into effect at the end of 2024.²⁹³ These programs, established by the *Climate and Equitable Jobs Act*, provide low-income customers with durable relief from rising energy bills.

Maine: Governor Mills signed a new law to create the Maine Department of Energy Resources, a new cabinet-level department that will lead state energy policy and programs, coordinate across agencies, engage with stakeholders, and address energy opportunities and challenges.²⁹⁴ The department will advance strategies to reduce costs, strengthen reliability, and improve resilience across Maine's energy systems.²⁹⁵



Photo credit: Office of Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey

Massachusetts: Released an Energy Affordability Agenda to help lower consumer utility bills, reduce spending, and stabilize prices.²⁹⁶ The plan will provide \$220 million in immediate relief to customers through a one-time credit to electric bills and a gas rate adjustment. Governor Maura Healey also introduced the *Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act*,²⁹⁷ which includes proposals to eliminate and reduce certain charges on the bill, take steps to create accountability and ensure utilities are not passing unnecessary costs on to ratepayers, and reduce barriers to new cutting-edge nuclear technologies. The proposal is estimated to save Massachusetts customers approximately \$10 billion over 10 years, on top of the \$6 billion in savings estimated from the Energy Affordability Agenda.²⁹⁸

Michigan: Enacted a new law to increase funding for and access to the Michigan Energy Assistance Program, ensuring full participation by all state utilities in energy assistance programs and increasing the income eligibility limit to help more Michiganders access the program.²⁹⁹

Oregon: Governor Kotek signed the *FAIR Energy Act*, which empowers state regulators to help families avoid large increases in energy bills by limiting how often utilities can ask for rate increases.³⁰⁰

Pennsylvania: Governor Shapiro negotiated a landmark agreement with PJM to lower the cap on the price of electricity.³⁰¹ In July, PJM's auction hit the negotiated cap,



showing that prices would have been significantly higher without Governor Shapiro's intervention. Thanks to the governor's leadership, consumers across the region will save billions of dollars and grossly excessive price spikes will be averted in 13 states (including six Alliance states).

Wisconsin: Governor Evers eliminated the state sales tax on household energy bills in his 2025–27 state budget that was signed into law, which is estimated to save Wisconsin families \$178 million over the next two fiscal years.³⁰²

Managing load growth and data centers

States are taking action to sustain decarbonization of the grid while also managing growing demands on America's electricity system that result from manufacturing, electrification of buildings and vehicles, and data centers. In 2025, states addressed the opportunities and challenges that arise from simultaneously planning for future load growth, supporting economic development, and protecting ratepayers from financial risks and costs. Examples include:

California: Adopted an interim tariff in 2025 to streamline and accelerate electric grid connections at the transmission level for high energy users such as data centers and heavy-duty charging stations.³⁰³

Minnesota: Enacted legislation to regulate data centers through new environmental and energy regulatory requirements and modifications to their sales and use tax exemptions.³⁰⁴ This law includes a series of regulations that align with Minnesota's environmental commitments. It establishes annual fees linked to large-scale data centers' peak electricity demand, requires pre-application evaluation and setup permit conditions for projects using more than 100 million gallons of water per year, institutes prevailing wage requirements for laborers and mechanics constructing or refurbishing large-scale data centers, and requires public utilities to offer a clean energy and capacity tariff for commercial and industrial customers.³⁰⁵

Oregon: Governor Kotek signed the *Protecting Oregonians With Energy Responsibility (POWER) Act* to require large energy users like data centers and cryptocurrency businesses to pay their share for electricity.³⁰⁶ The legislation requires the Public Utilities Commission to create a new service classification for large energy-use facilities, defined as 20 MW or more, that is distinct from other industrial retail customers. Electric companies are now required to enter into contracts with large energy users for the provision of electricity, including transmission, distribution, energy, capacity, and ancillary services for a term of 10 years or more. There are also new protections for retail electricity consumers to ensure they are not made to pay the costs associated with meeting load requirements resulting from servicing large energy users.

Washington: Directed the Department of Revenue, through executive order, to establish and lead a data center workgroup to evaluate the impacts of data centers on Washington's economy, tax revenue, energy use, and the environment.³⁰⁷ This workgroup will recommend policies and actions to address energy use and impacts on the economy and job market, and will include representatives from the Department of Commerce, the Utilities and Transportation Commission, the Department of Ecology, electric utilities, environmental advocacy groups, labor organizations, and industry stakeholders.

Modernizing transmission and distribution grid systems

Delivering a clean grid for Americans will require significant improvements to the nation's transmission and distribution system. Alliance members have taken important steps to strengthen transmission planning, siting, permitting, and cost allocation methodologies, all of which will help prepare America's grid to meet current and future energy demands more effectively. In 2025, states acted to implement the goals of the State Modern Grid Deployment Initiative³⁰⁸ to speed improvements to the electric grid and support the adoption of advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) such as high-performance conductors and dynamic line ratings. Examples include:

Community Impact Story

Colorado helps communities stay connected with microgrids

Colorado, under Governor Jared Polis, launched the Microgrids for Community Resilience Program to help vulnerable communities maintain power during climate-driven disasters like wildfires, snowstorms, and utility outages.^a Mountain towns such as Ophir and Rico have experienced frequent blackouts during severe winter storms, leaving residents isolated without heat or communication — making resilient backup systems not just beneficial, but essential. “There’s really a lot of interest growing among rural communities that use these microgrids as power backup,” said David Krause of the *Colorado Sun*, reflecting growing local urgency for distributed energy solutions.^b With over \$15 million in grants awarded so far and a statewide Microgrid Roadmap in place, the program supports utilities, local governments, and institutions in designing microgrid systems tailored to their energy and safety needs.



Photo credit: Acroterion, Wikimedia

^a U.S. Climate Alliance. HB 22-1013, *Microgrids For Community Resilience Grant Program*. Enacted June 2022. <https://data.usclimatealliance.org/action/1033>.

^b Carroll, Nikole. “Colorado Mountain Towns Are Turning to Microgrids for Backup Power During Severe Storms.” *NPR/KUNC Colorado*, January 19, 2024. <https://www.kunc.org/news/2024-01-19/colorado-mountain-towns-are-turning-to-microgrids-for-backup-power-during-severe-storms>.

California: In January 2025, implemented changes to the General Order to modernize transmission permitting processes to prepare for needed growth in transmission capacity³⁰⁹ and previously updated the distribution planning process to ensure there is capacity to support growth in electrification from buildings, vehicles, and new loads like data centers.³¹⁰ In September 2025, the state enacted a law that enables the state to expand regional power markets throughout the West.³¹¹ The law preserves California's control over critical policy functions, including transmission planning and procurement. A western grid system would enable California to share and access clean electricity with neighboring states on a voluntary basis.

Connecticut: Enacted legislation that requires utilities to develop and evaluate an ATT alternative for submission to the Connecticut Siting Council whenever they propose modifications. If the proposed alternative is more cost effective, the council shall give it preference. Utilities must also issue an annual report on current projects and needs and identify whether those needs could be serviced with ATTs.³¹² In addition, the legislation gave the state's ratepayer advocate and state energy office the ability (with consultant help) to evaluate whether the scope of, need for, and timing of proposed transmission projects in the state are appropriate and whether less costly or other more beneficial alternatives exist.

Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota: Governors Pritzker, Whitmer, and Walz expressed their support for the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) Long Range Transmission Planning Tranche 2.1 Portfolio with a joint letter.³¹³ The governors noted the importance of long-term resource planning and the engagement of diverse stakeholders in the development of a robust and long-range transmission system to ensure a cost-effective and reliable power system. The MISO Board unanimously approved the largest portfolio of transmission projects in the nation's history within the Tranche 2.1 Portfolio.³¹⁴

Massachusetts: Enacted legislation that accelerates the siting and permitting of clean energy facilities, vastly expands the EV charging network, incentivizes innovative technologies, includes measures to protect residents from high energy costs, and equips state agencies with the mandate to fight climate change. This law also requires utilities to conduct a cost-effectiveness and timetable analysis on the deployment of ATTs for any rate proceedings or capital investment.³¹⁵

New Mexico: Enacted legislation that requires utilities to identify grid congestion points, propose cost-effective solutions, and incorporate grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) into long-term planning.³¹⁶

New York: Announced \$12 million in funding to support innovative electric grid technologies and grid modernization.³¹⁷ The GETs program, administered by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, seeks demonstration projects and research studies that will help enhance grid performance, improve grid reliability, and integrate renewable energy resources into the grid.

Oregon: Enacted legislation that requires power companies to evaluate and incorporate GETs in their planning processes, ensuring cost-effective solutions are considered early and regularly. This legislation also enhances regulatory oversight and streamlines local approval processes by limiting public hearing requirements for certain GET applications.³¹⁸

Washington: Governor Ferguson signed an executive order directing all state agencies to decrease their permit and license processing times.³¹⁹ Once timelines are agreed upon, if an agency exceeds the allocated processing time, it will refund application fees. This is intended to increase transparency and accountability, and to eliminate barriers to economic development.

Wisconsin: Launched the Resilience and Prosperity in Rural Northern Wisconsin project to install microgrids in the state's northernmost area.³²⁰ This project is supported by just over \$12 million in federal and local funds. Led by the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, partners include the state's Office of Rural Prosperity, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Bayfield County, Cheq Bay Renewables, MuGrid Analytics, and Slipstream, Inc. The microgrids feature solar power, battery storage, and smart controls to enable islanding and EV charging stations. This initiative aims to expand clean energy access in 28 rural communities across Wisconsin, creating projects that serve as scalable models to enhance energy resilience, promote clean energy adoption, and generate green jobs for rural areas throughout the state.



Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Industry

Alliance members are establishing innovative policy frameworks for eliminating GHG emissions from the industrial sector and its supply chains while fostering the growth of a strong, domestic clean manufacturing economy.



Member Action

The table below includes the number of members that have adopted — or are in the process of adopting — statutory and executive policies and actions. These counts are current as of October 2025.

Policies	# of Members
Standards and programs to phase-down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)	11
Standards and programs to reduce methane from oil and gas, landfill, and agricultural sources	11
Buy Clean standards, studies, and incentive programs	9
Standards to reduce GHG emissions from industrial facilities	5

For the most up-to-date, in-depth breakdown of climate actions across the coalition, explore the Alliance Policy Database.

data.usclimatealliance.org

Industry

The industrial sector — which includes manufacturing, mining, construction, and agriculture — is the third-largest source of GHG emissions in the United States.³²¹ Projections indicate that it will become the highest-emitting sector by the 2030s.³²² Alliance states account for one-third of U.S. industrial sector GHG emissions, which primarily stem from refining, chemicals, iron and steel, cement, paper, and food and beverage manufacturing. In addition, many industrial sources emit methane and HFCs, which — although atmospherically short-lived with respect to carbon dioxide — are extremely potent greenhouse gases. Methane has a warming effect that is 28–34 times stronger over a 100-year period than carbon dioxide and up to 86 times stronger over a 20-year period, while some HFCs are more than 10,000 times more potent over a 100-year period.³²³

Reducing emissions from the highly polluting industrial sector is critical to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, as well as to advancing environmental justice, ensuring domestic competitiveness, and creating new good-paying jobs. Alliance members are planning, developing, and implementing innovative policies that invest in facility-level clean technology solutions; drive demand for low-carbon products; improve data collection, monitoring, and reporting; and limit the release of high global warming-potential gasses.

Investing in and planning for a decarbonized industrial future

State climate planning, target setting, and investment are essential for creating a policy environment that coordinates and directs the industrial sector's emissions toward net zero. Alliance members continue to advance industrial decarbonization plans, incentives, and regulations, despite actions taken by the federal government to undermine recent progress. Examples include:

California: Released its *Draft Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions Strategy for the California Cement*

Sector for public comment,³²⁴ pursuant to its 2021 law establishing a net-zero emissions target for the state's cement sector.³²⁵ The strategy lays out the key levers for cement industry decarbonization and assesses barriers to achieving GHG reductions across the sector. California has also begun work to develop a carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration program under Senate Bill 905 that will provide the regulatory framework for large greenhouse gas emitters to capture and permanently store carbon captured at large facilities such as power plants and manufacturing facilities.³²⁶

Colorado: Adopted a first-in-the-nation rule addressing GHG emissions from fuel-burning equipment like engines and heaters at midstream oil and gas compressor stations and gas processing plants. Midstream companies, by 2030 and each year thereafter, must meet GHG emissions limits for both the overall sector and their overall company.³²⁷ Colorado is also developing an Industrial Decarbonization Blueprint, which will identify real-world, cost-effective strategies to reduce emissions from the state's industrial sector, charting a course to further refine industrial reduction targets and meet existing post-2030 economy-wide statutory targets.³²⁸ Through its Clean Air Grants Program, Colorado awarded \$12 million to support methane capture and destruction at coal mines, a large landfill, and a large meat processor within the state;

methane capture and utilization at a wastewater treatment facility; strategic electrification of boilers at a large brewery; and electrification of a midstream gas processing facility. These projects are estimated to avoid over 420,000 metric tons CO₂e annually.³²⁹ In addition, Colorado's Industrial Tax Credit Offerings awarded ElectraSteel an \$8 million refundable tax credit to erect a larger-scale production facility to help green steel manufacturing, which utilizes an innovative process to reduce iron ore processing emissions by 30 percent compared to existing pig iron production.³³⁰

Illinois: Announced plans to use part of its \$430 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant award to create a novel Clean Industry Concierge, which will help industrial facilities in the state navigate, coordinate, and access funding opportunities to decarbonize; obtain support in designing and implementing decarbonization measures; and provide strong guidance on industry best practices in efficient and cost-effective low-carbon technologies and processes.³³¹

Maryland: Established the Climate Technology Founder's Fund within the Maryland Clean Energy Center to invest at least \$1.2 million annually over four years in start-up companies looking to advance new clean tech and climate tech solutions to the demonstration and deployment stage.³³²

New Mexico: Enacted the *Carbon Dioxide Storage Stewardship Act*, which transfers the ownership of storage wells to state oversight within five years of final injection. The law also creates a stewardship fund that will be financed by a fee per metric ton of carbon dioxide stored, ensuring the state is resourced to provide long-term monitoring of the wells.³³³

New York: Launched its Heat Recovery Program Demonstration Category, which provides cost sharing to support the inclusion of heat recovery energy conservation measures such as industrial heat pumps, while retrofitting existing buildings, including manufacturing sites.³³⁴

North Carolina: The Office of Science, Technology, and Innovation in the Department of Commerce is the lead recipient of a U.S. Department of Energy grant to provide financial assistance for small-to-medium sized manufacturers to offset some of the expenses of non-equipment costs to adopt and integrate relevant "SMART" technologies.³³⁵ SMART manufacturing refers to how technology is used to enhance operational efficiency and make businesses more profitable.



The NC Manufacturing Extension Partnership is the subcontractor responsible for providing training and financial assistance to participating manufacturers.

Oregon: Adopted rules to reestablish the state's Climate Protection Program of 2024, which sets an enforceable declining cap on GHG emissions from fossil fuels used throughout Oregon and aims to reduce these emissions by 50 percent by 2035 and 90 percent by 2050.³³⁶ In addition to regulating emissions from transportation fuels and direct-use natural gas, the program will regulate emissions from large energy-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) industries, which include facilities in the cement, forest products, semiconductor, and steel industries. EITE sources are exempt from compliance obligations for the first compliance period (2025–28) while the state develops carbon emissions intensity targets for EITEs.³³⁷

Pennsylvania: Launched the Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania grant program, which will provide nearly \$400 million to fund innovative projects that reduce pollution from industrial sources. This funding is expected to create up to 6,000 jobs and reduce GHG emissions and co-pollutants in the industrial and manufacturing sectors.³³⁸ Pennsylvania also enacted a law establishing a regulatory framework



for carbon capture, utilization, and storage in the state, and creating a Carbon Dioxide Storage Facility Fund to defray the state's long-term management costs.³³⁹

Washington: Allocated \$72.6 million from its cap-and-invest program to support various community clean energy and decarbonization projects across the state, including a solicitation targeted to 'hard to decarbonize' sectors such as industry.³⁴⁰ Washington also published an assessment of the economic impacts of the state's five refineries that evaluates how operations and economic impacts may change in the future, accounting for state decarbonization targets.³⁴¹

Creating markets for low-carbon industrial products

While investing in clean technology solutions at the facility level is important to industrial decarbonization, another key approach is driving demand for low-carbon products. State and federal governments procure a significant portion of the total construction materials purchased in the United States.³⁴² By adopting Buy Clean policies, Alliance members are creating market demand for construction materials with low embodied emissions, helping incentivize the cement, steel, glass, and forest product industries — which collectively comprise about 25 percent of the manufacturing sector's GHG emissions — to decarbonize.³⁴³ Despite significant policy progress,

coordination, and congressionally appropriated investment, the federal government has fully disengaged from its Buy Clean work. However, the Alliance continues to sustain this work via the State Buy Clean Partnership,³⁴⁴ a forum for 13 participating states to continue to share best practices and advance new solutions. Examples include:

California: Updated its global warming potential (GWP) limits for concrete reinforcing steel and mineral wool board insulation, lowering its emissions threshold for construction projects as of January 1, 2025. The Department of General Services is also identifying new subcategories of insulation materials subject to the *Buy Clean California Act*, per a September 2024 law that expanded the eligible material list.³⁴⁵ Work is also underway to develop a framework for measuring and then reducing the average carbon intensity of the materials used in the construction of new buildings, including those for residential uses. This includes developing a comprehensive strategy for the state's building sector to achieve a 40 percent net GHG reduction no later than 2035.³⁴⁶

Colorado: Enacted legislation that adds embodied carbon improvements to the list of new energy improvements that are eligible for property-assessed clean energy financing and to the state's industrial clean energy tax credit. This law will help bolster the market for construction materials produced with lower GHG emissions.³⁴⁷

Massachusetts: Enacted a law that establishes multiple embodied carbon policies, including the creation of an Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Coordinating

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Governor Josh Shapiro

“By plugging orphaned and abandoned wells, we’re tackling a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions and creating thousands of good-paying jobs in the process. This is a smart, commonsense way to protect public health and create jobs.”^{ix}

