The Climate & Clean Energy
EQUITY FUND

Policy Playbook:

UTILITY REFORM AND RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS

Lead Researcher:
Jamal Lewis
Editors:
Adenike Adeyeye, Shilpa Joshi

Disclaimer: This list represents only a sampling of state bills. We highlight key equity provisions within each bill, but other parts of each bill may be problematic. Last Updated: June 2025

Overall Summary

This policy playbook provides a comprehensive review of state-level climate and clean energy legislation, uniquely compiled to highlight bills that advance clean, renewable energy equitably. It focuses on how states are pursuing utility reform, establishing clean energy standards, and transforming electricity systems to ensure that the benefits of a decarbonized future are shared by all. By examining the critical intersection of climate action, clean energy deployment, and racial and economic equity, this compilation offers a detailed look at the policy landscape from 2021 to 2025, including legislation that has been introduced but has not yet passed, reflecting the evolving legislative intent across the nation.

The bills showcased within these pages illustrate a dynamic period of state-level innovation, encompassing a wide array of policy levers designed to foster energy equity and environmental justice. The playbook explores foundational efforts like providing equitable energy services, from upgrading homes to helping with bills and protecting consumers. It also delves into how states are speeding up renewable energy deployment, supporting everything from large-scale clean energy projects to local community solar, and even offering targeted incentives. It showcases ambitious goals for 100% renewable or carbon-free energy that aim to benefit everyone. Plus, the playbook examines how states are rethinking utility governance, making providers more democratic and accountable, and building a resilient grid that can stand strong against challenges using smart planning and energy storage. Finally, it covers direct decarbonization strategies, like banning fossil fuels and implementing carbon pricing.

Collectively, these legislative efforts embody a commitment to address disproportionate burdens and historical inequities in the energy system. They aim to reduce energy burden and improve affordability through targeted rate designs and streamlined assistance; enhance public health and reduce localized pollution by phasing out fossil fuels and investing in clean heat; ensure equitable access to clean energy technologies by overcoming financial and structural barriers; foster a just transition by prioritizing workforce development and community support; and increase accountability and transparency in utility governance. The variety of approaches, from direct mandates to innovative funding mechanisms and "polluter pays" provisions, offers a rich perspective on how states are actively building a cleaner, more affordable, and more just energy future.

How to Read this Document

This playbook is a user-friendly resource for understanding state legislative efforts to advance equitable climate policy and utility reform. Specifically, it highlights initiatives related to clean energy standards, electricity, and the development or revision of renewable energy targets. Here's a quick guide to navigating its sections:

Section Summary: Each major section begins with a concise overview that outlines the core legislative themes and goals explored within that section. This provides a high-level understanding of the policy area and its connection to energy equity and environmental justice.

Bill Summary: For each highlighted bill, you'll find a brief summary of its key provisions. Please note that some bill summaries are directly quoted from legislative websites to ensure accuracy, while others have been summarized by our researchers due to their length or complexity.

Significance: This is a crucial part of each bill entry. Our researchers have carefully crafted a "Significance" section to explain the energy equity and environmental justice implications of the bill. This section delves into *why* the bill was deemed important enough to be included in this playbook, often highlighting how it aims to benefit historically burdened communities, ensure affordability, improve public health, or foster a just transition.

Important Considerations and Disclaimers:

- **Focus on Specific Aspects:** Getting a bill "over the finish line" and signed by a governor is an arduous task, often involving compromises. Therefore, this playbook doesn’t aim to highlight entire bills, but rather specific aspects or provisions within them that we believe are particularly noteworthy for their contributions to energy equity and environmental justice.
- **Highlights and Model Policy Ideas:** This playbook presents a curated selection of highlights and model policy ideas. It is not an exhaustive list of all relevant legislation.
- **Duality of the Legislative Experience:** It's important to understand the inherent duality of the legislative policy experience. While we strive to showcase beneficial aspects and have pointed out some of the pitfalls, we have not included a comprehensive summary of those pitfalls. The legislative process is complex, and sometimes compromises result in imperfect, albeit still impactful, legislation.

Highlighted Bills

Summary: This section showcases a curated selection of the most impactful state legislative efforts that are driving a just and equitable clean energy transition. These bills represent cutting-edge approaches to climate action, fundamentally reshaping energy systems to prioritize affordability, public health, and environmental justice. From mandating ambitious decarbonization targets and implementing innovative financing mechanisms to ensuring robust consumer protections and fostering democratic utility governance, these highlighted examples demonstrate how states are actively working to minimize burdens on vulnerable communities and ensure that the benefits of a clean energy future are truly shared by all.

1. **New York State Build Public Renewables Act (NY A00279) (2023):** This is a landmark bill that allows the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to directly build publicly-owned renewable energy projects, a significant expansion of its role compared to many traditional public power authorities that primarily operate as wholesalers or transmission providers. Unlike most other power authorities, this legislation specifically mandates NYPA to prioritize clean energy projects that directly benefit disadvantaged communities (including shutting down polluting peaker plants in frontline neighborhoods and replacing them with clean power), ensure high-quality union jobs with prevailing wages and robust just transition provisions, and establish a bill discount program for low-income New Yorkers. This fundamentally links public power with a just and equitable clean energy future, showcasing a distinct model for leveraging public entities to drive decarbonization while embedding democratic accountability and direct benefits for vulnerable communities.