Council tasked with developing an embodied carbon reduction plan. The council will also recommend requiring major building and transportation projects to collect environmental product declarations (EPD) and use low-carbon materials; recommend a process to set GWP limits for these materials by January 1, 2026; develop EPD procurement procedures for state government; and examine interactions with other laws, including ways to integrate embodied carbon reduction into state building codes and increase building reuse.³⁴⁸

Minnesota: Launched its Buy Clean EPD Grant Program, which will help manufacturers measure and disclose their products’ environmental footprints. The Environmental Standards Procurement Task Force, established under the state’s Buy Clean law, also met throughout the year to develop implementation recommendations, which will be submitted in a report to the legislature due in December 2025.³⁴⁹

Washington: Published a series of model specifications for projects subject to the state’s Buy Clean Buy Fair policy and created an embodied carbon video training series. The specifications cover the EPD and GWP requirements for concrete, steel, and wood products and are available for adaptation in other states. The video training series includes five modules on different embodied carbon topics to build government staff capacity in this field and assist in policy implementation.³⁵⁰

Mitigating methane emissions

Reducing methane is a key strategy for meeting national and international climate goals. This effort has been a primary focus during recent international climate conferences, including COP27, COP28, and COP29. Alliance members have long been leaders in advancing

solutions to limit methane emissions; Colorado adopted the nation’s first regulations to address methane more than a decade ago. States and territories are continuing to forge ahead with new policies to reduce methane from fossil fuel, waste, and agricultural sources despite the federal government’s efforts to dismantle existing policies and programs at the national level.³⁵¹ Examples include:

California: Launched a \$100 million statewide project to leverage satellites and their data to detect and reduce methane emissions. The state will maintain a database and web portal to coordinate and document mitigation actions and make these data available to communities to view methane mitigation efforts, education, and outreach.³⁵² The state also began work to update its existing landfill methane regulation — adopted nearly 15 years ago — with a series of stakeholder workshops. This first-in-the-nation rule underpins subsequent rule adoptions in several states and is expected to be published by the end of 2025.³⁵³

Colorado: Adopted a new rule that sets a phaseout schedule for natural gas-driven pneumatic devices at oil and gas facilities statewide. Oil and gas operators in Colorado must achieve a phaseout of 25 percent by May 2026, 50 percent by May 2027, 75 percent by May 2028, and 100 percent by March 2029. Further, operators in areas that do not meet federal health standards for ground-level ozone pollution must phase out the use of these devices more quickly.³⁵⁴ Also, the Air Pollution Control Division proposed a rule to reduce methane pollution from municipal solid waste landfills, which would address one percent of total state GHG emissions. Colorado’s landfill methane rule includes provisions to phase out open flares to control landfill gas to support the transition to enclosed flares, implementing biofilters as a lower-cost methane control mechanism, and requiring earlier gas collection than current federal requirements.³⁵⁵ Colorado also 1) adopted a coal mine methane capture permitting policy to facilitate the capture of coal mine methane,³⁵⁶ 2) secured grant



Photo credit: Office of Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro

funding to rehabilitate a natural methane seepage capture pilot project and evaluate the opportunity for additional natural methane seepage capture projects,³⁵⁷ and 3) instituted a fee on oil and gas operators to plug marginal oil and gas wells in order to reduce methane emissions and other environmental and public health impacts.³⁵⁸

Maine: Enacted a law that prohibits facilities that generate certain amounts of food waste from disposing of their food waste in landfills or incineration facilities. Beginning in 2030, they must instead reduce generated food waste, separate edible food from waste for donation, and facilitate the transfer of food waste to be recycled in animal feed, composting, or anaerobic digestion.³⁵⁹

New York: Awarded more than \$15.8 million in funding to 22 farms through the first round of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program. Funding will go toward projects that help farmers protect water quality and mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing GHG emissions.³⁶⁰

Oregon: Enacted a law that adds methane monitoring and reporting requirements using advanced methane detection technologies to specific landfills in the state. These technologies include satellites, airplanes, drones, and remote sensors. The law requires the Environmental Quality Commission to develop implementing regulations before January 1, 2027.³⁶¹

Pennsylvania: Governor Shapiro announced that Food Recovery Infrastructure Grants up to \$50,000 would be available to nonprofit organizations to fund equipment, such as refrigerators, freezers, and refrigerated vehicles, to reduce the amount of fresh and processed food entering the waste stream and make it available to the public. This program will help reduce the amount of food sent to landfills, thus reducing landfill methane emissions.³⁶²

Rhode Island: Released a white paper, *Fugitive Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Natural Gas Systems: Accounting Methods for the Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Inventory*, which describes the Department of Environmental Management's methods for expanding its accounting for fugitive emissions from the state's natural gas systems in its GHG inventory.³⁶³

Vermont: Launched the School Compost and Recycling Action Plan Institute, a new initiative to help K–12 schools improve or develop composting and recycling programs. The program aims to reduce GHG emissions, promote sustainable materials management, and create community champions for continued improvements.³⁶⁴

Washington: Released draft guidance — with final guidance expected this summer — to assist owners or operators of municipal solid waste landfills in complying with its landfill methane regulation.³⁶⁵



Photo credit: Office of Washington Governor Bob Ferguson

Phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

HFCs are synthetic chemicals used primarily in air conditioning, insulation, and aerosols. Despite their outsized global warming effect, they continue to provide vital services. As global demand for cooling rises, HFCs are also a fast-growing class of GHGs. California became the first state to adopt HFC regulations in 2018, and through collective action that followed, many other Alliance members leveraged their collective market share and catalyzed transformational change nationwide. This led to partnerships with industry to begin shifting the market to alternatives and led Congress to adopt a bipartisan national framework in 2020 — the *American Innovation and Manufacturing Act*. Now, multiple climate-friendly refrigerants are available and are being phased into use under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.³⁶⁶ Alliance members continue to push for the inclusion of additional regulated end uses, GWP thresholds, and refrigerant management programs in HFC policy. Examples include:

California: Began implementing a first-of-its-kind HFC law focused on reclaimed refrigerants. This law prohibits the use of virgin HFCs with GWP greater than 750 from being used to service state-owned equipment, while allowing reclaimed HFCs. It also prohibits the statewide sale or distribution of bulk HFCs and HFC blends that exceed specific GWP limits (unless reclaimed), requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to initiate a rulemaking requiring low or ultralow-GWP alternatives

in different end uses, and requires CARB to post an assessment of how to transition the state toward ultralow-GWP refrigerants by 2035.³⁶⁷ CARB also launched the second round of its F-gas Reduction Incentive Program. Applications for \$38.5 million in funding were open for commercial and industrial refrigeration facilities to transition to ultralow-GWP (<10) technologies.³⁶⁸

New Jersey: Launched the NJ Cool grant program, a \$15 million pilot program that provides financial assistance to commercial, industrial, and institutional building owners and tenants undertaking retrofit construction projects that reduce operating GHG emissions from existing buildings in state-designated Overburdened Community and Adjacent Community census blocks. Applicants are eligible for funding to replace high-GWP refrigerants with lower-GWP alternatives.³⁶⁹

New York: Finalized amendments to its regulations to phase out HFCs in the state. The updates establish prohibitions on fluorinated refrigerants in certain products and systems (including commercial refrigerators and air conditioners) based on their GWP; a phase-down in the sale of virgin HFC substances; a Refrigerant Management Program with controls on the leakage of HFCs in existing equipment; a Supermarket Refrigerant Program to phase down HFC emissions from the largest sources; and certain labeling, reporting, and record-keeping requirements for suppliers of HFCs and HFC-containing products.³⁷⁰ The state estimates the added prohibitions and Refrigerant Management Program will contribute maximum avoided emissions of 284 million metric tons (MMT) CO₂e (GWP20) from 2025 to 2050.³⁷¹

Washington: Enacted legislation that updates the state's approach to managing the phase-down of HFCs. The law establishes phased GWP limits for bulk HFC imports into the state from 2027 to 2033, prohibits state-owned equipment from servicing leaks with HFCs above a certain GWP, and creates a refrigerant transition task force that will recommend how the state can adopt rules to transition toward ultralow GWPs.³⁷²



Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Just Transition & Equity

Alliance members are partnering with frontline communities to develop climate and clean energy solutions, directing significant expenditures to create environmental and economic benefits for vulnerable and overburdened populations, and accelerating the development of a climate-ready workforce, including by collectively supporting 1 million new workers in completing Registered Apprenticeship programs across the coalition by 2035.



Member Action

The table below includes the number of members that have adopted — or are in the process of adopting — statutory and executive policies and actions. These counts are current as of October 2025.

Policies	# of Members
Environmental justice screening and policy tools	20
Environmental justice offices or interagency bodies	18
Just transition offices or interagency bodies	10

For the most up-to-date, in-depth breakdown of climate actions across the coalition, explore the Alliance Policy Database.

data.usclimatealliance.org

Just Transition and Equity

Alliance states and territories are committed to ensuring that the transition to a net-zero future is just and equitable for the American people. This includes meaningfully engaging local communities in decision-making and development of climate solutions, identifying and addressing environmental harms, and ensuring that benefits from new climate investments — including those that come with the growth of climate-ready career pathways — reach those disproportionately impacted by climate change and the energy transition.

Despite unprecedented federal actions aimed at slowing progress, Alliance states and territories continued working this year to advance environmental justice for disadvantaged communities, aided by new multi-state guidance from 13 attorneys general affirming that environmental justice initiatives remain both necessary and lawful.³⁷³ Additionally, Alliance members pressed forward on equity-centered policies, directed significant investments to frontline communities, and accelerated the development of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive climate-ready workforce.

Building a climate-ready workforce

Career pathways in climate-ready fields are growing rapidly, offering an opportunity to strengthen workers' economic mobility, boost job quality, and help the U.S. achieve a net-zero future. In September 2024, Alliance governors kicked off the Governors' Climate-Ready Workforce Initiative, which aims to grow these critical career pathways, strengthen workforce diversity, and jointly train 1 million new registered apprentices by 2035. Alliance members have adopted policies, made critical investments, and established new programs in alignment with the initiative's collective commitments. Together, they are building the climate and clean energy workforce and ensuring that all Americans, including those disproportionately impacted by climate change and the energy transition, have access to these career pathways. Examples include:

California: Developed California Jobs First designed as a community-led, climate-forward process to support

regional economic planning, pre-development, and implementation efforts.³⁷⁴ In addition to key strategic investments in workforce development through apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, the Regional Investment Initiative invested \$450 million to support new industry cluster development and workforce training with economic resiliency and transition at its core.

Colorado: Awarded approximately \$3.5 million through 14 Workforce Development Grants to treat 1,045 acres of forested land and train more than 150 wildfire mitigation individuals as part of the Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program. The program is designed to reduce wildfire risk through entry-level training opportunities and hands-on experience.³⁷⁵

Connecticut: Public Act 25-125³⁷⁶ codified the Connecticut Clean Economy Council — established under Governor Lamont's Executive Order 21-3³⁷⁷ — into statute and charged the council with developing a plan to facilitate the transition of workers from fossil fuel-based employment to clean economy jobs. The council will advise the governor and state legislature on economic development strategies, as well as any workforce action plan in clean energy, climate, and sustainability, in particular for vulnerable communities.

Illinois: Announced 88 awards totaling \$57 million to support programs that will catalyze energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, invest in Illinois's clean energy workforce, and ensure that low-income and historically disadvantaged communities are at the forefront as the state continues to grow its clean energy economy.³⁷⁸

Community Impact Story

Connecticut greens communities from the ground up



Under the leadership of Governor Ned Lamont, Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection launched the 2024 Urban Forest Equity Grant Program, a \$2 million investment designed to address the lack of tree canopy in disadvantaged communities.^a The City of Norwalk is using these funds to run a Green Workforce Training Program, which will train community members over the next two years to plant and care for up to 200 native trees. Trajah Bruxton is the director of the Economic Opportunity Hub created by Open Doors, a Norwalk-based nonprofit focused on economic empowerment. "This is more than just beautifying our city ... It's about building a future where every resident has the chance to rise," said Buxton.^b Jennifer Martinez, one of the 20 residents hired under the program, says that "planting doesn't feel like work."^c Similar projects have started across Connecticut thanks to Urban Forest Equity Grants, empowering communities to take climate action into their own hands while creating green jobs and preserving their local ecosystems.



- a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. "DEEP to Allocate \$2 Million to Address Tree Canopy Access in Connecticut." [Press Release] January 4, 2024. <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/news-releases/news-releases---2024/deep-to-allocate-2m-to-address-tree-canopy-access-in-connecticut>.
- b Smith, Ashley. "Green Workforce Program Launches in Norwalk." *Nancy on Norwalk*, May 5, 2025. <https://www.nancyonnorwalk.com/green-workforce-program-launches-in-norwalk/>.
- c Martinez, Eddy. "Norwalk Debuts Tree Planting Pilot Program to Help the Climate and Job Seekers." *Connecticut Public Radio*, May 29, 2025. <https://www.ctpublic.org/news/2025-05-29/norwalk-debuts-tree-planting-pilot-program-to-help-the-climate-and-job-seekers>.

The state also awarded more than \$19 million to expand the Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program, which creates a qualified talent pipeline of diverse candidates in the construction and building trades and was specifically designed to increase access to good-paying jobs in the trades for historically underrepresented populations.³⁷⁹ Additionally, the Clean Energy Jobs Workforce Hubs celebrated their first graduating classes, opening another door to jobs in the clean energy sector for historically underrepresented populations.³⁸⁰

Maine: In the 2024 Maine Won't Wait climate action plan,³⁸¹ Maine set a new goal to create opportunities for 7,000 new registered apprentices by 2030, with

a focus on climate-ready occupations. In the first year, Maine registered 841 new apprentices.

Maryland: Enacted the *Registered Apprenticeship Investments for a Stronger Economy Act of 2025*, which creates tools to expand registered apprenticeships to new industries, employers, and communities.³⁸² This law establishes the Maryland Pay Per Apprenticeship Program to help employers offset the cost of hiring and training new registered apprentices; invests in intermediaries to serve as connectors between employers, training providers, and sponsors; and establishes the Maryland Office of Registered Apprenticeship Development.



Photo credit: Office of Maryland Governor Wes Moore

Michigan: Launched the second, 31-person cohort of the MI Healthy Climate Corps.³⁸³ This program helps develop a network of skilled climate professionals who will work to create practical resources for Michiganders, bolster the state's clean energy and sustainability workforce, build climate action capacity in communities across the state, guide federal and state resources to communities in greatest need, and advance implementation of the MI Healthy Climate Plan.³⁸⁴

New Jersey: Awarded more than \$4.3 million in funding to four applicants under the NJ Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge. The awardees will develop training programs to prepare New Jersey residents for green economy careers, including those related to solar energy, weatherization, energy auditing, building systems, thermal systems, HVAC, and electric vehicle infrastructure, with a focus on serving overburdened communities.³⁸⁵

New Mexico: Released its 2025 update to the state's plan, *Empower and Collaborate: New Mexico's Economic Path Forward*, which includes the state's strategy to reduce reliance on extractive industries.³⁸⁶ To support the implementation of this year's plan and inform next year's update, the New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) is launching two research partnerships: the Growth Lab at Harvard University will offer world-leading expertise in economic diversification to bolster EDD's strategic planning efforts, and the University of New Mexico will hire a philanthropically funded policy fellow to work with EDD on approaches to building economic resilience in extractive communities. The state also released its inaugural annual report on *Building New Mexico's Infrastructure and Climate-Ready Workforce*.³⁸⁷

The report outlines the progress and achievements in building a workforce capable of supporting the state's clean energy transition, infrastructure investments, and resilient communities. Additionally, the state enacted legislation that established a new Community Benefit Fund, which steers \$27 million to workforce development programs for climate-ready jobs, positioning the state to maintain momentum despite diminished federal funding.³⁸⁸

New York: Announced \$2.5 million in awards as part of the state's Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Clean Energy Training Initiative.³⁸⁹ Awarded funding to three projects supporting hands-on apprenticeship training and certification, investments in K-12 career awareness, related curriculum development, and training equipment. Together, the awarded projects will help train more than 1,000 apprentices, with at least half coming from disadvantaged communities and priority populations such as transitioning fossil fuel workers. In addition, the New York Power Authority approved nearly \$4 million in funding for clean energy workforce training and development supporting pre-apprenticeship programs and curriculum development focused on a range of clean energy career pathways.³⁹⁰

North Carolina: Included in the strategies outlined in the state's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Comprehensive Climate Action Plan are actions to engage local communities. In several cases, stakeholder input led to the inclusion of updated local climate or resilience plans, helping ensure the plan reflects efforts already underway in municipalities and counties across the state. Agencies such as the State Energy Office and the Department of Commerce are working in tandem to identify key workforce needs and opportunities in clean energy sectors,

emphasizing the importance of training and job creation to support the transition to a low-carbon economy.³⁹¹

Oregon: Launched a \$2 million Energy Workforce Training Program aimed at providing technical education on energy-efficient installations for new and existing workers and contractors. The funding will go to community colleges, career and technical education programs at high schools, trade organizations that provide apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, and community-based organizations. At least

\$800,000 in program funds will be awarded for projects that demonstrate direct benefits to disadvantaged communities for clean workforce development.³⁹²

Pennsylvania: Governor Shapiro and the United Mine Workers of America announced a new, first-in-Pennsylvania registered apprenticeship program to train workers to plug oil and gas wells, helping to protect the environment and public health while providing workers with in-demand skills and family-sustaining wages.³⁹³

Community Impact Story

Pennsylvania plugs wells to protect community health



Pennsylvania, led by Governor Josh Shapiro, has plugged 300 orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells in just two years — more than in the previous decade combined — by leveraging state and federal infrastructure funding.^a These wells, often located near homes, parks, and schools, leak methane and toxic chemicals that threaten public health and the climate. “Plugging these orphaned wells is an important way to make progress on both air pollution and global warming,” said Vanessa Lynch of Moms Clean Air Force, who has advocated for stronger action.^b With thousands of legacy wells still unsealed, Pennsylvania’s efforts offer a model for environmental restoration, public health protection, and local job creation.



Photo credit: Office of Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro

- a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. “Shapiro Administration Plugs 300th Orphaned or Abandoned Well, Continuing Historic Progress Strengthening Communities and Creating Jobs.” [Press Release] March 12, 2025. <https://www.pa.gov/governor/newsroom/2025-press-releases/shapiro-administration-plugs-300th-orphaned-or-abandoned-well>.
- b Ramunno, Wendy. “Pennsylvania’s Program to Plug Oil and Gas Wells Is the Good Climate Policy News We All Need Now.” Moms Clean Air Force. March 20, 2025. <https://www.momscleanairforce.org/pennsylvanias-well-plugging-program/>.

BOX 5. Attorneys General Issue Multi-State Guidance Affirming the Legality and Necessity of Environmental Justice Initiatives

Thirteen Alliance state attorneys general, led by the Attorneys General of California, Massachusetts, and New York, issued multi-state guidance this year reinforcing that, despite federal actions, environmental justice does not constitute illegal discrimination, states continue to have legal authority to adopt environmental justice requirements, and that such actions remain critical for supporting public health and welfare.³⁹⁴

The guidance, among other items, addresses:

- The continued necessity and legality of efforts to advance environmental justice.
- State and local governments' legal authority to adopt environmental justice requirements.
- How civil rights protections embedded in the United States Constitution and federal and state laws support actions to advance environmental justice.
- How organizations that promote environmental justice are protected by First Amendment and nonprofit laws.
- The United States' distinct obligations to Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples.

Investing in community-led solutions to environmental justice issues

Across the Alliance, governors are directing impactful investments to communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis, strengthening their capacity to design and implement effective climate solutions. In the face of federal attempts to terminate funding for environmental justice initiatives, Alliance members are providing continued investment and technical assistance to community-led projects that reduce climate pollution, strengthen resilience, and improve public health (Box 5). Examples include:

California: Thanks to California's Community Air Protection Program, funded by the state's cap-and-invest program, more than 4 million Californians living in some of the state's most polluted communities are seeing air quality improvements.³⁹⁵ Through the program, community-led

solutions are cutting emissions, strengthening enforcement of clean air policies, and delivering cleaner, healthier air around the state. For example, the state awarded a record \$20.9 million from the Community Air Grants program to 43 nonprofit community groups and four Tribes to carry out 51 projects, supporting air monitoring and pollution reduction in California's most impacted regions.³⁹⁶ In 2025, the state also conducted its round two solicitation for its Environmental Justice Action Grants Program. In 2024, the state awarded more than \$6 million in Environmental Justice Action Grants to support Tribes, community-based organizations, and residents in engaging in emergency preparedness, public health protection, environmental and climate decision-making, and coordinated enforcement efforts affecting their communities.³⁹⁷

Colorado: Awarded more than \$3 million in funding from the Colorado Environmental Justice Grant Program³⁹⁸ to support projects that improve environmental health

across the state.³⁹⁹ The *Environmental Justice Act* created this grant opportunity to fund projects in communities disproportionately impacted by pollution and climate change.⁴⁰⁰ Projects range from efforts to improve indoor air quality in urban schools to innovative water filtration systems to remove heavy metals from rural drinking water.

Michigan: Announced \$20 million in investments through 43 grants directed at communities with environmental justice concerns. The grants will be administered to community organizations, local governments, nonprofit organizations, Tribes, schools, and childcare centers that will monitor pollution, clean up contamination, enhance indoor air quality, and more.⁴⁰¹ The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) also announced 25 inaugural participants in Michigan's first Justice40 Accelerator, a 12-month program designed to provide funding, training, and technical support to organizations serving under resourced communities.⁴⁰² EGLE also launched the MI Healthy Climate Challenge.⁴⁰³ Through a series of grant competitions, the challenge will award millions of dollars to projects accelerating clean energy development, expanding access to climate funding, cutting emissions, and creating good jobs, with a focus on projects delivering benefits to low-income communities.⁴⁰⁴

Minnesota: Awarded more than \$1 million in technical assistance grants aimed at supporting Tribal governments' projects that improve environmental quality. Through the program, Tribes will connect with experienced professionals who can offer support in securing funding for environmental and climate change-related projects by identifying new funding opportunities, writing grant applications, and managing grants. This program was established in response to input from Tribal consultations during the state's Climate Action Framework update process.⁴⁰⁵

New Jersey: Approved 13 new Brownfield Development Areas (BDA) as part of the relaunch of the state's BDA program. The program spurs revitalization and economic development by helping communities implement environmental investigation, remediation, and redevelopment activities in areas that encompass brownfield sites.⁴⁰⁶ Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation enhancing incentives available through the *Brownfields Redevelopment Incentive Program Act*, allowing eligible projects to receive tax credits in the amount of 100 percent of the cost of remediating and capping landfills, up to a maximum of \$8 million to \$12 million.⁴⁰⁷

New York: Awarded \$2 million in Environmental Justice Community Impact Grants to 21 community-based organizations that are advancing projects that address environmental hazards, build community consensus, and improve public outreach and education.⁴⁰⁸ The New York Department of Environmental Conservation also announced an additional \$5.9 million in funding, available through a new round of the grant program.⁴⁰⁹ In addition, Governor Hochul reauthorized the state's Hazardous Waste Superfund program for another 10 years, providing \$1.25 billion to remediate and restore industrial sites containing significant levels of hazardous waste.⁴¹⁰ New amendments to the program strengthen the department's enforcement authority and require it to prioritize the most hazardous sites in disadvantaged communities.⁴¹¹

Washington: Launched the Washington State Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grant, a new \$10 million grant program that will fund locally led projects to reduce sources of criteria air pollution and protect people's health in communities historically overburdened with health, social, and environmental inequities. In alignment with Healthy Environment for All requirements, the Department of Ecology incorporated community feedback into the grant program's Environmental Justice Assessment, which helps



ILLINOIS
Governor JB Pritzker

“A true clean energy future is one that leaves no community behind. Through the transformative *Climate and Equitable Jobs Act*, we’re ensuring historically disadvantaged communities are at the forefront as we grow our clean energy economy. These grant programs are driving clean energy projects where they’re needed most, creating opportunities and a future where all Illinoisans can thrive.”^x

Community Impact Story

Minnesota advances food sovereignty, sustainability, and climate justice



In Minnesota, Governor Tim Walz's environmental leadership is advancing a climate-smart food systems strategy that addresses emissions, equity, and food security across the state.^a Through Minnesota Pollution Control Agency-administered grants, nearly \$4.8 million has been invested in food rescue and waste prevention projects that reduce GHG emissions while expanding access to healthy food. One recipient, Second Harvest Northland, used the funds to install a 13,600-square-foot freezer and cooler — with profound results. “This important equipment increased our capacity to rescue and distribute 310 percent more perishable food for our neighbors in need, helping us move closer to our goal of ending hunger in our region,” said Shaye Moris, president and CEO of Second Harvest Northland.^b Minnesota's approach shows how climate policy can deliver immediate community benefits while driving systemic change.



a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. “Minnesota Climate-Smart Food Systems.” Accessed September 2025. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/minnesota-climate-smart-food-systems>.

b Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. “Food Rescue Efforts Across Minnesota Get Nearly \$4.8 Million in MPCA Grants for Preventing Wasted Food.” April 9, 2025. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news-and-stories/mpca-grants-support-food-rescue>.

the department make informed decisions on how best to reduce environmental harms and address environmental and health inequities.⁴¹²

Wisconsin: Governor Evers allocated \$1.5 million annually in the state's two-year budget for the Tribal Elder Food Box program.⁴¹³ The goal of the Tribal Elder Food Box program is to expand access to nutritious, culturally meaningful foods for Tribal citizens in Wisconsin over the age of 55.⁴¹⁴ Food for the boxes is sourced from a network of producers who grow and harvest traditional, local food. Each month, food boxes are packed and delivered to Tribal Elders in all 11 federally recognized Tribes in Wisconsin, as well as to urban Tribal communities in Milwaukee, Green Bay, and Madison.

Increasing capacity to advance participatory decision-making and equitable outcomes

Alliance states and territories continue to build capacity to advance environmental justice and support a just energy transition. Members are developing and updating a wide range of tools and guidance to ensure agencies are equipped to identify disadvantaged communities within their states, prioritize their needs, and effectively report on how benefits of new climate investments are reaching these communities. Alliance members have also taken actions to implement more inclusive and meaningful engagement processes with frontline communities, and to ensure these communities are protected from disproportionate climate pollution. Examples include:

Colorado: Launched the Colorado EnviroScreen 2.0 and the Disproportionately Impacted Communities Map, two tools that help identify areas facing the greatest amount of pollution and environmental burdens based on demographics, which can inform better resource allocation and policy implementation.⁴¹⁵ The state also announced the launch of an interactive tool to explore completed supplemental environmental projects across the state.⁴¹⁶ These projects, funded through environmental enforcement actions, work to benefit the environment or public health.⁴¹⁷ The state also released its first *Annual Environmental Justice Grant Report*, which showcases the impactful work of the Environmental Justice Grant Program's cycle-one grantees.⁴¹⁸ Created by the *Environmental Justice Act*,⁴¹⁹ the grant program funds projects that measure, prevent, or reduce pollution to protect public health or restore the environment. The state also created a team of environmental justice liaisons at the Energy and Carbon Management Commission to facilitate community engagement in energy-permitting processes.⁴²⁰ The commission also adopted new Cumulative Impacts and Enhanced Systems and Practices rules requiring more robust community engagement in energy-permitting processes.⁴²¹

Connecticut: Released a request for qualifications (RFQ) seeking proposals from qualified organizations to serve as Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Community Resource Hubs in environmental justice communities. The initiative's goal is to incorporate community input into program design, lower barriers to access and enrollment in DEEP programs, and better connect residents in environmental justice communities with DEEP services and programs.⁴²²

Maryland: Issued the *Valuing Opportunity, Inclusion, and Community Equity* executive order, helping foster a whole-of-government approach to promoting environmental justice and advancing meaningful engagement with

communities that have historically borne a disproportionate burden of environmental pollution. Among other actions, the order requires that state agencies use the MDEnviroScreen mapping tool to engage impacted communities and develop tailored solutions; mandates that each agency designate an environmental justice officer and design metrics-based environmental justice strategic plans; and creates a new Interagency Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Council to coordinate efforts, support local governments, and maximize funding opportunities.⁴²³

Massachusetts: Enacted *An Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity and Protecting Ratepayers*, which makes improvements to equitable siting and the community engagement process. Municipalities will be granted automatic intervenor status in the Energy Facilities Siting Board's proceedings, and a fund will be established to support municipalities, organizations, and individuals in accessing qualified legal representation and expert analysis. The board will also require a cumulative impact analysis for projects seeking to site in environmental justice communities, so that no neighborhood becomes overburdened with infrastructure that the entire state benefits from. The Office of Environmental Justice and Equity and the Division of Public Participation at the Department of Public Utilities, both established under Governor Healey, are also now enshrined in law.⁴²⁴

New Mexico: Established the Community Benefit Fund, a non-reverting fund in the state treasury with an initial appropriation of \$210 million for communities to use for projects to mitigate climate change impacts. This law includes requirements for projects to conduct outreach and consult with overburdened communities, and to negotiate a community benefit agreement. It also directs the identification of a data tool to identify overburdened communities in the state.⁴²⁵

Community Impact Story

New Jersey invests in parks and people



Initiated by Governor Phil Murphy, New Jersey is making a massive \$131 million statewide investment in community recreation through the Green Acres program, funding playground renovations, walking trails, sports fields, and public spaces across dozens of municipalities. A standout project is the \$1.9 million Green Acres grant awarded to Joyce Kilmer Park in New Brunswick's Esperanza neighborhood, funded to upgrade athletic fields, crosswalks, fitness stations, and accessible playground equipment. "Joyce Kilmer Park sits at the center of one of our most vibrant communities in New Brunswick ... By investing in its renewal, from the crosswalks to the athletic fields, we are investing in the physical, mental, and social fabric that connects us all," said Jaymie Santiago, president of New Brunswick Today. Through strategic, large-scale funding and community-centered planning, the Murphy administration is enhancing public health, equity, and neighborhood cohesion across New Jersey.^a



^a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. "Murphy Administration Marks Earth Week by Announcing \$131 Million Investment in Community Recreation Projects, Open Space Acquisitions Across New Jersey." [Press Release] April 25, 2025. https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_0023/.

North Carolina: Announced the release of the *Governor's Environmental Justice Advisory Council Report*, which contains 14 recommendations to advance environmental justice and ensures state agencies incorporate environmental justice in decision-making processes. The report also includes more than 40 recommendations from the council's environmental justice hub and mapping tool, cumulative impacts, community engagement, and training subcommittees. This comprehensive report resulted from the reestablishment of the Secretary of Environmental Quality's Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board in October 2023 by Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 292.⁴²⁶

Washington: Launched a new interactive map that gives communities and lawmakers a way to track Washington state's progress toward the goal — set by the state's environment justice law — that at least 40 percent of funds invested to improve the environment benefit overburdened communities and vulnerable

populations.⁴²⁷ The year 2024 marked the first of agency reporting, and the current data serves as a baseline from which stakeholders can measure and evaluate progress over time.⁴²⁸ The Department of Health also released new guidance on how to use its Environmental Health Disparities Map, an interactive tool created under the *HEAL Act* to compare pollution exposure vulnerability across Washington census tracts, including Tribal lands.⁴²⁹

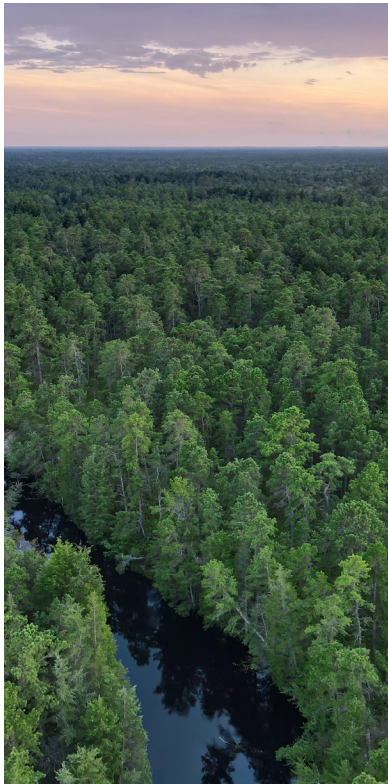
Wisconsin: The Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy launched the Wisconsin Climate Action Navigators Network. The network has enhanced meaningful engagement by utilizing a network of local climate leaders to address and lessen climate impacts. The aim is to grow the network, reach further into communities, and ensure their needs, projects, and challenges are addressed locally. In 2025, selected participants received just over \$400,000 to promote community involvement and gather local input on the state's comprehensive climate action plan.



Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Natural & Working Lands

Alliance members are scaling best practices for land management, restoration, and conservation to contribute to emissions reductions and carbon sequestration at the scale needed for deep decarbonization and, where appropriate, integrating natural and working lands into state mitigation and resilience plans with ambitious goals that center equity and prioritize actions that deliver multiple benefits.



Member Action

The table below includes the number of members that have adopted — or are in the process of adopting — statutory and executive policies and actions. These counts are current as of October 2025.

Policies	# of Members
NWL in state GHG inventories	20
NWL conservation or sequestration goals	19
Healthy soils programs	11

For the most up-to-date, in-depth breakdown of climate actions across the coalition, explore the Alliance Policy Database.

data.usclimatealliance.org

Natural and Working Lands

Farms, forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other natural and working lands (NWL) provide powerful natural solutions to the climate crisis, storing carbon in forests and soils and supporting clean air, clean water, and the resilience of communities and ecosystems. Aging forests, the conversion of NWLs to settlements, and severe wildfires — along with other impacts from climate change — are increasingly threatening the ability of NWLs to provide climate mitigation and resilience benefits. There is significant public support among Americans of both political parties for expanding the use of natural climate solutions. In 2025, Alliance members increased planning and investments in NWLs to combat climate change impacts and ensure healthy and resilient lands and waters continue to support climate solutions.

Historic investments in natural climate solutions

Alliance members have made historic investments in natural climate solutions to support community- and state-led climate action. These include efforts to reduce heat and wildfire risks, accelerate reforestation, prepare for sea level rise and flooding, support agricultural stewardship, enhance access to public lands, and ensure equitable distribution of benefits. Examples include:

Arizona: Invested \$47 million to boost wildfire preparedness and response, \$2 million of which supported the Department of Forestry and Fire Management's Healthy Forest Initiative to support communities with wildfire risk reduction. Funded projects cover 3,000 acres throughout the state and focus on fire prevention, critical infrastructure protection, and forest and watershed restoration through reduction of hazardous vegetation.⁴³⁰

California: Passed Proposition 4, authorizing the state to borrow \$10 billion to reduce climate risks. Up to \$8 billion of these funds can deliver on California's nature-based solution climate targets.⁴³¹

Colorado: Enacted landmark legislation addressing climate change, wildlife, and water resources. This law

created a statewide snowpack measurement program, facilitated studies on funding water needs in the face of decreasing oil and gas tax revenue, increased tools for tackling invasive species and wildlife trafficking, and created a stewardship process for geological CO₂ storage sites. The state invested nearly \$69 million in Colorado Water Conservation Board watershed programs and projects, redistributed Colorado lottery funds to enhance conservation efforts, and increased funding for outdoor access through the Outdoor Equity Grant Program.⁴³²

Connecticut: Announced \$14.3 million in state grants to protect open space and create six new community green spaces through the state's Open Space and Land Acquisition Grant Program and the Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program. Including this latest round of awards, Connecticut has preserved a total of 519,138 acres to date, equivalent to over 16 percent of the state's land base. Connecticut's statutory goal is to protect 21 percent of the state's land base.

Guam: Invited public input on efforts to seek Gold Standard carbon credit certification for the southern Guam reforestation and agroforestry project. This pilot project will develop a revenue mechanism to support natural climate solutions projects that improve food security, water quality, and climate resilience.⁴³³ The adoption of the Guam Forests System Plan sets the framework for

long-term protection of 13,000 acres of Government of Guam lands to be dedicated to compatible forests uses.