2. **New York Assembly Bill A02652 (2023) - Green New Deal for New York Task Force:** This bill is exceptionally ambitious, establishing a task force to develop a plan for an economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions-neutral economy by 2030, far outpacing most other state-level climate mandates which typically aim for net-zero by 2045 or later, or focus primarily on the electricity sector. Beyond decarbonization, the bill's core purpose and the task force's mandate state the promotion of "economic and environmental justice and equality," aiming to "virtually eliminate poverty" and ensure "prosperity and economic security for everyone," and integrate "social, economic, racial, regional, and gender-based justice and equality." This is a remarkably broad and explicit commitment to social equity embedded directly into the very foundation of the climate action plan, distinguishing it from many other state climate laws where equity is often a secondary consideration or implemented through separate, less overarching mechanisms.

3. **Vermont House Bill 96 (H.96) - Affordable Heat Act (2024):** This bill is a leading model for equitable thermal decarbonization, establishing a Clean Heat Standard that directly reduces greenhouse gas emissions from heating. Given that most residential onsite greenhouse gas emissions come from heating, and inefficient heating often leads to unnecessarily high utility bills, addressing this sector allows people to significantly reduce emissions and save money simultaneously. H.96 stands out as a leading model for clean heat efforts across the country due to its exceptionally robust and granular equity provisions. It not only sets strong, quantifiable mandates (e.g., 16% low-income/moderate-income carve-outs for clean heat credits) and prioritizes households with the highest energy burdens, but also uniquely directs noncompliance funds directly to low-income customers for clean heat measures. Furthermore, it explicitly addresses renters' access to clean heat measures by ensuring participation in the Equity Advisory Group.

4. **Massachusetts Senate Docket 1533 (SD1533) (2025):** This bill represents an innovative approach to rate design by mandating income-based fixed charges for utilities, where lower-income ratepayers pay less. While other states typically address energy affordability through bill discount programs or arrearage management, this bill uniquely mandates the implementation of income-based fixed charges for electric and gas utilities, ensuring that lower-income ratepayers are assessed smaller fixed charges than higher-income ratepayers. This is critically important for low-income households because traditional fixed charges are regressive, disproportionately burdening those who consume less energy or have limited income, thus exacerbating energy poverty. Furthermore, it mandates allocations of energy efficiency program funds specifically for low-income residential programs and requires the "social value of greenhouse gas emissions reductions" to be included in cost-effectiveness calculations for these programs.

5. **California Assembly Bill 1243 (AB1243) - Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025 (2025):** This landmark proposed bill, if enacted, would directly implement a "polluter pays" principle by requiring fossil fuel polluters, based on a climate cost study quantifying their damages, to pay their fair share for greenhouse gases released historically. This creates a dedicated, substantial funding stream for climate adaptation and mitigation projects that alleviates the burden on taxpayers. AB1243 sets a new high bar for explicit equity integration, mandating that at least 40% of the collected funds directly benefit disadvantaged communities. This includes financing initiatives like wildfire prevention, extreme heat mitigation, sea-level rise adaptation, and notably, energy burden relief and workforce development for those impacted by climate change, making its equity scope more direct and comprehensive than similar enacted laws in other states (such as New York's 35% mandate or Vermont's broader climate fund).

6. **Minnesota House File 1983 (HF1983) (2023-2024):** This bill establishes an exceptionally ambitious 50% energy use reduction target by 2035 for existing and residential buildings. This bill uniquely distinguishes itself from most state energy efficiency efforts by targeting a deep, cumulative reduction across the entire existing housing stock and by explicitly aligning with broader state climate goals to avoid disproportionately adverse impacts on communities overexposed to pollution.

7. **Washington House Bill 1589 (HB 1589) (2023) - Nonemitting Thermal Energy Networks (TENs):** This bill is a leading example of Thermal Energy Network (TEN) legislation, establishing a regulatory framework for TENs that allows utilities to own and operate them. While many states are developing TENs, HB 1589 notably requires pilot projects to explicitly prioritize low-income and environmental justice communities, ensuring that the benefits of decarbonized heating/cooling (reduced emissions, stable costs) flow directly to historically burdened populations. In addition, this bill is among the very first in the nation to explicitly amend the gas utility's traditional "obligation to serve" to include providing clean thermal energy through TENs, rather than solely fossil gas. This is a fundamental regulatory shift that provides a clear pathway for gas utilities to transition their business model towards decarbonization, ensuring their continued relevance in a clean energy future while moving away from fossil fuels. The bill represents a middle ground where environmental advocates and gas utilities can align on a viable decarbonization pathway.