Maine: Updated its climate action plan to protect the environment and natural and working lands and waters. Goals in the new plan include increasing the acreage of conserved NWLs to 30 percent by 2030; developing incentives to increase forest carbon storage; and supporting farming, forestry, and fisheries in adapting to climate change.⁴³⁴ The state invested \$3.8 million to preserve over 3,500 acres of farmland, undeveloped land, and working waterfront access through its Land for Maine's Future program.⁴³⁵ These projects bring the state's recent investments in land protection to \$29.9 million.⁴³⁶

Maryland and North Carolina: Began implementation of the \$421 million Atlantic Conservation Coalition Climate Pollution Reduction Grant to deploy nature-based carbon sequestration solutions through peatland restoration, coastal habitat restoration, and improved forest management in Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. These projects will sequester carbon while providing resilience benefits from flooding, sea level rise, and wildfires for local communities. In 2025, The Nature Conservancy utilized the funding to purchase thousands of acres of peatland in North Carolina and tidal wetlands in Maryland for future restoration. The total funding will result in approximately 27 million tons of CO₂e sequestered by 2050.

Community Impact Story

New Mexico invests in a greener tomorrow for the Land of Enchantment



Under Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's leadership, New Mexico fully funded the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund with a historic \$300 million investment — the state's first permanent source for land, water, wildlife, and outdoor conservation.^a Already, the fund has provided "wide-reaching, essential benefits for birds by supporting river restoration projects through the River Stewardship program," according to Judy Calman of the Audubon Society. Looking forward, Kay Bounkeua of the Wilderness Society highlights the fund and the programs it will support as "an investment in New Mexico's future — a future where all New Mexican youth experience the transformative power of nature and its many benefits, and where the landscapes we live, play, and recreate are protected and enhanced thanks to generations of stewardship."^b With sustained resources and strong public backing, the fund ensures New Mexico's natural heritage will be protected far into the future.



Photo credit: Stephanie Klepacki, Unsplash

a Fallon, Brittany. *Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund*. Western Resources Advocates. Accessed September 25, 2025. <https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ALFC%20082223%20Item%208%20-%20Land%20of%20Enchantment%20Legacy%20Fund%20Presentation.pdf>.

b Legacy Fund. "Legacy Fund Receives Historic, Long-Term Conservation Funding." [Press Release] March 6, 2024. <https://www.enchantmentfund.org/post/2024budgetstatement>.



Photo credit: Office of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz

Massachusetts: Awarded more than \$420,000 to seven organizations working to increase urban tree canopy in environmental justice communities through the state's Urban and Community Forestry Environmental Justice Grant Program.⁴³⁷

Minnesota: Voters approved a constitutional amendment to continue allocating at least 40 percent of state lottery revenue to an environment and natural resources trust fund until 2050.⁴³⁸ Since 1988, the fund has provided hundreds of millions of dollars for more than 1,700 projects statewide.

New Jersey: Governor Murphy announced more than \$131 million in Green Acres investments for parks, recreation, and open space preservation projects across New Jersey.⁴³⁹ The Department of Environmental Protection also announced \$13.4 million in available grants for local governments, nonprofit organizations, higher education institutions, and others for water quality improvement projects and watershed-based plans to protect the ecological health of waterways and increase local flood storage.⁴⁴⁰

New York: Governor Hochul made historic investments in community and land resilience and climate action through natural climate solutions, including appropriating \$1 billion in FY 26 to support New York's environmental

sustainability programs, agricultural industry, and state park system.⁴⁴¹ Governor Hochul also announced a record \$33 million in funding for farms through the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program, expected to reduce GHG emissions by 120,000 metric tons of CO₂e per year — the equivalent of removing 28,560 gas-powered vehicles.⁴⁴²

Rhode Island: Approved a \$53 million green bond to support projects related to flood prevention, restoring costal habitats, and improving forest health.⁴⁴³ This bond allocates \$10 million to the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank to help local communities restore and improve resilience of vulnerable coastal habitats, river and stream floodplains, and infrastructure; \$5 million for forest health management, wildlife habitat, and related infrastructure at state management areas; \$5 million in matching grants to support community recreation; \$8 million for farmland and open space preservation; and \$2 million for coastal climate resilience projects. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management onboarded a Natural and Working Lands Policy Fellow to help strengthen state GHG reporting for NWLs and to enhance understanding of policy actions the state can take in this sector. This position will work closely with the Natural Resources Bureau to further support the health and stewardship of NWLs and boost carbon management.

Managing and planning for healthy and resilient NWLs

Alliance members advanced comprehensive approaches to protect and manage NWLs for ecosystem and community resilience in 2025 at the state and local levels. Examples include:

Arizona: Released a five-year plan for its Urban and Community Forestry program, a cooperative forestry initiative that increases awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of urban forests in Arizona and supports municipalities and other organizations with financial and technical assistance.⁴⁴⁴ The plan's goals include promoting the role of urban and community forestry in human health; cultivating diversity, equity, and leadership in urban and community forestry; and strengthening urban and community health and biodiversity for long-term resilience.

California: Completed the largest river restoration project in American history, ahead of schedule and on budget. The project removed dams that blocked the river's natural flow for over a century, and restored nearly 400 miles of vital habitat for salmon and other species that are essential to the river's ecosystem and the communities that depend on them.⁴⁴⁵

Colorado: Enacted legislation to encourage denser development while protecting land near wildlife crossings,⁴⁴⁶ allow local fire districts to create programs to mitigate wildfire risk,⁴⁴⁷ and expand prescribed burn capacity to strengthen state fire mitigation efforts.⁴⁴⁸ The state also enacted first-in-the-nation legislation requiring insurers to account for property-specific and community-level wildfire mitigation actions in pricing models to ensure policies accurately reflect mitigation activities.⁴⁴⁹ The Colorado Energy Office also launched \$50 million in grants through its Local IMPACT Accelerator program to support local policy

Community Impact Story

Maryland hits 30x30 six years early



As a result of Governor Wes Moore's bold climate leadership, Maryland reached its goal of conserving 30 percent of state lands six years ahead of schedule, protecting over 1.85 million acres just one year after the passage of the *Maryland the Beautiful Act*. "Land conservation is about working together to ensure a future of local foods, healthy ecosystems, vibrant biodiversity, clean water, carbon sequestration, connected communities, great spaces for mental and physical well-being, and more," said Owen Bailey, chair of partners for Open Space. "Reaching this 30 percent milestone speaks volumes about the effectiveness of Maryland's conservation community, but reaching 40 percent by 2040 will require an even deeper commitment."^a By linking land preservation with public health, food systems, and climate resilience, Maryland is charting a collaborative path toward long-term environmental justice.



Photo credit: U.S. National Park Service

^a Maryland Department of Natural Resources. "Governor Moore Announces Maryland Meets 30% of State Land Conservation Goal Six Years Ahead of Schedule." [Press Release] May 15, 2024. <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2024/05/15/governor-moore-announces-maryland-meets-30-of-state-land-conservation-goal-six-years-ahead-of-schedule/>.



MASSACHUSETTS

Governor Maura Healey

“Our lands, waters, and wildlife are at the heart of what makes Massachusetts so special. They shape our identity, drive our economy, promote public health, and support the way of life we value. Protecting them isn’t optional — it’s essential.”^{xi}

adoption to foster community resilience and reduce emissions, including land use policies that encourage compact housing development and preserve NWLs.⁴⁵⁰

Connecticut: Adopted the 2025–2030 Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan for land and water resource conservation, preservation, and development. The plan guides state agencies to address injustices spurred by past land use policies, increase housing production in designated zones and through transit-oriented development, and address climate change.⁴⁵¹ The state also enacted legislation that established a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, requires annual quantification of carbon sequestration, and directs the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to develop a nature-based solutions initiative to integrate and advance nature-based solutions that support climate change mitigation and adaptation, and ecosystem resilience and biodiversity.

Delaware: Enacted legislation that requires municipal- and county-level comprehensive land use plans to include strategies for community resilience and reducing the vulnerability of property, agriculture, infrastructure, and cultural and natural resources from the impacts of climate change. The law also requires land use plans to be informed by the Delaware Climate Action Plan and Implementation Plans.⁴⁵²

Maryland: Enacted legislation to modernize Maryland’s water quality and monitoring program, enhance Maryland’s farmland and ecosystems by promoting regenerative agriculture practices, streamline the aquaculture leasing process, update Maryland’s fisheries management program, and develop a collaborative permitting process to expedite watershed projects.⁴⁵³ The law establishes the Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming Pilot Program to recognize and further

incentivize sustainable land management practices.⁴⁵⁴ The state also launched a whole-of-government climate action approach with the release of agency climate implementation plans that recommended actions to increase adoption of best management practices across Maryland’s working lands, increase conservation actions to achieve the state’s 40 percent conservation by 2040 goal and 5 Million Trees Initiative (including 10 percent tree plantings in underserved urban communities), and balance renewable energy development with protecting valuable natural and working lands.⁴⁵⁵

New Jersey: Joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, a group of states, territories, and countries committed to conserving 30 percent of their land by 2030.⁴⁵⁶ New Jersey has already protected more than 1.6 million acres of open space — more than 30 percent of the state’s total land, and has made substantial investments in recreation and land conservation through its Green Acres Program.⁴⁵⁷

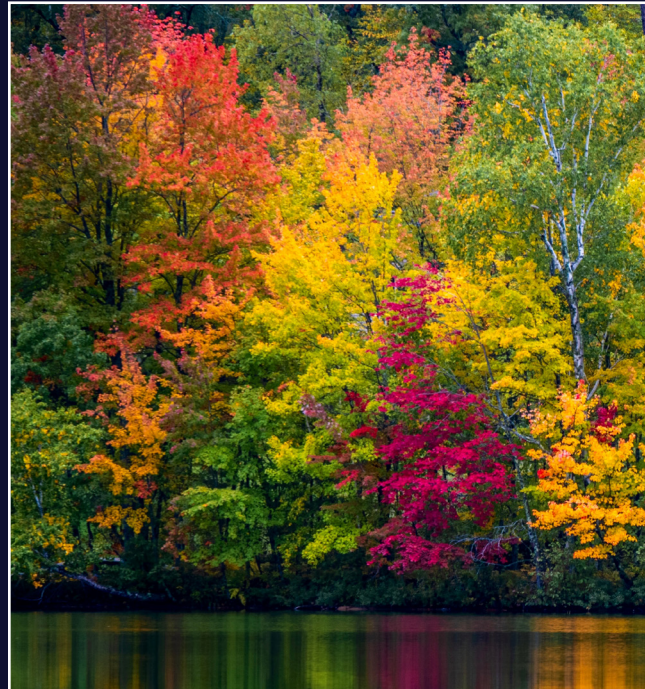
Wisconsin: Invested \$30 million to assist counties in hiring and retaining conservation staff to support local resilience and conservation projects across the state that improve water and soil quality, as well as \$2 million to increase funding for the producer-led Watershed Grant Program, which helps farmers and producers implement innovative projects that reduce runoff and improve water and soil health.⁴⁵⁸

Community Impact Story

Wisconsin plants trees and conserves forests for future generations



Under Governor Tony Evers, Wisconsin joined the global Trillion Trees Initiative with a bold pledge to plant 75 million trees and conserve 125,000 acres of forestland by the end of 2030, advancing nature-based climate solutions across the state.^a As of 2024, Wisconsin has already planted over 42 million trees and conserved more than 57,000 acres, thanks to strong public-private partnerships and dedicated citizens. As a result of this significant progress, on Earth Day 2024, Governor Evers increased Wisconsin's tree planting goal to 100 million trees by the end of 2030.^b "I'll leave these deer exclusion cages on until the trees are 4-inch diameter ... but I probably won't be around then. That will be for my grandkids," said Jim Schiller, a 68-year-old Wisconsinite who has spent decades restoring his forest with native seedlings, showing how everyday residents are driving generational climate action.^c By pairing executive leadership with grassroots stewardship, Governor Evers is making Wisconsin a national model for resilient, community-powered conservation.



- a State of Wisconsin, Office of Governor Evers. Executive Order 112: *Relating to the Conservation of Forestland in Wisconsin*. Enacted April 22, 2021. <https://evers.wi.gov/Documents/EO/EO112-RelatingtotheConservationandRestorationofforestland.pdf>.
- b State of Wisconsin. "Gov. Evers Signs Executive Order Increasing Wisconsin's Trillion Trees Pledge Goal to Plant 100 Million Trees by the End of 2030." [Press Release] April 22, 2024. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/3979079>.
- c Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. *Wisconsin's Trillion Trees Pledge: 2024 Annual Report*. April 22, 2024. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Forests/trillionTreesAnnualReport2024.pdf>.

Leveraging natural climate solutions

Natural climate solutions are some of the most cost-effective, powerful actions available for states to achieve net-zero, biodiversity, and resilience goals. Alliance members adopted a variety of natural climate solutions in 2025 across all NWL land types to deliver a wide range of benefits. Examples include:

California: Reached a major milestone in the restoration of the Salton Sea in May 2025 — covering approximately 2,000 acres with water to create habitat for fish and birds while improving air quality by reducing dust from the

previously exposed lakebed.⁴⁵⁹ Restoration of the Salton Sea is critical to the health and economies of the Imperial and Coachella Valleys, supporting efforts to transform the region into a global hub for battery production, essential to the state's transition to zero-emissions vehicles.

Colorado: Celebrated a groundbreaking for new facilities at the Colorado State Forest Service Seedling Tree Nursery.⁴⁶⁰ This renovation is fundamental to meeting critical reforestation needs that continue to increase due to climate change and recent catastrophic wildfires and floods. The Seedling Tree Nursery, located on the Foothills Campus of Colorado State University, is the state's leader



Photo credit: Michael Liskey, Unsplash

in producing low-cost, Colorado-grown seedling trees and shrubs for conservation purposes. Colorado also launched a forest carbon accounting framework, which provides a foundation for monitoring carbon in Colorado's forest ecosystem and the associated harvested wood products derived from the state's forests.⁴⁶¹ The framework enables future updates for monitoring and reporting and enhances transferability to other states in the intermountain region.

Connecticut: Released a high-resolution elevation and imagery dataset capturing more than 12,000 acres of coastal saltmarsh and adjoining upland buffer across 250 coastal marshes. This dataset will inform the design of better habitat restoration projects to protect species vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise and habitat loss, such as the saltmarsh sparrow.⁴⁶²

Guam: Deployed two spotter buoys that will allow for real-time wave observation data to be shared with recreational and commercial boaters and those interested in shoreline vulnerabilities such as beach erosion.

New Jersey: Released *A Strategy to Advance Carbon Sequestration on New Jersey's Natural and Working Lands*, a blueprint for enhancing carbon sequestration across diverse landscapes and boosting the capture of CO₂ on both public and private lands, including wetlands, aquatic habitats, agricultural areas, and forests.⁴⁶³ This plan will help the state achieve its goal of an 80 percent reduction in emissions from 2006 levels by 2050 and enhance carbon sequestration and storage efforts without compromising ecological functions and services.

New York: Launched an interactive tracking tool to document progress toward the state's goal to plant 25 million trees by 2033. State agencies, organizations, private entities, and individuals can report the location and number of trees planted and measure progress, including efforts to plant trees in disadvantaged communities.⁴⁶⁴

Oregon: Approved a forest management plan for Elliott State Forest to store carbon and generate revenue from selling carbon offset credits, making Oregon the second state to dedicate an entire state forest to storing emissions while generating revenue from carbon credits.⁴⁶⁵

Washington: Enacted legislation that will speed up state environmental reviews for certain solar energy generation projects and exempt farmers from additional taxation when using land for agriculture and solar production.⁴⁶⁶ The Washington State Department of Agriculture released its *Climate Resilience Plan for Washington Agriculture*, outlining strategies to enhance farm resilience, support agricultural innovation, and encourage adoption of climate-smart practices.⁴⁶⁷ The plan provides a playbook for institutions and agencies that support agriculture.



Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Pricing Carbon & Valuing Damages

Alliance members are incentivizing cost-effective emissions reductions by setting prices or caps on carbon pollution while also considering societal and environmental impacts of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, including the social cost of greenhouse gases, across relevant policy-making and decision-making processes.



Member Action

The table below includes the number of members that have adopted — or are in the process of adopting — statutory and executive policies and actions. These counts are current as of October 2025.

Policies	# of Members
Social cost of greenhouse gases in policymaking	15
Carbon market participation	11
Climate Superfund laws	2

For the most up-to-date, in-depth breakdown of climate actions across the coalition, explore the Alliance Policy Database.

data.usclimatealliance.org

Pricing Carbon and Valuing Damages

Extreme weather events like wildfires, heat, severe flooding, and drought are occurring more frequently and causing more damage as a result of greenhouse gas pollution. These and other impacts will only intensify if emissions continue unabated. Economy-wide and sector-specific market-based programs, such as cap-and-invest and baseline-and-credit, put a direct price on carbon pollution to reduce emissions and raise revenue to invest into communities. Alliance members participating in statewide and regional carbon markets are successfully leveraging this revenue to lower household energy bills, make clean technologies like solar panels and electric vehicles more affordable, and build resilience for future extreme weather events. At the same time, some Alliance states have begun establishing programs to make polluters pay for their contributions to climate-related damages, and many others continue to use the social cost of greenhouse gases (SC-GHG) as a tool to inform their states' regulatory development, climate action planning, and other policy decisions.

Valuing damages from climate pollution

Failing to invest in climate solutions now will only increase costs in the future, as studies show the cost of inaction will force future generations to spend trillions of dollars. One recent study found that climate inaction could reduce cumulative global economic output by a third.⁴⁶⁸ Alliance members use SC-GHG to quantify the economic benefits of reducing emissions now to avoid future climate impacts to communities. While federal agencies have been directed to limit their use of SC-GHG,⁴⁶⁹ Alliance members continue to incorporate these metrics into policy decision-making and move toward making polluters pay for climate damages resulting from their actions. Examples include:

Hawai'i: Announced a lawsuit against fossil fuel companies for their deceptive conduct and failure to warn about their products' climate change danger, which is harming Hawai'i's public health, infrastructure, natural resources, and economy.⁴⁷⁰

New York: Enacted the *Climate Change Superfund Act*, which shifts the cost of climate adaptation from New

Yorkers to the fossil fuel companies most responsible for pollution that contributes to dangerous climate impacts like flooding and extreme heat.⁴⁷¹ The Climate Change Adaptation Cost Recovery Program ensures that these companies contribute to coastal protection, flood mitigation systems, and other critical infrastructure investments that will enhance the climate resilience of communities across the state.⁴⁷² New York also updated its *Value of Carbon Guidelines* to recommend its agencies utilize values from EPA's 2023 *Report on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases*, which indicate that every metric ton of CO₂ emitted now costs society nearly four times as much (\$190 per ton) than previously estimated (\$51 per ton).⁴⁷³

Vermont: Published its *Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program Report to the General Assembly*, detailing progress in implementing the state's *Climate Superfund Act*.⁴⁷⁴ Enacted in May 2024, this law allows the state to require fossil fuel companies to pay into a fund for climate change adaptation projects throughout the state. The new report includes several recommendations for improving the program's administration, laying the groundwork for the state to prioritize and fund this work to ensure its success.

Incentivizing cost-effective emissions reductions

Alliance members are incentivizing cost-effective emissions reductions by capping carbon pollution and generating revenue that can be reinvested into advancing climate action and helping disadvantaged communities. For example, Alliance members **Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont** participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the first market-based regulatory initiative in the United States. The states have invested the majority of revenue raised through RGGI in energy efficiency measures and have also invested RGGI funds in other bill-reducing measures, such as clean and renewable energy and direct bill assistance. As a result of RGGI-funded measures installed to date, over 8 million households and 415,000 businesses in the region will save over \$20 billion on their energy bills.⁴⁷⁵ On July 3, 2025, the 10 RGGI states released the results of their Third Program Review, where they agreed to strengthen their regional CO₂ emissions cap for the power sector through 2037 (Box 6, see page 100).⁴⁷⁶ Additional examples include:

California: Enacted legislation that extends the state's cap-and-invest program through 2045, providing the market with greater certainty, attracting stable investment, furthering California's climate leadership, and setting the state on a clear path to achieve its 2045 carbon-neutrality goal.⁴⁷⁷ According to *California Climate Investments' 2025 Annual Report to the Legislature*, auction proceeds from the cap-and-invest program have been used since 2014 to fund \$12.8 billion in more than 590,000 implemented projects that are reducing harmful air pollution, helping Californians save billions of dollars on travel and energy costs, and supporting over 100,000 jobs throughout the state.⁴⁷⁸ Cumulatively, 73 percent of these investments funded projects that benefited disadvantaged communities and other priority populations. The auction proceeds from the cap-and-invest program have improved affordability by providing over 560,000 direct rebates and incentives since 2014, supporting the development of 13,633 affordable housing units, and reducing energy and fuel use costs by \$38.1 billion cumulatively.⁴⁷⁹ An additional \$15 billion was returned as energy bill credits for utility customers.

Colorado: Issued GHG fees to the state's major polluters for their 2023 calendar-year emissions.⁴⁸⁰ Required under the 2021 *Colorado Environmental Justice Act*, Colorado's



GHG fee rule is intended to fund the Air Pollution Control Division's ongoing work to address climate change, including public health monitoring and direct investments in disproportionately impacted communities. Under Air Quality Control Commission Regulation Number 27, Colorado issued its first credits to industrial manufacturing sources and hosted its first auction, resulting in 2,760 credits sold at a price of around \$25 per credit.⁴⁸¹ These credits represent reductions from regulated industrial manufacturing sources beyond their 2030 emissions reduction obligations and assist these regulated sources in collectively achieving their required reductions.

New York: Proposed regulations to require certain large emitters to report their emissions data.⁴⁸² This mandatory GHG reporting program will provide an essential framework for implementation of New York's Climate Act and help inform New York's comprehensive strategies to reduce harmful air pollution and direct investments where they are most needed.

BOX 6. States in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Set Stricter Emissions Cap for the Power Sector

RGGI — a bipartisan clean energy initiative — was launched in 2009 and undergoes regular reviews that consider the program’s successes, impacts, and design elements.⁴⁸³ RGGI’s Third Program Review updates the initiative’s Model Rule so that starting in 2027, the regional emissions cap for the power sector is reduced to 69.8 million metric tons of CO₂ from the previous cap of 75.7 million metric tons.⁴⁸⁴ Between 2027 and 2037, allowances will continue to decrease each year, ultimately resulting in anywhere from a 60 to 87 percent decrease compared to 2025 emissions levels. The new program update also includes minimum price floors for allowances and a “cost containment reserve” mechanism, which provides additional allowances if prices rise beyond a pre-determined level to prevent utility costs from rising too high. Independent modeling of the RGGI proposal indicates that consumer energy bill impacts will be negligible, with some

scenarios even showing a potential decline in monthly bills due to emissions reductions and continued investments in bill-reducing measures like energy efficiency.⁴⁸⁵

RGGI’s latest auction on June 6, 2025 generated nearly \$300 million for participating states to reinvest in strategic programs, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, direct bill assistance, beneficial electrification, and other GHG abatement programs. Between 2009 and 2020, RGGI contributed to a 46 percent reduction in carbon emissions, raised \$3.8 billion in allowance proceeds, produced \$5.7 billion in net economic benefits, and added 48,000 job years.⁴⁸⁶ This latest program update continues to build on the environmental, economic, and societal benefits of RGGI, demonstrating the critical role that state leadership and collaboration play in climate action.



Photo credit: California Climate Investments

Oregon: Adopted the Climate Protection Program, setting enforceable limits on GHG emissions from fossil fuels used throughout the state that will drive down emissions by 50 percent by 2035 and 90 percent by 2050.⁴⁸⁷ To maximize flexibility, regulated entities can bank credits, trade credits with other entities, or contribute to the Community Climate Investments Program, which invests in projects that reduce GHG emissions in communities throughout Oregon.

Pennsylvania: Proposed the *Pennsylvania Climate Emissions Reduction Act*, which would establish a cap-and-invest program to set Pennsylvania's carbon limit for the power sector and invest in reducing electricity costs.⁴⁸⁸ As part of Governor Shapiro's Lightning Plan, this proposal would return 70 percent of the revenue generated to Pennsylvanians as rebates on their electric bills.

Washington: Published its annual report showing how *Climate Commitment Act* revenue was used to generate environmental, economic, public health, and community

benefits during FY 2024.⁴⁸⁹ Nearly \$500 million was invested in projects that improve wildfire resilience, restore salmon habitat, build pedestrian and biking infrastructure, offer energy bill assistance, and develop new clean energy sources.⁴⁹⁰ More than 60 percent of this spending benefited vulnerable populations in overburdened communities, surpassing the law's required minimum of 35 percent. Washington's cap-and-invest program has generated over \$3 billion since 2023, which has supported critical climate and air quality projects, including those that reduce energy bills for low-income households and small businesses and provide free ferry, bus, and other clean transit rides for youth.^{491,492}



NEW JERSEY
Governor Phil Murphy

“We are taking a new step forward in accelerating New Jersey’s clean energy transition — at no additional cost to our taxpayers. How can that be? Well, back in 2020, New Jersey rejoined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. And over the past five years, as a member of RGGI, we have received more than \$800 million from our nation’s biggest power plants and polluters.”^{xii}



Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Resilience

Alliance members are integrating physical climate risk and prioritizing climate adaptation and equity in state planning and decision-making to help communities prevent, reduce, withstand, and recover from climate-related impacts and disasters. States, which have varying needs and capacity, are utilizing and sharing best practices to bolster resilience and tailor effective solutions.



Member Action

The table below includes the number of members that have adopted — or are in the process of adopting — statutory and executive policies and actions. These counts are current as of October 2025.

Policies	# of Members
Resilience or adaptation plans	22
Resilience offices or interagency bodies	17

For the most up-to-date, in-depth breakdown of climate actions across the coalition, explore the Alliance Policy Database.

Resilience

Climate change increases the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and other climate damages, impacting communities and straining preparedness and response efforts across the nation. The last decade was the hottest on record; last year was the single hottest year and the 10th consecutive year in which 10 or more billion-dollar climate-related disaster events impacted the U.S.⁴⁹³ From May 2024 to May 2025, U.S. disaster spending nearly topped \$1 trillion, or three percent of GDP.⁴⁹⁴ Since 2017, U.S. insurance premiums have doubled, drastically increasing the financial costs for communities and individual consumers.⁴⁹⁵ The mounting costs of severe storms, hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, extreme heat, and flooding events make it imperative for states and territories to prepare for, insure against, and adapt to worsening climate change impacts — especially in vulnerable communities, which disproportionately shoulder the burden of such harms. For every dollar invested in resilience and preparedness, communities will save \$13 in economic and damage costs after a disaster.⁴⁹⁶

Throughout 2025, Alliance members continued to bolster resilience and enhance climate adaptation with creative, inclusive, and durable approaches, such as strengthening governance and planning efforts, investing strategically, implementing community-led resilience projects, and adapting insurance frameworks to help the country better withstand and recover from extreme events. In the face of sweeping federal rollbacks and funding cuts — including efforts to weaken the Federal Emergency Management Agency,⁴⁹⁷ cancel multi-billion dollar climate mitigation grant programs,⁴⁹⁸ and make operational cuts that impair critical forecasting and response capabilities⁴⁹⁹ — states and territories are pushing forward on solutions to safeguard communities and protect lives and property across the country.

State resilience planning and processes

Alliance members are embedding climate resilience and adaptation into their statewide climate and infrastructure planning, while providing support for municipalities

to undertake similar efforts. These new or updated partnership efforts help states and municipalities confront increased climate-related hazards and disasters; account for physical climate risk; and build or rebuild in ways that help communities mitigate, withstand, and recover from climate impacts. Examples include:

California: Released an update to California's Climate Adaptation Strategy and analyzed progress made toward achieving success metrics called for in the 2021 strategy.⁵⁰⁰ By the end of 2024, 92 percent of these metrics were well underway, nearing completion, or completed.

Connecticut: Enacted bipartisan climate resilience legislation⁵⁰¹ that will improve state resilience by investing in new flood tools and data; modernizing state and local planning processes; expanding flood risk and insurance disclosure requirements for sellers, landlords, and lenders; authorizing local and regional zoning commissions to adopt regulations that address climate threats; and requiring the use of climate vulnerability assessments, climate projections, and resilience goals in future municipal and regional conservation and development plans.⁵⁰²

Delaware: Enacted legislation that requires local governments to address community resilience and climate change impacts in their comprehensive plans and authorize processes to help meet net-zero goals.⁵⁰³

Maine: Established a new State Resilience Office.⁵⁰⁴ Governor Mills also announced the enrollment of 200 communities in the Community Resilience Partnership, meeting a goal to help communities take on projects that increase resilience to climate change and reduce emissions.⁵⁰⁵ Additionally, Governor Mills's Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission released its final report, *A Plan for Infrastructure Resilience*,⁵⁰⁶ to evaluate Maine's storm response, identify areas for near-term investment and policy needs, and serve as the state's first long-term, cross-cutting infrastructure plan.⁵⁰⁷

Massachusetts: Announced more than \$3 million in awards through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 Planning Grant Program to provide financial support to local communities for resilience planning and implementation to address climate change. Recipients can access training and resources around best practices in climate resilience, equity, and community input, and form a community liaison team with strong ties to populations most affected by climate change, empowering them to take bold climate action.⁵⁰⁸ The state also released its first ResilientMass Metrics framework to track progress on implementation of the ResilientMass Plan,⁵⁰⁹ as well as a new Resilience Finance Strategy to estimate statewide resilience investment needs and a roadmap to scale local action.

Community Impact Story

North Carolina supports communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene



In his first act in office, Governor Josh Stein Governor Josh Stein delivered over \$524 million to help western North Carolina rebuild after Hurricane Helene, funding housing, infrastructure, schools, and parks. Recognizing that resilience also means supporting people, his administration invested nearly \$48 million in emergency grants and scholarships for more than 45,000 college students impacted by the storm.^a "This investment didn't just help individuals — it strengthened our entire campus community to learn, grow, and dream," said Dr. James "J.W." Kelley, president of McDowell Technical Community College, underscoring the long-term impact on workforce development.^b By pairing disaster relief with educational opportunity, Governor Stein is setting a powerful precedent for climate-responsive governance and demonstrating how recovery efforts can also build stronger, more resilient communities for the future.



Photo credit: Office of North Carolina Governor Josh Stein

a State of North Carolina: Office of Governor Stein. "Governor Stein Signs First Bill into Law, Delivering Resources to Support Western North Carolina's Recovery." [Press Release] March 19, 2025. <https://governor.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2025/03/19/governor-stein-signs-first-bill-law-delivering-resources-support-western-north-carolinas-recovery>.

b State of North Carolina: Office of Governor Stein. "GROW NC Visits McDowell Tech to Highlight State-Funded Emergency Tuition Grants and Scholarships for Students." [Press Release] June 17, 2025. <https://governor.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2025/06/17/grow-nc-visits-mcdowell-tech-highlight-state-funded-emergency-tuition-grants-and-scholarships>.

New Jersey: Awarded \$26.3 million in grant funding since the launch of the Resilient NJ climate resilience planning assistance program, supporting communities by providing technical assistance to develop community-driven resilience action plans.⁵¹⁰ In addition, the state runs a Blue Acres program that proactively creates open space, reduces flood risk, and enhances local flood storage through voluntary buyouts that relocate families out of areas subject to repeated flooding. Over the last 30 years, 1,200 homes have been acquired, creating 440 acres of open space for flood storage. An additional investment of \$24.5 million from the Garden State Preservation Trust will help meet the unprecedented demand for buyouts experienced through increasing flood and storm events.⁵¹¹

New Mexico: Launched the implementation phase of the *New Mexico Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan*, the result of a multi-year effort by state agencies, Tribal communities, local governments, academia, the private sector, and various nonprofits to provide a framework for action and serve as a next step in an ongoing effort to enhance resilience across the state.⁵¹²

New York: Supported local resilience planning and implementation work by recognizing dozens of newly certified Climate Smart Communities for their work to mitigate and adapt to climate change as the state celebrated the 10th anniversary of the certification program.⁵¹³ New York also extended a regional Climate Smart Communities coordinators initiative to accelerate local climate action by providing free assistance to municipalities working to adapt to climate change, reduce emissions, and improve health and quality of life for residents.⁵¹⁴

North Carolina: Developed the North Carolina Flood Resiliency Blueprint, which provides improved flood modeling, including of future conditions, as well as an innovative online decision support tool being employed



Photo credit: Office of Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs

to support development of River Basin Action Strategies in six of the state's 17 river basins.⁵¹⁵ North Carolina also supported local governments' resilience planning efforts through the Resilient Communities Programs,⁵¹⁶ including the Resilient Coastal Communities and Community Disaster Resilience Zones Programs that support local capacity-building for planning, prioritizing, and implementing local resilience projects. For the fifth year in a row, Cabinet agencies also released climate strategy reports to assess climate risk and progress,⁵¹⁷ and the Probable Maximum Precipitation Study and Evaluation Tool that can be used by academia and local, state, and federal agencies for dam design and construction, planning, and setting design standards for infrastructure and future research.⁵¹⁸



DELAWARE

Governor Matt Meyer

“As the lowest-lying state in the nation, with coastal areas that are starting to show the effects of climate change, our administration, led by DNREC [Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control], is collaborating with local governments on resilience and how we can better protect every part of Delaware.”^{xiii}

Community Impact Story

Massachusetts provides MVP grants to fuel local leadership on resilience



Through the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning 2.0 grant program, Governor Maura Healey awarded over \$3 million to support local climate resilience efforts. The MVP program was originally established in 2017, and has been providing communities with funding, training, and resources to implement equitable and community-driven climate solutions. Through the 2.0 program, each community is granted \$50,000 of seed funding to implement a project identified through the planning process. Several municipalities are leveraging this grant to expand the capacity of their community centers to advance emergency preparedness, food security, and agriculture, as well as to promote social connectivity. These community centers and resilience hubs will support residents during emergencies, serve as cooling and hydration spaces, and increase food resilience and security through food pantries and community gardens. Some seed projects specifically focus on advancing food security by piloting fresh food delivery and economic development programs that partner with local farms, food producers, and organizations.^a



Photo credit: Office of Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey

^a Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. "Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards Over \$3 Million in Grants to Help Local Communities Tackle Climate Change." [Press Release] February 27, 2025. <https://www.mass.gov/news/healey-driscoll-administration-awards-over-3-million-in-grants-to-help-local-communities-tackle-climate-change>.

Oregon: Awarded nearly \$1 million in grants to 19 counties to support development of local energy resilience plans through the County Energy Resilience Grant Program.^{519,520} These investments will strengthen local capacity for maintaining or rapidly recovering the energy systems needed to supply critical services during disruptions tied to extreme weather events.

Pennsylvania: Released *Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan 2024*, laying out strategies to meet climate adaptation and emissions reduction targets, including designating a chief resilience officer, facilitating interagency coordination, promoting local adaptation plans, and investing in resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions.⁵²¹

Rhode Island: Released the *2024 State of Resilience Report (Resilient Rhody)* in preparation for a 2025 update to 2018 goals. The report provides a snapshot of Rhode Island's current progress toward climate resilience and 61 goals outlined in *Resilient Rhody*.⁵²²

Vermont: Developed a *Resilience Implementation Strategy* that builds on work happening across the state to identify, prioritize, and understand the costs of climate resilience needs. The comprehensive approach considers early warning systems, nature-based solutions, infrastructure design and reinforcement, community-centric approaches, and economic sustainability.⁵²³

Washington: Released a whole-of-government *State Climate Resilience Strategy* in partnership with 10 state agencies,⁵²⁴ identifying agency actions to plan for and address top climate threats facing the state to help communities, infrastructure, and natural and working lands become more resilient.⁵²⁵ Washington also released a *Climate Resilience Plan for Washington Agriculture*, outlining key strategies to enhance farm resilience, support agricultural innovation, and encourage adoption of diverse climate-smart practices. The plan provides a playbook for institutions such as state agencies, local jurisdictions, and research universities to support agriculture.⁵²⁶

Investing in climate resilience

Alliance members understand the urgent need to finance climate resilience projects to help communities withstand and recover from extreme weather and other climate impacts. They continue to explore and model innovative ways to finance and embed climate resilience across sectors and communities. Examples include:

California: Fast-tracked \$170 million for critical wildfire resilience projects in regions across the state, underscoring Governor Newsom's commitment to urgently protect communities and increase forest health.⁵²⁷

Colorado: Invested \$8.4 million through the Strategic Wildfire Action Program to accelerate targeted forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction projects that protect communities, watersheds, and critical infrastructure.⁵²⁸ The state also awarded five Landscape Resilience Investments to strategically support wildfire risk reduction and critical water infrastructure protection in high-priority watersheds. In addition, Colorado launched its Outdoors Strategy, a statewide vision to advance coordination,

tools, and funding to align, prioritize, and implement strategic actions on the landscape for conservation, outdoor recreation, and climate resilience.⁵²⁹

Connecticut: Enacted bipartisan climate resilience legislation that establishes Resiliency Improvement Districts to authorize municipal financing of capital projects addressing climate change mitigation, adaptation, or resilience while supporting economic development and increasing affordable housing.⁵³⁰ Connecticut also launched a new funding opportunity under the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund that awarded matching funds to support municipalities applying to FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program.