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Equitable Provision of Energy Service		
Subtopic	**Bill Name**	**Bill Status**
Holistic Energy Upgrades	Green Affordable Pre-Electrification Program (Bill A09170) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Assembly Energy Committee; remained in committee at the end of the 2023-2024 legislative session)

Equitable Provision of Energy Service		
	Residential Electric Panel Upgrade Grants; Pilot Program (HF0849) (2023-2024)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
	New York Senate Bill 8504 (S08504A) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
	Incentives for the Adoption of Heat Pumps Water Heaters (HB 05934) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology; introduced January 22, 2025).
	NYCHA HVAC Repair Act (S04682) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Senate Housing, Construction and Community Development Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
Increasing Access to Clean Energy	Group Purchasing Programs (HD3561) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and and Energy; introduced January 17, 2025)
	California Assembly Bill 1664 (AB1664) (2023-2024)	**Died in Committee** (Held under submission in Senate Appropriations Committee on September 1, 2023)

Equitable Provision of Energy Service		
	Oregon House Bill 3081 (HB3081) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Ways and Means; introduced January 8, 2025).
	California Senate Bill 647 (SB647) (2025-2026)	**In Committee** (Referred to Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee; introduced February 17, 2025)
	Capacity Grant Act (LB556) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Natural Resources Committee; not enacted by end of 2023 legislative session)
	New Jersey Assembly Bill A5400 (2024)	**In Committee** (Referred to Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee; introduced May 16, 2024)
Energy Bill Assistance and Utility Disconnections	Wisconsin Assembly Bill 670 (AB670) (2023)	**Failed** (Failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1 on April 15, 2024)
	Washington House Bill 1329 (2023-2024)	**Passed and Signed into Law** (Became Chapter 105, 2023 Laws, approved April 20, 2023)
	California Senate Bill 636 (SB636) (2025-2026)	**In Committee** (Referred to Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee; introduced February 17, 2025)

Equitable Provision of Energy Service		
	West Virginia House Bill 604 (HB 604) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to House Government Organization Committee; introduced January 10, 2025)
	New York Assembly Bill A02072 (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Assembly Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
	New York Assembly Bill 5030 (A05030) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Assembly Social Services Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
	Minnesota House File 2493 (HF2493) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
Energy Funding and Financing	Massachusetts Bill HD.1885 (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy; introduced January 17, 2025)
	Virginia Senate Bill 729 (SB729) (2024)	**Died in Committee** (Left in Senate Commerce and Labor Committee; not enacted by end of 2024 legislative session)
	Minnesota House File 1656 (HF1656) (2023-2024)	**Passed and Signed by Governor** (Became Chapter 24, 2023 Laws, approved April 18, 2023)

Equitable Provision of Energy Service		
	Connecticut House Bill 5921 (HB05921) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology; introduced January 22, 2025)
	Massachusetts Senate Docket 1984 (SD1984) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy; introduced February 27, 2025)
	Maryland House Bill 145 (HB0145) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to House Economic Matters Committee; introduced January 10, 2025)
Consumer Protections	New Mexico Senate Bill 65 (SB 65) (2025)	Passed Senate (Passed with amendments and referred to House on Feb 10, 2025)
	California Senate Bill 282 (SB282) (2025-2026)	**In Committee** (Referred to Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee; introduced February 17, 2025)
	California Assembly Bill 2993 (AB2993) (2023-2024)	**Died in Committee** (Held under submission in Senate Appropriations Committee on September 1, 2023)
	Georgia Senate Bill 94 (SB94) (2023-2024)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Senate Regulated Industries Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)

Equitable Provision of Energy Service		
	Maryland House Bill 267 (HB0267)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to House Economic Matters Committee; not enacted by end of 2024 legislative session)
	Rhode Island Senate Bill 2801 (S2801) (2024)	Passed Senate (Passed Senate with amendments and referred to House on March 14, 2024)

Accelerating Equitable Renewable Energy Deployment		
Subtopic	**Bill Name**	**Bill Status**
Utility- and Corporate-Owned Renewable Energy	New York State Build Public Renewables Act (BPRA) (2023)	**Passed and Signed into Law** (Became Chapter 350, 2023 Laws, approved May 10, 2023).
	Pennsylvania House Bill 330 (HB330) (2023-2024)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)

Accelerating Equitable Renewable Energy Deployment		
	Washington House Bill 1589 (HB 1589) (2023)	**Passed and Signed by Governor** (Became Chapter 351, 2024 Laws, approved March 28, 2024)
Low-Income and Community Solar	Wisconsin Assembly Bill 258 (AB258) (2023)	**Failed** (Failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1 on April 15, 2024)
	Washington House Bill 1509 (HB 1509) (2023)	**Passed and Signed by Governor** (Became Chapter 105, 2023 Laws, approved April 20, 2023)
	The Georgia Homegrown Solar Act of 2024 (HB 1083) (2024)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee; not enacted by end of 2024 legislative session)
	Delaware House Bill 270 (HB 270) (2021-2022)	**Passed and Signed into Law** (Became Chapter 195, 2022 Laws, approved June 28, 2022)
	Oregon Senate Bill 1055 (SB1055) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Ways and Means; introduced January 8, 2025)
	Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Subscription Eligibility Legislation - (HB1233) (2025)	Passed House (Passed House on March 11, 2025, and referred to Senate Finance Committee)

Accelerating Equitable Renewable Energy Deployment		
	Michigan House Bill 4464 (HB 4464) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to House Energy, Communications, and Technology Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
Solar Incentives	Connecticut Senate Bill 895 (SB00895) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology; introduced January 22, 2025)
	Massachusetts House Bill 3559 (H.3559) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy; introduced January 17, 2025)
	California Senate Bill 851 (SB-851) (2023-2024)	**Died in Committee** (Held under submission in Senate Appropriations Committee on September 1, 2023)
Prohibiting Restrictions on Solar	Texas House Bill 4455 (HB4455) (2023)	**Passed and Signed by Governor** (Became Chapter 1007, 2023 Laws, approved June 18, 2023)
	New Mexico Senate Bill 98 (SB98) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee; introduced February 5, 2025)
	California Senate Bill 1190 (SB1190) (2023-2024)	**Passed and Signed by Governor** (Became Chapter 594, Statutes of 2023, approved September 25, 2023)