Hawai'i: Enacted legislation that implements a 0.75 percent "green fee" to Hawai'i's lodging tax, making it the first state to tax tourists for climate impacts. Starting January 1, 2026, the fee aims to raise \$100 million annually for climate adaptation projects such as firebreaks, erosion control, and infrastructure upgrades.⁵³¹

Maryland: Deployed the first \$10 million in loans from the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund to mitigate flooding affecting downtown businesses in Ellicott City, creating a model for local resilience investments.⁵³²

Massachusetts: Filed the *Mass Ready Act*, which proposes significantly increased authorizations for resilience funding programs and a new \$50 million resilience revolving fund to support implementation of resilient infrastructure projects. Mass Ready also proposes new flood risk disclosures for homeowners and renters, and equips the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards to incorporate resilience into future editions of the state building code.⁵³³



NEW YORK

Governor Kathy Hochul

"It's not just wildfires. In the last few years we've experienced record heat, droughts, floods, tornadoes, blizzards, hurricanes. My fight for your family also means preventing these catastrophes from becoming our new normal. For we are truly the first generation to experience the effects of climate change and we are the last generation who can do anything about it."^{xiv}

Community Impact Story

Guam grows the green workforce



Backed by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero's commitment to sustainability and climate resilience, the University of Guam's Guam Green Growth Conservation Corps has launched its fourth cohort, bringing together 12 participants from diverse fields including accounting, architecture, and human resources to take direct action on climate resilience. Over five months, members receive hands-on training in reforestation, invasive species removal, aquaculture, and watershed restoration while earning continuing education credits. "Ever since I was younger, I've been passionate about addressing climate change because I know it directly impacts our island," said cohort member Hannah Perez, who comes from a human resources background. "Rising sea levels, and trash in the ocean — you see that every day."^a By connecting personal experience with ecological stewardship, the program not only builds Guam's green workforce but also empowers local residents to lead the island's sustainability transition.



^a University of Guam. "UOG's 4th Conservation Corps Members Offer Diverse Backgrounds." March 15, 2024. <https://www.uog.edu/news-announcements/2024-2025/uogs-4th-conservation-corps-members-offer-diverse-backgrounds>.

New Mexico: Enacted legislation that establishes a new Wildfire Prepared Program and Fund to cover wildfire resilience measures such as technical assistance, training, and grant funding to property owners; identify areas at high risk of a destructive wildfire; and develop building codes that lower wildfire damage risk.⁵³⁴ Governor Lujan Grisham also continues implementation of the 50-Year Water Action Plan, including the creation of the Strategic Water Supply program to preserve freshwater resources through investment in inland desalination projects. In 2025, \$40 million was provided as an initial funding investment.

New York: Announced \$80 million in new grant funding available for climate resilience projects funded through the \$4.2 billion *Environmental Bond Act of 2022*. The grants establish three programs that invest in adaptation, including the Resilient Watersheds Grant Program, Coastal Rehabilitation and Resilience Projects Program, and Inland Flooding and Local Waterfront Revitalization

Implementation Projects Program.⁵³⁵ The state also released new and enhanced resources to protect New Yorkers from extreme heat and make cooling more affordable, including increasing accessibility of cooling centers, supporting cool and resilient buildings, investing in cool schools, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and launching an interactive Heat Risk and Illness Dashboard.⁵³⁶ Governor Hochul also launched the Essential Plan Cooling Program,⁵³⁷ a state affordability initiative charging New York State of Health, the State's official health plan Marketplace, with providing free air conditioners to New Yorkers enrolled in the state's Essential Plan and living with asthma.

North Carolina: The North Carolina Flood Resiliency Blueprint leveraged partnerships with state agencies and local governments to award nearly \$31 million for projects that proactively reduce costs and disruption from future flooding. The state awarded nearly \$4 million from the program to North Carolina Emergency Management to



Photo credit: Office of Hawai'i Governor Josh Green

fund three local government infrastructure projects that will reduce flooding and associated damages.⁵³⁸ Governor Stein also signed the *Helene Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 Part II*, which delivers \$575 million to fight wildfires, develop landslide mapping and early warning processes, fix homes, remove or repair dams, and support schools and local governments through the recovery process.⁵³⁹

Wisconsin: Governor Evers secured \$2 million to continue the popular Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience grant program designed to assist local communities in identifying flood vulnerabilities and options to improve flood resilience, as well as restore hydrology, helping reduce flood risk and damages in flood-prone communities.⁵⁴⁰

Strengthening resilience through implementation

Alliance members continue to implement projects and programs that address increasingly frequent and intense climate-related impacts and disasters by bolstering the resilience of communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure. Such implementation work demonstrates how states and territories are deploying

nature-based solutions, strengthening infrastructure, protecting vulnerable communities, and mitigating rising costs from disasters. Examples include:

Arizona: Deployed \$20 million through the Grid Resilience Grant Program for projects that invest in microgrid infrastructure, grid hardening, electrical wire undergrounding, and advanced control sensors.⁵⁴¹

California: Governor Newsom issued executive orders to protect Southern California communities from landslides and floods in the wake of devastating fires and to fast-track prevention of future wildfires statewide. These executive orders streamline emergency response; accelerate efforts to remove debris, bolster flood defenses, and stabilize hillsides; and suspend environmental regulations such as the *California Environmental Quality Act* and the *Coastal Act* as needed to expedite fuels reduction projects.⁵⁴² California also announced more than \$32 million in Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program awards to support 47 community infrastructure solutions to combat extreme heat.⁵⁴³ The state launched CalHeatScore, a groundbreaking tool to forecast and rank heat severity risks and connect Californians with available resources to stay safe during extreme heat events.⁵⁴⁴ CalHeatScore will help protect vulnerable populations from dangerous heatwaves by providing localized warnings and resources.

Colorado: Adopted the first Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code to help enhance community safety and resilience from wildfires — providing a baseline for the state while allowing local governments to establish their own locally adapted code and standards — in order to systematically reduce the long-term risk to wildfires. Colorado has seen growing challenges from wildfire from insurance availability and affordability concerns to growing costs related to response and recovery. This proactive step will keep people safe, ensure buildings are more wildfire resilient, and address underlying risk factors for residents, businesses, and communities.

Connecticut: Launched an Extreme Weather Mitigation and Resiliency Advisory Council within the Connecticut Insurance Department to develop recommendations on making properties disaster resilient, cutting economic and insured losses, ensuring businesses and schools

remain open after disaster, reducing hospitalizations, and developing a resilience incentive program for homeowners and businesses to reduce hazards and risks.⁵⁴⁵

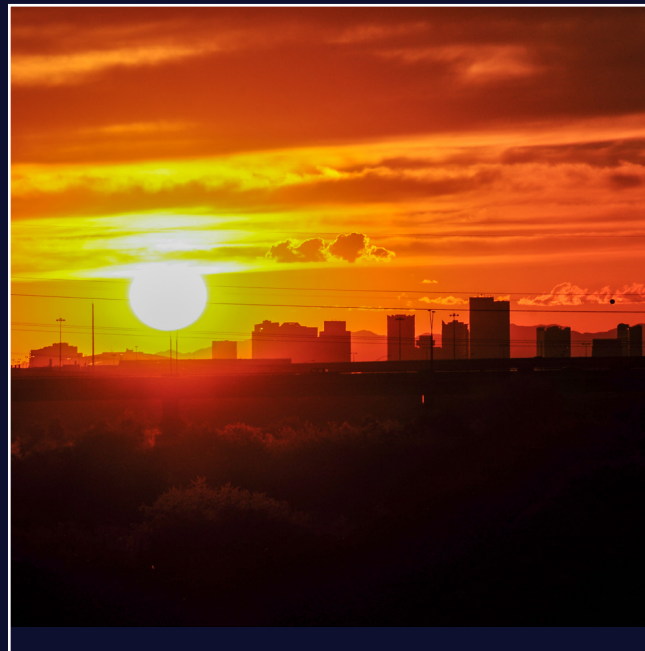
Maine: Governor Mills introduced and signed bipartisan legislation⁵⁴⁶ to increase support in the face of extreme weather and reduce risks and expenses for homeowners and businesses.⁵⁴⁷ The law supports a Home Resiliency Grant Program, invests in hazard mitigation and preparedness through the Maine Emergency Management Agency, establishes a new State Resilience Office, and creates a Flood-Ready Maine Program to modernize and make accessible flood risk data. Maine also secured federal and state funding to sustain and grow the state's Community Resilience Partnership Program, which awarded \$8 million in its largest round ever to help 166 communities implement resilience projects.⁵⁴⁸

Community Impact Story

Arizona helps workers beat the heat



To address rising heat risks for workers, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs issued Executive Order 2025-09, establishing a Workplace Heat Safety Task Force to create enforceable statewide standards by the end of 2025. Building on a successful 2023 Heat Stress Emphasis Program, the initiative has already led to hundreds of inspections and a reduction in heat-related workers' compensation claims. "We want every company's workers to return home safely to their families every day," said Sidney Hawkins, safety and training director at Canyon State Electric and a member of the task force, emphasizing the urgency of extending proven protections across the state. The executive order also launches a recognition program to celebrate employers who go beyond compliance in protecting their workforce.^a By combining regulation, collaboration, and a focus on worker dignity, Arizona is setting a powerful example for heat resilience in the U.S.



^a State of Arizona: Office of Governor Hobbs. "Governor Katie Hobbs Takes Action to Protect Arizona Workers from Heat Risk and Partner with Employers." [Press Release] May 22, 2025. <https://azgovernor.gov/office-arizona-governor/news/2025/05/governor-katie-hobbs-takes-action-protect-arizona-workers-heat>.

Community Impact Story

Rhode Island backs coastal resilience



Under the leadership of Governor Dan McKee, 13 projects across Rhode Island have been awarded a total of \$2 million through the first round of the 2024 Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience (OSCAR) Fund Program. This program supports initiatives that enhance coastal or riverine habitats to combat climate change impacts. Jamestown's Mackerel Cove Dune Restoration and Resiliency project received \$199,400 to restore and protect sand dunes, which will prevent flooding and sustain essential habitat for migrating and nesting birds and pollinators.^a "What we're hoping to achieve with the OSCAR grant is to develop a process to make that a more reliable sand dune with appropriate vegetation," said Town Administrator Edward Mello.^b The OSCAR Fund, created by the General Assembly in 2021, is administered by the Department of Environmental Management, the Coastal Resources Management Council, and the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank.



Photo credit: Chris Rycroft, Wikimedia

- a EcoRI News. "OSCAR Grants to Help Ocean State Adapt to Climate Change." March 12, 2025. <https://ecori.org/oscar-grants-to-help-ocean-state-adapt-to-climate-change/>.
- b Liberman, Ellen. "How Rhode Island Is Attempting to Stem the Tide." *RI Monthly*. June 24, 2025. <https://www.rimonthly.com/how-rhode-island-is-attempting-to-stem-the-tide/>.

Minnesota: Published the *Minnesota Extreme Heat Toolkit*, highlighting how local public health staff, emergency managers, and community leaders can help Minnesotans stay safe during extreme heat with heat-safety strategies and guidance.⁵⁴⁹

New Jersey: Announced NJ Wildfire SMART, a series of actions that emphasize the importance of wildfire safety, mitigation, awareness, response, and training to reduce wildfire spread. New Jersey also launched the state's first Extreme Heat Awareness Week to help the public cope with hotter summers and tap into information and tools to understand the impacts of extreme heat, especially those related to health.⁵⁵⁰

New Mexico: Proposed a New Mexico Heat Illness and Injury Prevention rule that, if adopted, will equip the

state's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau with the tools necessary to help New Mexico employers keep their workforce safe from heat-related illnesses and injuries.⁵⁵¹

North Carolina: Designated a statewide Heat Awareness Week to help communities stay safe in extreme heat⁵⁵² and developed a Heat Action Plan Toolkit in collaboration with government and public and private sector partners.⁵⁵³ The state also launched and led an innovative Planning for Extreme Heat Cohort Program to assist with development of local heat action plans.⁵⁵⁴

Washington: Enacted legislation that creates the Wildfire Mitigation and Resiliency Standards Work Group to deliver recommendations on wildfire risk and mitigation measures.⁵⁵⁵



Photo credit: Emma Renly, Unsplash

Insuring against increasing climate risks

Alliance members have introduced measures to advance a broad strategy for protecting property owners and ensuring a climate-responsive insurance market by improving data collection, strengthening insurance governance, and increasing transparency for consumers. Examples include:

California: Enacted a one-year moratorium on insurance cancellations and non-renewals for residential property policies in Los Angeles neighborhoods and adjoining zip codes affected by the Palisades and Eaton fires. This action is part of ongoing modernization efforts through California's FAIR Plan, ensuring coverage availability, boosting last-minute insurer solvency, and pushing for additional transparency and fiscal responsibility from insurers.⁵⁵⁶

Colorado: Enacted *Risk Model Use in Property Insurance Policies* legislation, which requires a property insurer using a wildfire risk or catastrophe model to share information with the commissioner of insurance and the public. The law also requires specific activities in the models; provides notices to policyholders including their risk score and mitigation action impacts; ensures policyholders or applicants can appeal their score directly to insurers; and ensures that specific climate risk and mitigation factors are included in model outputs that inform the insurer's underwriting and pricing, with the objective of making savings available for consumers who undertake property-specific or community-level mitigation actions. This landmark legislation aims to increase transparency and fairness in how insurance policies are priced and

incentivize mitigation actions that reduce the risk in the marketplace, especially in climate-vulnerable areas.⁵⁵⁷

Connecticut: Enacted bipartisan legislation that requires insurance brokers to notify purchasers that a policy does not include flood coverage when purchasing for the first time and with every renewal.⁵⁵⁸ The state also issued a status report detailing plans to boost homeowner resilience through program design focusing on wind and flood mitigation incentives; financial solutions, including insurance incentives and private and federal funding; and education and outreach to homeowners and municipalities.⁵⁵⁹ Connecticut hosted its fourth annual conference on climate change and insurance,⁵⁶⁰ bringing together investors and policymakers to plan for a more resilient and affordable future.⁵⁶¹

New York: Issued guidance through *Circular Letter No. 3*, mandating that all property and casualty insurers demonstrate robust disaster planning, preparedness, and response capabilities, including for storms, wildfires, floods, cyber events, and pandemics to ensure insurer readiness and provide for homeowner resilience upgrades.⁵⁶²

Washington: Proposed regulations to implement SB 5419, which aims to transfer authority to collect insurance-related fire loss data from the state fire marshal to the insurance commissioner, enabling more detailed tracking of wildfire claims and enhancing regulatory oversight and data-informed resilience planning.⁵⁶³



Continuing to Advance Bold Climate Action

Transportation

Alliance members are developing policy pathways and programs to decarbonize the transportation sector by reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and significantly increasing access to, and the affordability of, zero-emissions vehicles, clean fuels, and multi-modal options.



Member Action

The table below includes the number of members that have adopted — or are in the process of adopting — statutory and executive policies and actions. These counts are current as of October 2025.

Policies	# of Members
Clean car standards	16
Clean truck standards	12
VMT reduction goals	11
Clean fuels standards	4

For the most up-to-date, in-depth breakdown of climate actions across the coalition, explore the Alliance Policy Database.

data.usclimatealliance.org

Transportation

The transportation sector remains the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.⁵⁶⁴ Alliance members have focused decarbonization efforts in this sector on expanding access to zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs), electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, low-carbon fuels, and multimodal travel options. This year, despite federal headwinds, Alliance members continued to expand access to cleaner and lower-cost vehicles and infrastructure and increase affordable transportation choices through improvements to multimodal transportation and land use planning, both of which are critical to a successful transition to a zero-emissions future.

Accelerating the transition to cleaner vehicles

Shifting to clean vehicles not only mitigates climate pollution — it also lowers costs and improves health outcomes. Data have shown that as ZEV adoption increases, local air pollution levels and asthma-related emergency room visits drop.⁵⁶⁵ ZEVs can also provide cost savings for drivers, compared to similar gasoline vehicles, through lower fuel and maintenance costs.⁵⁶⁶ Alliance members continue to lead in accelerating the deployment of zero-emissions cars and trucks and delivering these health and financial benefits to their communities, including through the launch of the Affordable Clean Cars Coalition (Box 7, see page 115).