100% Renewable Energy Targets that Benefit Everyone		
Subtopic	**Bill Name**	**Bill Status**
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards	Rhode Island House Bill 7277 SUBSTITUTE A (H 7277 SUB A) (2022)	**Passed and Signed into Law** (Became Chapter 161, 2022 Laws, approved July 6, 2022)
	New York Assembly Bill A02652 (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Assembly Energy Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
	Connecticut House Bill 5004 (HB05004) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology; introduced January 22, 2025)
	New York Assembly Bill A01787 (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Assembly Energy Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
	California Assembly Bill 1279 (AB 1279) (2022)	**Passed and Signed into Law** (SB 100 approved September 10, 2018; AB 1279 approved September 16, 2022).

100% Renewable Energy Targets that Benefit Everyone		
	Michigan Senate Bill 271 (SB 271) - Clean Energy and Jobs Act (2023)	**Passed and Signed into Law** (Approved November 28, 2023)
	Minnesota Senate File 4 (SF 4) (2023)	**Passed and Signed by Governor** (Approved January 31, 2023)
Appliance Targets/Clean Heat	Pennsylvania House Bill 952 (HB952) (2023-2024)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
	Connecticut House Bill 5927 (HB05927) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology; introduced January 22, 2025)
	Minnesota House File 4574 (HF4574) (2024)	**In Committee** (Referred to House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee; introduced February 29, 2024)
	Affordable Heat Act (H.96) (2024)	**Passed and Signed into Law** (Approved May 2, 2024)
EEPT	Texas Senate Bill 258 (SB258) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Left pending in committee on May 29, 2023)

100% Renewable Energy Targets that Benefit Everyone		
	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans (HB0864)	**Died in Committee** (Unfavorable in House Economic Matters on March 15, 2024)
	Minnesota House File 1983 (HF1983)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)

Governance and Management of the Entity Providing Energy		
Subtopic	**Bill Name**	**Bill Status**
Transitioning to More Democratic Utility Ownership	Massachusetts House Bill 3883 (HD3883) (2025)	**Status: In Committee** (Referred to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, introduced May 15,
	Connecticut House Bill 5750 (HB05750) (2025)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology, introduced January 22, 2025; likely died at the end of the 2025 regular session unless

Governance and Management of the Entity Providing Energy		
		continued)
	Connecticut House Bill 6297 (HB06297) (2025)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology, introduced January 22, 2025; likely died at the end of the 2025 regular session unless continued)
	California Senate Bill 332 (SB332) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee, introduced February 17, 2025)
	Connecticut House Bill 5945 (HB05945) (2025)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Energy and Technology, introduced January 22, 2025; likely died at the end of the 2025 regular session unless continued)
Creating Utility Oversight and Increasing Public Input	Ohio Senate Bill 229 (SB229) (2024)	**Died in Committee** (Passed House, but died in Senate Public Utilities Committee as of December 31, 2024, when the 135th General Assembly concluded)
	West Virginia House Bill 4618 (HB 4618) (2024)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to House Government Organization Committee; not enacted by end of 2024 legislative session).

Governance and Management of the Entity Providing Energy		
	New York Senate Bill 8372 (S08372) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
	Wisconsin Assembly Bill 675 (AB675) (2023)	**Failed** (Failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1 on April 15, 2024)
Utility-Administered Energy Programs	Wisconsin Assembly Bill 826 (AB826) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
	Wisconsin Assembly Bill 840 (AB840) (2023)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session).
	Ohio House Bill 79 (HB79) (2023-2024)	**Died in Committee** (Passed House, but died in Senate Public Utilities Committee as of December 31, 2024)
	Vermont House Bill 196 (H.196) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee; introduced February 19, 2025)

Governance and Management of the Entity Providing Energy		
Equitable Rate Design and Affordability	Massachusetts Senate Docket 1533 (SD1533) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy; introduced February 27, 2025)
	Public Utility Rate Structures - New Mexico House Bill 91 (HB 91) (2025)	**Passed and Signed into Law** (Became Chapter 76, 2025 Laws; approved April 2, 2025)
	Massachusetts Senate Docket 2249 (SD2249) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy; introduced March 19, 2025).
	West Virginia Senate Bill 687 (SB687) (2025)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Senate Energy, Industry and Mining Committee; likely died at end of 2025 regular session unless continued)
	Georgia House Bill 1089 (HB 1089) (2023-2024)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee; not enacted by end of 2023-2024 legislative session)
	Vermont House Bill 224 (H.224) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee; introduced February 19, 2025)
Limitations on Utility Lobbying	Illinois Senate Bill 1275 (SB1275) (2025-2026)	**In Committee** (Referred to Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee; introduced

Governance and Management of the Entity Providing Energy		
		May 24, 2025)
	Utah Senate Bill 153 (SB0153) (2025)	**Died in Committee** (Referred to Senate Business and Labor Committee; not enacted by end of 2025 legislative session)
	Arizona Senate Bill 1390 (SB1390) (2025)	**In Committee** (Referred to Senate Commerce Committee; introduced February 13, 2025)

Resilient Grid Management		
Subtopic	**Bill Name**	**Bill Status**
Grid Planning	California Senate Bill 604 (SB604) (2023)	Passed and Signed by Governor (Became Chapter 371, Statutes of 2023, approved September 14, 2023)
	Wyoming Senate File 24 (SF0024) (2024)	Passed and Signed by Governor (Became Chapter 97, effective July 1, 2024)

Resilient Grid Management		
Storage	Vermont House Bill 437 (H.437) (2024)	Died in Committee (Introduced in 2023; status shows in House Energy and Technology, likely died at end of 2024 biennium session unless reintroduced/passed as part of a larger bill)
	Rhode Island Senate Bill 2499A (S2499A) (2024)	Passed and Signed into Law (Became Chapter 105, 2024 Laws, approved June 13, 2024)
	Michigan House Bill 4256 (HB 4256) (2023)	Died in Committee (Referred to House Energy, Communications, and Technology Committee on May 3, 2023. Not enacted in 2023-2024 legislative session)
	California Assembly Bill 1181 (AB1181) (2023-2024)	Died in Committee (Held under submission in Senate Appropriations Committee on September 1, 2023)
	Minnesota House File 1386 (HF1386) (2023)	Died in Committee (Referred to House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy on February 27, 2023. Not enacted in 2023-2024 legislative session)
	Hawaii House Bill 790 (HB 790) (2025)	In Committee (Referred to House Energy & Environmental Protection on January 29, 2025)

Resilient Grid Management		
	Massachusetts House Bill 4155 (HD4155) (2025)	In Committee (Referred to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy on May 15, 2025)
Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) and Microgrids	California Senate Bill 1305 (SB1305) (2023-2024)	Died in Committee (Held under submission in Senate Appropriations Committee on May 16, 2024)
	Oregon House Bill 2066 (HB2066) (2025)	In Committee (Referred to Joint Committee on Ways and Means on March 25, 2025)

Decarbonization		
Subtopic	**Bill Name**	**Bill Status**
Fossil Fuel Bans	New York Assembly Bill 411 (A00411) (2023)	Died in Committee (Re-referred in 2024, but ultimately died in the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee)
	Colorado Senate Bill 24-159 (SB24-159) (2024)	Failed (Postpone Indefinitely in Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources on March 28, 2024)

Decarbonization		
	Washington House Bill 1589 (HB 1589) (2023)	Passed and Signed by Governor (Became Chapter 351, 2024 Laws, effective March 28, 2024)
	Massachusetts House Docket 3428 (HD3428) (2025)	In Committee (Referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, introduced May 15, 2025).
Emission Reduction	California Senate Bill 1221 (SB-1221) (2023-2024)	Passed and Signed by Governor (Became Chapter 602, Statutes of 2024, approved September 25, 2024)
	California Senate Bill 527 (SB527) (2023-2024)	Vetoed by the Governor (October 13, 2023)
	California Assembly Bill 1182 (AB1182) (2023-2024)	Died in Committee. Held under submission in the Senate Appropriations Committee on September 1, 2023.
	New York Assembly Bill 4592 (A04592) (2023)	Died in Committee (Re-referred in 2024, but ultimately died in the Assembly Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee)
Carbon fees/taxes	Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1191 (SB1191) (2023)	In Committee (Referred to Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on March 13, 2023; status is pending)

Decarbonization		
	Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025 (AB1243) (2025)	In Committee (Hearing canceled at the request of author in Assembly Judiciary Committee on April 29, 2025)
	New York Assembly Bill 8469 (A08469) (2023)	Died in Committee (Referred to Assembly Health Committee on May 16, 2025, but the 2023 version of this bill, which concerned cap-and-invest, likely died in the 2023 session; the new 2025 bill with this number is on medical cannabis)
	Vermont House Bill 277 (H.277) (2025)	In Committee (Referred to House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee on February 19, 2025)

Policy Playbook Deep Dive

Equitable Provision of Energy Services

Summary: This section outlines comprehensive strategies to transition these communities towards a more affordable, healthier, and resilient energy future. This involves investing in holistic energy upgrades to improve housing quality and reduce pollution, enhancing program accessibility to ensure vulnerable populations can easily benefit from clean energy initiatives, and implementing robust energy bill assistance and utility disconnection protections to safeguard essential services. Furthermore, it establishes innovative energy funding and financing mechanisms explicitly designed to direct capital to underserved areas, all while embedding strong consumer protections to ensure that these transformative efforts deliver tangible, equitable, and lasting benefits. This section

is key for environmental justice and energy equity as it directly confronts the historical and ongoing disproportionate burdens faced by low-income communities and communities of color within the energy system.

Holistic Energy Upgrades

Summary: This "Holistic Energy Upgrades" section highlights state bills that tackle systemic barriers by funding essential infrastructure repairs and upgrades—from pre-electrification fixes and electrical panel enhancements to transitioning away from costly, polluting heating fuels (propane/oil) and inefficient water heaters (electric resistance) to efficient heat pumps. These policies also address historical underinvestment in public housing, ensuring that low-income communities and communities of color benefit directly from lower energy bills, improved indoor air quality, enhanced housing safety, and a just, resilient transition to clean energy.