These actions come at a time of increasing demand for ZEVs both domestically and abroad. States have led the way in building the growing market for EVs through market-enabling programs that help drive innovation, increase consumer choice, and strengthen global competitiveness. This year, 10 Alliance members (**California, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont**) announced that they exceeded an ambitious collective target set in

2013 to raise the number of EVs on their roads from 87,506 to 3.3 million by 2025 — one year ahead of schedule.⁵⁶⁷

Additional examples include:

Arizona: Enacted legislation that provides more flexibility for alternative fuel vehicle drivers, allowing them to choose a vanity or standard license plate with an alternative fuel sticker instead of requiring the designated alternative fuel license plate. This allows alternative fuel vehicle drivers to continue to always use high-occupancy vehicle lanes.⁵⁶⁸

California: Achieved a historic milestone of surpassing 2 million ZEV sales across the state. The milestone comes a little over two years after California eclipsed the 1 million ZEV sales mark. In the third quarter of 2024, Californians purchased 115,897 ZEVs, representing over a quarter of all new vehicle sales in the state.⁵⁶⁹ In the second quarter of 2025, Californians purchased 100,671 ZEVs, representing 21.6 percent of all new vehicle sales in the state, surpassing 2.3 million sales to date.⁵⁷⁰

Colorado: Surpassed California to reach the highest EV market share of any state in the nation in the third quarter of 2024, with EVs exceeding 30 percent of new vehicles sold in the state during the fourth quarter of 2024.⁵⁷¹

BOX 7. U.S. Climate Alliance Governors Launch Affordable Clean Cars Coalition to Expand Access to Newer and Cleaner Vehicles

Photo credit: U.S. Climate Alliance

In May 2025, a group of Alliance governors launched the Affordable Clean Cars Coalition to sustain America's transition to cleaner and more affordable cars, support U.S. automotive manufacturers and workers, and preserve the clean air authority of states.⁵⁷² With 13 states participating, the coalition's establishment came in response to a series of destabilizing actions by Congress and the federal government to the U.S. automotive sector, which have included attempts to terminate funding for electric

vehicle infrastructure,⁵⁷³ impose tariffs and disrupt supply chains,⁵⁷⁴ eliminate consumer credits for purchasing electric vehicles,⁵⁷⁵ raise consumer costs for owning electric vehicles,⁵⁷⁶ and dismantle clean vehicle programs at the state level.⁵⁷⁷ Eleven states also filed a lawsuit challenging the federal government's efforts to revoke *Clean Air Act* waivers for the *Advanced Clean Cars II* (ACC II), *Advanced Clean Trucks* (ACT), and Low Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) Omnibus standards.⁵⁷⁸

Illinois: Awarded two grants totaling \$58 million to purchase 57 advanced technology, zero-emissions all-electric Class 8 public transit buses. The projects are funded through the state's allocation from the Volkswagen Clean Air Act Civil Settlement.⁵⁷⁹

Maine: Published its *Clean Transportation Roadmap for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles*, which supports Maine's climate action plan and examines challenges and opportunities to decarbonize Maine's medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. It also establishes policy recommendations and an action plan for decarbonization.⁵⁸⁰

Maryland: Governor Moore signed an executive order that establishes a Maryland ACC II and ACT Working Group to develop recommendations for how the ACC II and ACT programs can be successfully implemented in the state. The executive order also requires the development of a final working group report detailing findings and recommendations by the end of 2025.⁵⁸¹

New Jersey: Surpassed 245,000 EV registrations — more than double the number of EVs registered in the state just two years ago and a 33 percent increase from one year ago — demonstrating increasing consumer confidence in these vehicles and the availability of charging infrastructure, as well as the success of policies implemented by Governor Murphy.⁵⁸²

New Mexico: Appropriated \$60 million in the state budget for school districts to upgrade their fleets from diesel-fueled school buses to electric school buses, and for costs associated with EV charging infrastructure for school districts.⁵⁸³ Funding for these investments comes from the Community Benefit Fund to support projects that mitigate climate change impacts in communities.⁵⁸⁴

New York: Announced a new interagency working group focused on the successful implementation of the clean vehicle transition and enhancements to existing efforts to build out EV charging infrastructure.

The working group will help address the challenges presented by recent federal actions and the resulting economic uncertainty and ensure that New York remains a leader in the transition to a clean energy economy.⁵⁸⁵

Oregon: Surpassed 100,000 registered EVs and distributed more than 33,000 EV rebates across the state, with more than 30 percent of rebate funding distributed to low- and moderate-income households.⁵⁸⁶

Washington: Released a new interactive online tool, the Electric Vehicle Mapping and Planning Tool, which helps partners and organizations across the state plan for more EV chargers, making it easier to expand charging access.⁵⁸⁷

Expanding ZEV infrastructure and low-carbon fuels

To successfully transition to cleaner vehicles, Alliance members are focused on delivering a timely and equitable buildout of charging and fueling infrastructure needed to support the next generation of clean vehicles. This infrastructure is necessary for state fleets and to support low-carbon fuel use for on-road vehicles and other harder-to-decarbonize transportation modes, such as aviation. States have continued to lead in deploying investments from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Community Impact Story

Michigan invests \$30M for clean school buses



Under Governor Gretchen Whitmer, nearly \$30 million in funding from Michigan's Clean School Bus grant program was awarded to help school districts across the state replace diesel buses with low- or zero-emissions alternatives.^a Among the 29 districts awarded, Pellston Public Schools — a small, rural district in Northern Michigan — received four electric buses and chargers worth \$1.58 million. Superintendent Stephen Seelye, initially skeptical, became a strong advocate after seeing the environmental and educational benefits firsthand. The switch has saved the district thousands in fuel and maintenance costs while reducing air pollution. "Our job is to make sure the kids graduate ready for life, but it's also my job to teach them to be great human beings and good stewards of the environment. So, to have them graduate from a school where they rode electric school buses and had a solar array on their roof — when I retire, I'll look back and feel pretty great," said Seelye.^b



- a Michigan Department of Education. "Local School Districts Receive \$30M from Michigan Department of Education for Clean School Buses." [Press Release] July 31, 2024. <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/news-and-information/.press-releases/2024/07/31/30m-from-michigan-department-of-education-for-clean-school-buses>.
- b Hickerson, Ali. "In Rural Michigan, New Electric School Buses Get Top Grades." Moms Clean Air Force, October 24, 2024. <https://www.momscleanairforce.org/pellston-michigan-electric-school-bus/>.

“The federal government and Congress are putting polluters over people and creating needless chaos for consumers and the market, but our commitment to safeguarding Americans’ fundamental right to clean air is resolute. We will continue collaborating as states and leveraging our longstanding authority under the *Clean Air Act*, including through state programs that keep communities safe from pollution, create good-paying jobs, increase consumer choice, and help Americans access cleaner and more affordable cars. As we consider next steps for our clean vehicle programs, our states will engage stakeholders and industry to provide the regulatory certainty needed while redoubling our efforts to build a cleaner and healthier future.”^{xv}

– Governors launching the Affordable Clean Cars Coalition

(NEVI) program to fund new EV charging stations, with **Colorado**⁵⁸⁸, **Michigan**⁵⁸⁹, **New Mexico**⁵⁹⁰, and **Wisconsin**⁵⁹¹ opening their first NEVI-funded stations in 2025. In response to the federal government’s withdrawal of NEVI program guidance earlier this year, attorneys general in 16 Alliance member states successfully challenged the withholding of congressionally approved EV infrastructure funding.⁵⁹² Examples include:

Hawai’i and Puerto Rico: Convened a first-of-its-kind peer exchange to discuss best practices and challenges when installing EV infrastructure on islands, including contracting methods, available initiatives and incentives, and power grid considerations.⁵⁹³ The workshop allowed stakeholders from both regions, which each deal with shipping restrictions and unique tourism capabilities, to participate in roundtable discussions and site visits to better understand NEVI program challenges, solutions, and opportunities to advance an efficient and safe national charging network.

California: Announced a new agreement between Airlines 4 America and the California Air Resources Board that sets a goal of increasing the availability of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) for use within California to 200 million gallons by 2035, an amount that would meet about 40 percent of intrastate travel demand — a more than tenfold increase from current levels.⁵⁹⁴ Starting July 1, 2025, an updated Low Carbon Fuel Standard came into effect with the goal of reducing the carbon intensity of liquid transportation fuels 30 percent below 2010 levels.⁵⁹⁵ The program also provides credits to support zero-emissions fueling infrastructure and clean public transit.

Colorado: Enacted legislation that empowers the Division of Oil and Public Safety to adopt retail EV

charging rules to promote consistency and provide for a more seamless EV charging experience.⁵⁹⁶ The state also launched the EV Home Charge grant to reduce costs of installing at-home EV chargers for residents, primarily for those in rural communities.⁵⁹⁷

Delaware: Published *Charging Forward* to facilitate current and future users of EVs to confidently travel in and across Delaware for work, education, recreation, and exploration. This strategy focuses on planning an EV charging network in an equitable, reliable, and connected manner, with educational initiatives and evaluation mechanisms to improve and enhance the network as needed.⁵⁹⁸

Illinois: Opened the first EV charging stations funded under the state’s *Climate and Equitable Jobs Act*, with 86 locations currently online and hundreds more expected in the next year. The first station was supported by a \$480,000 grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to Veterans Energy Team, a veteran-owned business that partnered with the Joliet Park District to build EV fast chargers.⁵⁹⁹

Minnesota: Awarded \$75,000 to the University of Minnesota’s Forever Green Initiative to invest in research that will help Minnesota grow a SAF industry using winter camelina, which can provide farmers with another source of revenue to supplement their income while protecting soil health and water quality.^{600,601}

New Mexico: Proposed a Clean Transportation Fuel Program rule to the state’s Environmental Improvement Board.⁶⁰² This rule seeks to stand up the state’s market-based program, while driving investment in low-carbon fuel business and workforce opportunities.

New Mexico is the fourth state in the nation with a clean transportation fuel standard and is ahead of schedule in its targeted emissions reductions due to grid decarbonization for electricity used in EVs under provisions of the *2019 NM Energy Transition Act*.⁶⁰³

North Carolina: Awarded 13 grants from the Community and Destination Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program totaling \$1.91 million to support the installation of 25 new fast-charging ports at 13 sites, including state parks, shopping centers, gas stations, town centers, and hotels. The projects are funded through the state's allocation from the Volkswagen Clean Air Act Civil Settlement.⁶⁰⁴

Pennsylvania: Announced funding availability under the Electric Vehicles Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program, which focuses on repairing and replacing broken or nonoperational EV chargers to improve the reliability of existing EV charging infrastructure across the state.⁶⁰⁵

Washington: Enacted new legislation to support low-carbon fuel production and use, requiring the state to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels by at least 45 percent below 2017 levels by 2038.⁶⁰⁶ Additionally, the Washington State Department of Commerce awarded a \$1.5 million grant to the Port of Walla Walla for a production facility to enable the production of SAF on a commercial scale and supply it directly to major airports within the state, as well as to other West Coast markets with clean-fuel standard policies.⁶⁰⁷

Supporting walkable communities and increased transportation choices

Alliance members are supporting efforts to decarbonize transportation through investments and policies that increase transportation and housing choices while reducing the cost of living. States are leveraging their authority to make transportation systems more equitable and less carbon-intensive through improvements in walking, biking, and public transportation infrastructure. Improved state land use planning practices and policies also better support more affordable, lower-carbon mobility use. Examples include:

California: Enacted legislation as part of the 2025–26 state budget that streamlines California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of housing and infrastructure projects including infill housing, broadband, and other community resource land uses while maintaining natural and protected lands. The legislation also establishes a statewide VMT Mitigation Bank as a streamlined option for developers to comply with the CEQA requirement to mitigate significant transportation impacts by funding location-efficient affordable housing and infrastructure projects.⁶⁰⁸ Another legislative package sets long-term goals for safer and more inclusive transportation infrastructure, requires the state to integrate complete streets features into future projects with a focus on underserved areas, and implements transit priority facilities in regions with current or future public transit needs.⁶⁰⁹

Colorado: Enacted legislation that requires the state department of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, and local governments to coordinate on planning aimed at increasing transportation mode choice.⁶¹⁰ It builds on the *Colorado Transportation Vision 2035* that identifies goals and strategies to expand transportation options to meet Colorado's climate, affordability, safety, and equity goals.⁶¹¹



COLORADO
Governor Jared Polis

“Our housing and transit goals go hand in hand with our climate goals and our affordability goals. More, better, less expensive transit options, with housing closer to job centers and transit hubs, save money and mean less pollution and less congestion.”^{xvi}



Photo credit: Office of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy

Connecticut: Adopted the state's new *Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan, 2025–30*, which serves as a comprehensive strategies plan for land and water resource conservation, preservation, and development. The plan outlines strategies to address injustices spurred by past land use policies, increase housing production in activity zones (places where employment hubs, civic uses, transportation assets, cultural attractions, and medical and educational institutions cluster at a local scale) and through transit-oriented development (TOD), and address climate change.⁶¹²

Delaware: Enacted legislation that requires comprehensive county government plans to address the impacts of climate change in a variety of ways, including through requirements to consider alternatives to auto-centric development patterns, such as transit services, where applicable for future transportation needs.⁶¹³

Hawai'i: Enacted legislation that streamlines housing project reviews in TOD areas by providing incentives for counties to build more housing in the state's TOD areas and establishing timelines for review and exempting projects that have low risk of affecting historically significant resources.^{614,615}

Illinois: The Illinois Department of Transportation launched two new metrics — emissions impacts and equity in use of roads — to be used in the Data-Driven Decision tool through which major road projects are prioritized. These metrics were used in developing the most recent multi-billion dollar, multi-year plan.⁶¹⁶

Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin: State transportation secretaries celebrated — alongside Amtrak — robust ridership demand for the state-sponsored Borealis

train service between St. Paul and Chicago, which continues to exceed expectations in its first full year of service. Operated daily by Amtrak under contracts with the three states, Borealis ridership for the 11 months ending April 30, 2025 was more than 205,800.⁶¹⁷

Maryland: The Maryland Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of Housing and Community Development signed a memorandum of understanding to accelerate inclusive development opportunities around transit stations and to advance Maryland's transit, economic development, housing, and climate goals.⁶¹⁸ Maryland DOT also announced a new Capital Grant and Revolving Loan Fund to build equitable and inclusive development near transit hubs.⁶¹⁹

Massachusetts: Launched the South Coast Rail and the new Fall River/New Bedford Commuter Line. The new service marks the first time in over 65 years that cities and towns in southeastern Massachusetts have passenger rail service to and from downtown Boston.⁶²⁰

New Jersey: The New Jersey Department of Transportation updated its internal Complete Streets Policy, demonstrating its continued commitment to enhancing roadway safety for all users, particularly those outside of a motor vehicle. This policy represents a significant evolution from its landmark 2009 policy by more fully integrating Complete Streets into the department's standard operating procedures and incorporating best practices and trends in Complete Streets planning and implementation.^{621,622}

North Carolina: NC By Train, North Carolina's state-supported Amtrak service, achieved record ridership in 2024 for the third year in a row. The state's intercity passenger rail service carried more than 720,000 passengers in 2024, a 12 percent increase from 2023 and a 55 percent increase since 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶²³

Washington: Enacted legislative packages that aim to enhance community and TOD in Washington state by amending existing laws and introducing new provisions that align land use policies with mass transit investments⁶²⁴ and establish statewide parking requirements for new construction to enable more affordable location-efficient development.⁶²⁵ This legislation also directs the state to achieve established targets by 2035 that would improve Amtrak Cascades service and reduce operational GHG emissions in line with state law.⁶²⁶



HIGHLIGHTING SOLUTIONS across the Alliance

In June 2025, Governor Kathy Hochul directed the New York Power Authority to develop and construct a zero-emissions advanced nuclear power plant in Upstate New York to support a reliable and affordable electric grid, while providing the necessary zero-emissions electricity to achieve a clean energy economy. This builds on other opportunities announced in Governor Hochul's 2025 State of the State to catalyze nuclear energy development in New York.

Photo credit: Office of New York Governor Kathy Hochul

Looking Ahead

This report has painted a picture of progress and perseverance. It has laid out the scientific consensus behind our changing climate, noting the irrefutable fact that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are the primary driver of this crisis. It has shown how Alliance members are moving closer to achieving the coalition’s collective goals, including by cutting GHG emissions by 24 percent while growing their economies by 34 percent between 2005 and 2023. This report also demonstrates how the Alliance is helping to sustain the growth of clean energy and technologies — from record heat pump and electric vehicle sales to new wind and solar power construction and generation.

Across the United States, states and territories are continuing to take bold action on the climate crisis, from setting new and increasingly ambitious targets and adopting new laws and regulations to investing billions of dollars in climate mitigation projects and advancing new tools and strategies to promote affordability and lower costs.

Yet this report represents much more than a look backward. It is a promise to press forward, no matter the obstacles. It is a forceful commitment to realizing the cleaner, safer, healthier future Americans deserve.

Alliance members are delivering real results. And this year, governors in every Alliance state and territory have shown they are built to lead in this moment — and won’t back down. They will keep harnessing the power of collective state-led, high-impact climate action for the health and welfare of current and future generations of Americans.

“We are a nation of states — and laws — and we will not be deterred. We will keep advancing solutions to the climate crisis that safeguard Americans’ fundamental right to clean air and water, create good-paying jobs, grow the clean energy economy, and make our future healthier and safer.”^{xvii}

— New York Governor Kathy Hochul and
New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham



Photo credit: Office of New York Governor Kathy Hochul



HIGHLIGHTING SOLUTIONS across the Alliance

In March 2025, three wildfires burned throughout Polk County, North Carolina, prompting Governor Josh Stein to declare a state of emergency. The state experienced high fire danger conditions in several areas, on top of North Carolina's continued recovery from Hurricane Helene, which in 2024 caused widespread damage in the western region of the state.

Photo credit: Office of North Carolina Governor Josh Stein

Appendix: Decarbonization Scenario Analysis

The U.S. Climate Alliance commissioned an analysis from Energy and Environmental Economics, Inc. (E3) to examine potential scenarios of Alliance-wide energy demand and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through 2050. The E3 analysis was conducted primarily using the E3 Pathways model, with electricity sector analysis informed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory 2024 Standard Scenarios.⁶²⁷ This appendix details the modeling methodology and scenario assumptions for the 2025 analysis.