- New York - Green Affordable Pre-Electrification Program (Bill A09170) (2023) - "Establishes the green affordable pre-electrification program to assist owners and tenants in residential properties in curing structural and building code defects which render the properties ineligible for climate change adaptation and resiliency project grants."
    - Significance: This bill addresses systemic barriers by helping owners and tenants in affordable housing fix structural issues, making their properties eligible for climate resiliency and adaptation grants. This ensures that low-income communities and communities of color, often in older, burdened housing, aren't left behind in the shift to a resilient, electrified energy system, ultimately reducing energy burden and improving housing quality and safety for tenants and residents alike.
- Minnesota - Residential Electric Panel Upgrade Grants; Pilot Program (HF0849) (2023-2024) - "Establishing a grant program to upgrade electrical panels in multifamily buildings"
    - Significance: Many low-income residents and communities of color live in older, multifamily buildings with outdated electrical systems. These upgrades are foundational for enabling electrification and a just clean energy transition, as modern panels allow for energy-efficient electric appliances, heat pumps, and EV charging. This can lead to lower energy bills, better indoor air quality, and reduced fossil fuel reliance. Additionally, updated electrical systems are safer and more reliable, making buildings less vulnerable to power disruptions and climate impacts while unlocking opportunities for rooftop or community solar.

- New York Senate Bill 8504 (S08504A) (2023) - “Authorizes the New York state energy research and development authority (NYSERDA) to administer a program to provide grants or loans for the costs related to enabling switching residences with propane or fuel-oil heating systems to efficient electric heat pumps.”
    - Significance: Propane and fuel oil are often costly and contribute to indoor and outdoor air pollution. By enabling a transition to more efficient electric heat pumps, the bill helps reduce high energy burdens for households, particularly low-income residents, and improves indoor air quality by eliminating on-site combustion, thus addressing health disparities in environmental justice communities.
- Connecticut - Incentives for the Adoption of Heat Pumps Water Heaters (HB 05934) (2025) - “establishing a program to incentivize the replacement of electric resistance water heaters with heat pump water heater”
    - Significance: Electric resistance water heaters are inefficient, leading to higher energy use and inflated utility bills. This bill directly addresses that by incentivizing the switch to more efficient heat pump water heaters, which will reduce energy burdens for households by lowering utility bills while also easing demand on the electrical grid and offering broader environmental benefits.
- New York City Housing Authority HVAC Repair Act (S04682) (2023) - “Relates to enacting the "NYCHA HVAC repair act"; provides for the heating and cooling of properties including dwelling units owned by the New York city housing authority through the installation of geothermal or air source heat pumps and for the replacement of lighting on New York city housing authority property with LED bulbs.”
    - Significance: This bill directly tackles the historical underinvestment in public housing, which is a consequence of decades of federal disinvestment and a lack of state/local responsibility, by mandating the installation of efficient geothermal or air source heat pumps and LED lighting in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) properties. This bill fundamentally shifts the dynamic by committing state resources to directly lowering energy bills and improving indoor air quality for low-income residents and communities of color living in public housing by eliminating on-site fossil fuel combustion, thus addressing their disproportionate energy burden and health disparities.

Increasing Access to Clean Energy

Summary: This subsection highlights state policies that promote solutions to systemic barriers preventing equitable participation in clean energy and energy efficiency programs. These bills employ diverse strategies, including group purchasing, block grants to community-based organizations, streamlined application processes, and comprehensive program navigation assistance, to ensure that the benefits of clean energy and energy efficiency reach low-income households and historically marginalized communities. By prioritizing accessibility and community engagement, these initiatives aim to create a more just and inclusive energy transition.

- Massachusetts - Group Purchasing Programs (HD3561) (2025) - "Establishing group purchasing programs for solar, heat pumps, and insulation"
    - Significance: This bill directly addresses a major barrier to clean energy and energy efficiency adoption, high upfront costs, by offering discounts that increase with participation. Part of its significance is that while clean energy equipment is often procured by program implementers, utilities or governments, this bill empowers residents to leverage collective buying power, thereby giving them more direct control and influence in the procurement process. This democratizes access to these beneficial technologies for individual households, making clean energy solutions more affordable and accessible for a broader range of the population.
- California Assembly Bill 1664 (AB1664) (2023-2024) - "This bill would require, as part of administering the funds used to provide incentives to eligible residential customers, the commission to establish a block grant structure for eligible entities, as defined, to apply for grants on behalf of residential households to increase the resiliency of residential households, as specified. The bill would require the commission, in determining the block grant funding criteria, to consider and prioritize one or more specified requirements."
    - Significance: This bill is crucial because it ensures low-income households, historically underserved by residential energy resiliency programs, gain access to clean backup power and energy management solutions, thereby reducing their energy burden. By channeling funds through Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), who serve as trusted messengers, the bill directly empowers marginalized communities to achieve improved housing resiliency.
- Oregon House Bill 3081 (HB3081) (2025) - "Requires the State Department of Energy to coordinate with other organizations, conduct outreach, establish a statewide navigation and support system and provide information in multiple

languages, as part of the department's single resource for providing information and assistance related to available energy efficiency incentives and programs."

    - Significance: This bill recognizes that families often struggle to navigate numerous, disparate weatherization programs, lacking the time to research options or facing complex applications and strict requirements that lead to high attrition rates. By streamlining access through a universal application, providing robust support, and offering information in multiple languages, HB3081 dramatically reduces these barriers. This approach ensures that energy efficiency incentives and programs reach their intended audiences, thereby reducing energy burden, improving living conditions, and advancing a truly just clean energy transition.

- California Senate Bill 647 (SB647) (2025-2026) - "This bill would require the Energy Commission to establish a mechanism to notify applicants to the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program that they may also be eligible for building energy efficiency and decarbonization incentives authorized by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). This bill would add to the Low-Income Oversight Board a member to be selected by the Executive Director of the Energy Commission. The bill would require the Low-Income Oversight Board, on or before January 1, 2027, to conduct an assessment of state and ratepayer-funded energy-efficiency incentives provided to low-income residents and to low-to-moderate income residents, as defined, which would include, among other things, recommendations for options to address the energy assistance needs of low-to-moderate income California households with household incomes that exceed the thresholds for existing low-income programs, as provided. The bill would require the Low-Income Oversight Board to publish its final assessment on its internet website on or before July 1, 2027."

    - Significance: Historically, the success of low-income energy efficiency programs has often been measured primarily by cost-benefit analyses that significantly underestimate their true value. This is because while implementing energy efficiency measures in low-income households can sometimes be more expensive due to older housing stock and deferred maintenance, the benefits extend far beyond just energy bill reductions. These crucial, yet often uncounted, benefits include improved health, enhanced comfort, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and increased community resilience. By failing to account for these broader impacts, traditional evaluations can incorrectly portray these programs as less effective, leading policymakers to reduce investment in initiatives vital for underserved communities.

This bill fundamentally shifts this dynamic by mandating that program evaluations move beyond narrow cost criteria to include holistic benefits like electrification, direct health and safety improvements, measurable cost reductions, and equitable access for underserved communities. By properly valuing these comprehensive outcomes and prioritizing advanced upgrades such as heat pumps and deep weatherization, SB647 sets the stage for greater and more appropriate investment in programs that effectively address the disproportionate energy burden, health disparities, and historical inequities faced by low-income communities.

- Nebraska - Capacity Grant Act (LB556) (2023) - The creation of capacity grant programs for nonprofits that administer weatherization programs through the low-income home energy assistance program
    - Significance: This bill directly strengthens the operational ability of nonprofit organizations that administer weatherization programs through LIHEAP, enabling them to expand access to crucial energy efficiency upgrades for low-income households. By boosting the capacity of trusted community partners, this bill ensures that more vulnerable residents can reduce their energy burden, improve home safety and comfort, and benefit from a more equitable energy transition.
- New Jersey Assembly Bill A5400 (2024) - "Relocates energy incentives and all utility assistance programs to new Office of Energy Management and establishes common application platform for utility assistance programs"
    - Significance: By establishing a new Office of Energy Management and a common application platform for all energy incentive and utility assistance programs, this bill streamlines and simplifies access to vital resources. This is crucial for energy equity and environmental justice because low-income households and disadvantaged communities often lack the time and resources to navigate fragmented programs and complex application processes, preventing them from receiving essential financial aid and energy efficiency upgrades. Through centralized administration, technical assistance, and a user-friendly platform, A5400 will significantly increase equitable access to programs that reduce energy burden, improve housing efficiency, and ensure critical utility protections reach their intended beneficiaries, thereby advancing a more just energy system.

Energy Bill Assistance and Utility Disconnections

Summary: This subsection outlines policies focused on protecting vulnerable households from energy insecurity and disproportionate energy burden. These bills collectively work

to prevent utility disconnections during extreme weather, establish critical safeguards for those facing financial hardship, and streamline access to vital energy bill assistance programs through mechanisms like automatic enrollment and year-round availability. By directly addressing affordability challenges and ensuring continuity of essential services, these measures are foundational to advancing energy equity and protecting the health and safety of marginalized communities.

- Wisconsin Assembly Bill 670 (AB670) (2023) - "This bill prohibits a public utility from disconnecting, between November 1 and April 15, a utility service that provides the primary heat source or energy source affecting the primary heat source for a residential dwelling occupied by a household whose gross quarterly income is 250 percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines or with an individual whose health and safety would be endangered by disconnection because of old age or youth. The bill applies to disconnections for nonpayment of utility services but allows disconnections for any of the following reasons: 1) for remodeling or repairs; 2) for violating rules by using the service in a manner that interferes with the service of others or by using nonstandard equipment; 3) if a dangerous conditions exists; or 4) upon reasonable evidence that service is obtained by potentially unsafe devices or methods that interfere with proper metering of the service. Under current law, the Public Service Commission is authorized to promulgate rules establishing service requirements for public utility services, and PSC has exercised that authority to promulgate rules similar to the bill's prohibition on utility service disconnections between November 1 and April 15. The bill also prohibits public utilities from disconnecting a utility service that provides the primary energy source or energy source affecting the primary heat or cooling source for a residential dwelling occupied by a person with a disability. The prohibition applies to disconnections for nonpayment of utility services and contains the exceptions described earlier."
    - Significance: The bill prevents heating service cut-offs during cold months for low-income households and those vulnerable due to age, and extends year-round protection for primary heating or cooling sources to individuals with disabilities. Codifying and expanding these protections safeguard vulnerable populations from energy insecurity, health risks, and fatalities, thereby establishing a more robust and equitable safety net for essential energy services.
- Washington House Bill 1329 (2023-2024) - "Prohibits utilities from involuntarily terminating water or electric service to any residential user during certain high-temperature events. Prohibits landlords, under both the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act and the Manufactured and Mobile Home Landlord-Tenant Act,

from effecting an involuntary termination of electric utility or water service due to lack of payment to any residential tenant during certain high-temperature events."