Pathways model overview

Pathways is an economy-wide energy and GHG emissions accounting model. E3 created the Pathways model to help policymakers, businesses, and other stakeholders analyze paths to achieving deep decarbonization of the economy. Pathways is not an optimization or general equilibrium model but instead allows for comparison of user-defined scenarios of future energy demand and emissions to explore the impacts and implications of potential climate and energy policies. Variables that impact final energy demand in the model (e.g., customer adoption of electric vehicles, amount of space heating demanded per household) are specified by the user. The Pathways model accounts for annual energy demand and GHG emissions from the following final energy demand and non-energy and/or non-combustion sources:

- Energy demand sectors
 - Residential
 - Commercial
 - Industrial
 - Transportation
- Non-energy, non-combustion sectors
 - Agriculture
 - Coal mining
 - Natural gas and oil systems
 - Industrial processes and product use (IPPU)
 - Waste
 - Land-use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF)

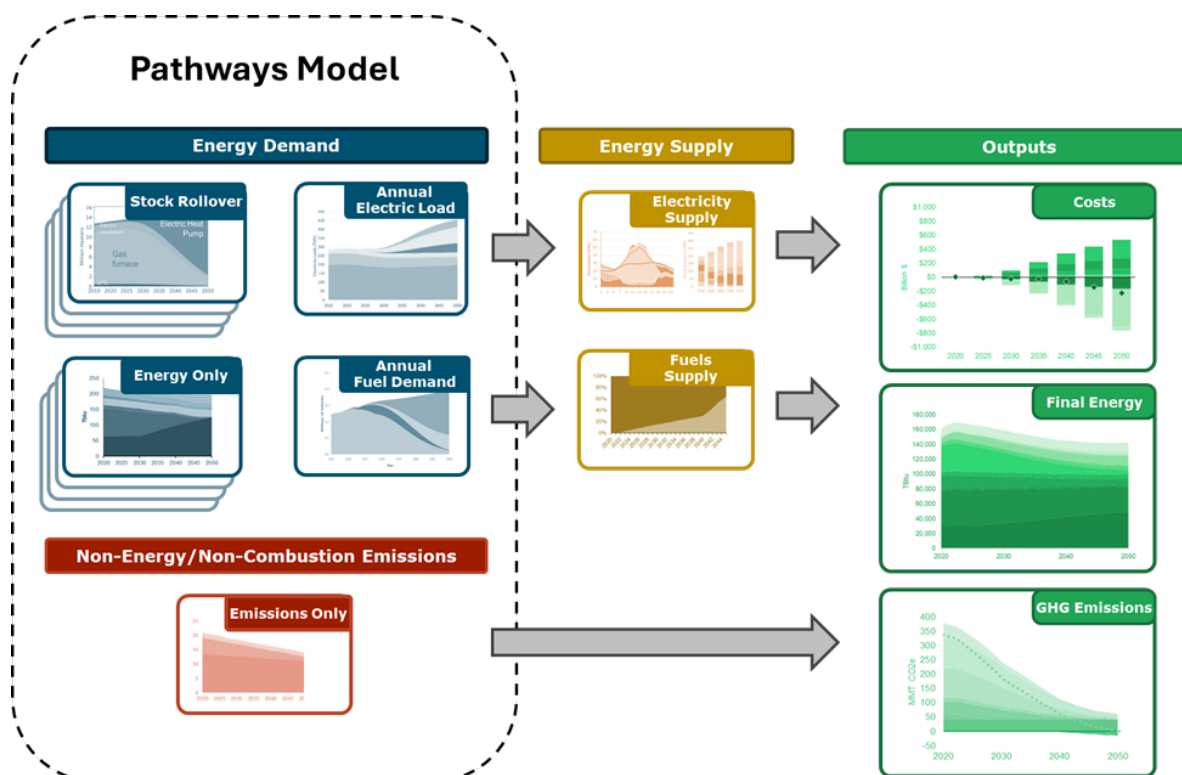
The sources from these sectors are categorized into three subsector types:

1. Stock rollover: Subsectors where Pathways accounts for the stock rollover of energy-consuming devices in the economy. Here, final energy demands and direct emissions are calculated based on the total number of devices, demand for energy services (e.g., vehicle miles traveled, delivered heat), the fuel type of devices, and the efficiency of devices.

2. **Energy only:** Subsectors where Pathways accounts for annual energy demands and direct emissions, but does not model stock rollover of devices due to a lack of high-quality, comprehensive data on device stocks, service demands, and efficiencies (e.g., industrial process heat).
3. **Emissions only:** Subsectors where emissions are generated from sources other than energy demand and/or fuel combustion, so only the annual direct emissions are tracked (e.g., landfill methane leakage).

The final energy demands from Pathways are typically passed to energy supply models like the E3 RESOLVE model for electricity sector capacity expansion and the E3 fuels optimization module to determine the cost and emissions associated with meeting final energy demands under various resource and emissions constraints. For the 2025 U.S. Climate Alliance Decarbonization scenarios, electricity prices and emissions rates from the NREL 2024 Standard Scenarios were combined with electricity demands from Pathways to estimate total electricity system costs and emissions. Electricity sector emissions for 2022 through 2024 were based on reported electric sector fuel consumption from the EIA State Energy Database (SEDS)⁶²⁸ and EIA Electric Power Monthly.⁶²⁹ Because full-year data for 2025 are not available, 2024 electric power emissions are extended to 2025 and then interpolated to the NREL 2024 Standard Scenarios trend between 2025 and 2029. Figure A-1 shows the process flow for a typical economy-wide analysis using Pathways in conjunction with energy supply tools.

FIGURE A-1. Flow chart of Pathways model used in conjunction with energy supply tools.



The default geography for Pathways is the state level, with each state and Washington, D.C. modeled as an individual region. The base year of the model is 2023, and energy demands for 2023 are estimated based on final energy demand by sector and fuel from the EIA SEDS.⁶³⁰ For the emissions-only subsectors, full state-level data are only available from EPA for 2022, so E3 scaled these values to 2023 based on changes in the national inventory between 2022 and 2023.⁶³¹ Emissions from Puerto Rico and Guam are modeled outside of the stock rollover and energy demand accounting of Pathways since there are not enough data in the standard federal datasets used to populate the model to represent these sectors for those territories. The base-year emissions for Puerto Rico and Guam are aligned with historical EPA data for 2022, and in each scenario, the sectoral emissions in these territories follow the same trend as emissions for that sector in the rest of the Alliance states. Puerto Rico and Guam are included in the Alliance-wide emissions results but are not reflected in other modeling outputs like the cost and benefits analysis.

Overview of scenarios

The 2025 Decarbonization Analysis examined three scenarios of economy-wide energy demand and GHG emissions:

1. **Previous Federal Approach:** Includes all current state policies as of May 2025 and all congressional and executive federal climate and energy policies and regulations implemented as of January 2025.
2. **Current Federal Approach:** Includes all current state policies as of May 2025 but excludes congressional and executive federal policies that have been rolled back via legislation or executive action, or have had their implementation delayed by the current administration.
3. **Collective State Actions:** Includes Alliance states collectively pursuing a suite of ambitious near-term actions in the absence of federal climate policy over the next decade.

Previous and Current Federal Approach Scenarios

Both the Previous Federal Approach and Current Federal Approach scenarios include all finalized state policies and regulations as of May 2025, which were modeled based on input from state teams and the U.S. Climate Alliance. The two scenarios vary in terms of the federal policies and regulations in place. The only state policies that vary between the two scenarios are *Advanced Clean Cars II* (ACC II) and *Advanced Clean Trucks*, since the *Clean Air Act* waiver required for their implementation is subject to federal approval and the current legal outcome of challenges to the waiver's revocation is unclear. Table A-1 shows the list of state policies included in both scenarios, while Table A-2 shows the federal policies that were either included or excluded in each scenario categorized by their original legislation or relevant federal agency.

TABLE A-1. Existing state policies and regulations modeled in all scenarios.

Sector	Policy type	Included states
Electricity generation	Renewable portfolio standards (RPS), clean electricity standards (CES), sectoral carbon caps, and/or cap-and-trade programs	AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, IL, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, NC, NJ, NM, NY, OR, PA, RI, VT, WA, WI
Transportation	Low-carbon fuel standards (LCFS)	CA, OR, WA
	Existing state EV purchase incentives/rebates	CA, CO, CT, DE, IL, MA, MD, ME, MN, NJ, NY, OR, PA, RI, VT, WA
	Zero-emissions transit and school bus mandates	CA, CT, DE, IL, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NY
Buildings	Existing energy efficiency resource standards	AZ, CA, CO, CT, HI, IL, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, NC, NJ, NM, NY, OR, PA, RI, VT, WA, WI
	Building performance standards	CO, MD, WA
	Clean heat standards	CO
	Heating oil biofuel blend requirements	CT, NY, RI
Industry	Facility emissions standards	CO
IPPU	State HFC phasedown rules	CA, CO, DE, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NY, RI, VT, WA
Oil and gas	State oil and gas standards	CA, CO, MA, MD, NM, NY, PA
Waste	Landfill methane regulations	CA, MD, OR, WA

TABLE A-2. Federal policies included or excluded in the two current policy scenarios.

Category	Policy type	Previous Federal Approach	Current Federal Approach
<i>Inflation Reduction Act</i>	Clean electricity tax credits (45Y & 48E)	Included	Excluded
	Carbon capture tax credits (45Q)	Included	Included
	Clean hydrogen tax credits (45V)	Included	Excluded
	Customer EV tax credits (30D & 45W)	Included	Excluded
	Advanced manufacturing tax credits (45X)	Included	Excluded
	Waste methane charge	Included	Excluded
Environmental Protection Agency	Section 111d power plant standards	Included	Excluded
	Vehicle tailpipe emissions standards for model years 2027–32	Included	Excluded
	<i>Clean Air Act</i> waiver for California vehicle emissions standards	Included	Excluded
	HFC technology transition rule	Included	Excluded
	Oil and gas facility new source performance standards	Included	Excluded
Department of Transportation	Vehicle fuel economy standards for model years 2027–32	Included	Excluded
Department of Energy	Appliance efficiency standards finalized between 2021–24	Included	Excluded
	LNG export approval pause	Included	Excluded
Department of Interior	Offshore wind permit approvals	Included	Excluded
Department of Agriculture	Forestry and wildfire management policies adopted between 2021–24	Included	Excluded
	Conservation program funding for climate-smart agriculture and land management practices	Included	Excluded

Collective State Actions

The Collective State Actions scenario includes all assumptions in the Current Federal Approach Scenario (Tables A-1 and A-2) and layers 22 additional near-term actions (Table A-3) to assess the impact of collective Alliance state action in the current federal environment. All the near-term regulatory actions modeled are based on policies or regulations that currently exist at the state or local government level in the Alliance.

TABLE A-3. Policies modeled in Collective State Actions scenario.

Sector	Policy type	Policy description
Electricity Generation	Clean electricity standards (CES)	CES that achieves 80% by 2035, 95% by 2050, aligned with aggressive CES targets from multiple states ⁶³²
Transportation	Clean fuel standards	Requires a 20% reduction in the carbon intensity of on-road transportation fuels by 2034, based on the WA Clean Fuel Standard ⁶³³
	Light-duty vehicle (LDV) EV incentives	Rebates for LDV EVs worth up to \$7,500 that would replace lost federal incentives, similar to what CA Gov. Newsom previously proposed ⁶³⁴
	Medium- and heavy-duty vehicle (MHDV) ZEV incentives	Rebates for MHDV ZEVs worth up to \$40,000 or 30% of the vehicle price that would replace lost federal incentives
	Public fleet ZEV requirements	Multiple municipalities/states around the U.S. have such requirements; this uses the target of 100% ZEV adoption for fleets by 2035 based on previous Biden administration federal fleet target ⁶³⁵
	Indirect source rules for warehouses and trucking	Requires warehouses to reduce emissions from onsite energy use and trucking related to goods movement, based on South Coast Air Quality Management District Warehouse Actions and Investments to Reduce Emissions (WAIRE) rule ⁶³⁶
	Shore power requirements	Requires all ocean-going vessels to use emissions controls equipment or shore power when at berth by 2035, based on CA regulation with five-year delay to reflect later adoption date in other states ⁶³⁷
	Lawn and landscaping equipment emissions standards	Requires all spark-ignition engines rated at or below 19 kW to be zero emissions, based on CA Small Off-Road Engines program ⁶³⁸
	VMT reduction land use policies	New housing construction is shifted to concentrate in high-density regions with lower VMT per capita based on scenarios modeled by Rocky Mountain Institute ⁶³⁹

Sector	Policy type	Policy description
Buildings	All-electric new construction	Requires all new buildings to have all-electric appliances starting in 2029, based on NY All-Electric Buildings Law ⁶⁴⁰
	Building performance standards	Requires 20% emissions reductions by 2035 from large commercial, multifamily, and public buildings over 50,000 square feet, based on Colorado program with five-year delay to reflect later adoption date in other states ⁶⁴¹
	Clean heat standards	Requires a 22% reduction in emissions from natural gas used in buildings by 2035, based on Colorado clean heat plans with five-year delay to reflect later adoption date in other states ⁶⁴²
	Zero NO _x appliance standards	Requires all space and water heat appliances sold to have zero NO _x emissions starting in 2029, but allows some emitting devices to be sold with alternative compliance payments, based on finalized (Bay Area Air District) and proposed (South Coast Air Quality Management District) regional regulations in CA ⁶⁴³
	Heat pump incentives	Incentives of up to \$10,000 per home for a whole-home heat pump installation, based on Massachusetts incentive levels ⁶⁴⁴
	Envelope upgrade incentives	Incentives of up to \$4,000 per home for market-rate residents and up to \$9.5k for income-eligible residents, based on Efficiency Vermont program ⁶⁴⁵
Industry/IPPU	Facility emissions standards	Requires a 5% reduction in emissions for energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries (cement, iron and steel, paper) and a 20% reduction for other large manufacturing industries by 2035, based on Colorado rules with five-year delay to reflect later adoption date in other states ⁶⁴⁶
	Buy Clean programs	Programs require a reduction in carbon intensity of materials used in publicly funded construction projects like cement, glass, and iron and steel, based on multiple state programs and Federal-State Buy Clean Partnership during the Biden administration ⁶⁴⁷
IPPU	High-GWP refrigerant phaseout and management programs	Backstop EPA SNAP regulations plus programs with additional GWP limits, based on those adopted by CA, WA, and NY ⁶⁴⁸
Oil and gas	Fugitive methane and CO ₂ emissions rules	State rules on leak detection and reporting, equipment emissions standards, and emissions limits for oil and gas facilities based on Colorado regulations ⁶⁴⁹
Agriculture	State funding for agriculture emissions mitigation	State funding for soil health and methane mitigation aligned with total funding from 2024 <i>America is All In</i> report on agriculture and land use actions ⁶⁵⁰
LULUCF	State funding for conversion, afforestation, and reforestation	State funding for wildfire mitigation, conservation, afforestation, and wetland restoration aligned with total funding from 2024 <i>America is All In</i> report on agriculture and land use actions, inclusive of collectively achieving a 30% conservation by 2030
Carbon dioxide removal	Carbon dioxide removal procurement	Collective state procurement of carbon dioxide removal aligned with the targets established by the <i>Carbon Dioxide Leadership Removal Act of 2024</i> ⁶⁵¹

Costs and Benefits Analysis

In this analysis, E3 evaluated the relative costs and benefits of Alliance members taking additional actions to achieve net-zero GHG emissions. E3 compared the economy-wide costs and benefits of achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 (Table A-4) to those of the Current Federal Approach scenario.

TABLE A-4. Decarbonization assumptions for achieving net-zero GHG emissions.

Sector	Measure	Description
Transportation	LDV electrification	100% of new vehicles are EVs by 2035
	MHDV and bus ZEVs	100% of new vehicles are ZEVs by 2035
	Fuel blending	100% of jet fuel is from biofuels/synthetic fuel; 80% of remaining diesel is from biofuels by 2050
Buildings	Electrification	100% of all new appliances for space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying are electric by 2035
	Envelope upgrades	50% of residential buildings and 60% of commercial buildings have envelope upgrades by 2050
Industry	Low-temperature heat electrification	All low-temperature heat below 200 degrees C is electrified by 2050
	Off-road vehicles and equipment electrification	60% of fuel use for off-road vehicles and equipment in construction, mining, and agriculture is electrified by 2050
	Net-zero cement	100% of cement production is decarbonized through alternative fuels use and CCS by 2050
	Net-zero iron and steel	100% of iron and steel production is decarbonized through direct electrification or direct reduced iron with hydrogen and electric arc furnaces
	Oil and gas activity reduction	Oil and gas production and refining declines 50% by 2050 to account for avoided domestic demand from decarbonization in Alliance states
Carbon dioxide removal	Bioenergy carbon capture and sequestration (BECCS) and direct air capture (DAC)	300 MMT of carbon dioxide removal required by 2050, with 100 MMT coming from BECCS on biorefining and 200 MMT from DAC

The Pathways model accounts for annual spending on fuels, energy efficiency upgrades, upfront costs for energy-consuming devices, and non-energy mitigation measures. In addition to direct costs, the model also includes an evaluation of health benefits using the EPA

COBRA 5.0 model⁶⁵² and climate benefits using the social cost of carbon values from EPA's *Report on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases: Estimates Incorporating Recent Scientific Advances*.⁶⁵³ The full list of cost and benefit categories accounted for in the analysis include:

Electricity: The costs of electricity generation, transmission, and distribution

Buildings CAPEX: The upfront purchase costs for building equipment (e.g., space heaters, water heaters), and building envelope upgrades

Industry CAPEX: Capital costs for energy efficiency measures, hydrogen fuel-switching, and electrification

Transportation CAPEX: The upfront purchase costs for on-road vehicles

Low-carbon fuels: The energy costs of alternative fuels like biofuels, synthetic fuels, and hydrogen

Conventional fuels: The energy costs of conventional (mostly fossil) fuels like petroleum and natural gas

Non-energy mitigation: The capital costs for non-energy mitigation strategies like landfill methane capture, oil and gas methane leak detection and repair, and reforestation incentives

Carbon dioxide removal CAPEX: The upfront capital and operations and maintenance (O&M) costs for industrial CCS, BECCS, and DAC (note that the electricity costs of running carbon dioxide removal systems are accounted for in the electricity cost category)

Device O&M: The ongoing operations and maintenance costs of buildings and transportation equipment

Climate benefits: Benefits of avoided warming using social cost of GHG values from the EPA and a two percent societal discount rate

Air quality benefits: Benefits of avoided fuel combustion using the average of the low and high benefits values from the EPA COBRA model

Note that this costs and benefits analysis excludes Puerto Rico and Guam due to a lack of data for these territories. Hawai'i is excluded from the health benefits analysis because there is no data for Hawai'i in the EPA COBRA model. However, Hawai'i is included in the other cost and benefit calculations for direct costs and climate benefits.

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