    - Significance: By prohibiting utilities and landlords from involuntarily terminating water or electric service to residential users and tenants during high-temperature events, the bill creates a lifeline for vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, the elderly, and those with health conditions, who disproportionately suffer during heatwaves. This crucial protection ensures continued access to essential services for hydration and cooling, preventing severe health consequences and contributing to a more just and resilient energy system that prioritizes the well-being of all residents, particularly those in frontline communities.

- California Senate Bill 636 (SB636) (2025-2026) - "This bill would prohibit an electrical or gas corporation from disconnecting service of a customer who meets certain criteria, including making a hardship request based on certain circumstances, as provided. The bill would require the corporation to grant that customer a 3-month deferment for any and all payments due from the date that the deferment is granted. Upon the expiration of the deferment period, the bill would require the corporation to enroll the customer into its arrearage management program for any and all debts on the customer's account. The bill would authorize the commission to adopt rules to implement these provisions."

    - Significance: This bill establishes protections against utility disconnections for low-income customers enrolled in bill discount programs who face hardship due to circumstances like job loss, medical needs, or natural disaster. By prohibiting disconnections for three months, granting payment deferments, and requiring enrollment in arrearage management programs, this bill creates a crucial safety net that directly addresses energy insecurity and disproportionate energy burden.

- West Virginia House Bill 604 (HB 604) (2025) - "Requiring the Department of Human Services to notify the PSC that an individual is eligible for a utility bill discount and requiring the PSC to order the utility to apply the reduced rate without requiring an application from the customer"

    - Significance: This bill transforms how utility bill discounts are accessed by eligible low-income households. By requiring the Department of Human Services to automatically notify the Public Service Commission of an individual's eligibility and mandating utilities to apply reduced rates without requiring a customer application, the bill dismantles the critical barrier of complex application processes and lack of awareness. This ensures that vulnerable households, who often disproportionately struggle with energy

burden and navigating bureaucratic systems, automatically receive vital financial relief during peak heating months, thereby maximizing the reach of assistance programs and significantly improving energy affordability and stability for those most in need.

- New York Assembly Bill A02072 (2023) - "Relates to requiring the establishment of automatic payment plans; requires utility companies headquartered in New York to establish a statewide program to provide eligible participants with affordable payment plans."
    - Significance: This bill tackles the chronic issue of energy burden and utility debt that disproportionately affects low-income households and communities of color by requiring utilities to provide assistance automatically to households with appropriate documentation. This assistance would also be available all year, unlike many existing programs that are seasonal or limited.
- New York Assembly Bill 5030 (A05030) (2023) - "Requires social services districts to, every heating season, automatically re-enroll persons or households currently receiving assistance through the low-income home energy assistance program, so long as each person or household maintains eligibility."
    - Significance: This bill eliminates the burden caused by the onerous annual reapplication process that often leads to eligible low-income households, who already face significant time and resource constraints, losing energy assistance.
- Minnesota House File 2493 (HF2493) (2023) - A bill to make LIHEAP available year-round
    - Significance: This bill establishes a supplemental state energy assistance fund to make the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) available year-round, an expansion that addresses the growing need for cooling assistance during increasingly hot summers, ensuring vulnerable households are protected from extreme temperatures beyond just the heating season. By providing dedicated state funding to supplement federal dollars, facilitating comprehensive year-round assistance (including emergency heating repairs), and specifically allocating funds for outreach to underserved communities, HB2493 dramatically increases access to essential energy aid.

Energy Funding and Financing

Summary: This subsection outlines state efforts to establish innovative financial mechanisms and institutions designed to explicitly embed energy equity and environmental justice into the clean energy transition. These bills create climate banks and grant programs that prioritize directing funding (through grants, low-interest loans, and tax credits) to low-income households, affordable housing, nonprofits serving vulnerable communities, and environmental justice communities, often with quantifiable targets. By overcoming upfront cost barriers, leveraging federal funds, and incentivizing equitable project deployment, these initiatives ensure that the benefits of clean energy—such as reduced energy burden, healthier homes, and local job creation—reach those who have historically been excluded or disproportionately impacted. Still, many justice organizations are understandably reluctant to direct their communities toward programs that primarily involve taking on new debt, even low-interest loans, given the existing financial precarity and historical burdens of debt within low-income households and marginalized communities.

- Massachusetts Bill HD.1885 (2025) - "Ensuring clean energy spending is spent equitably in EJ and low-income communities"
    - Significance: This bill addresses systemic inequities in clean energy transitions by mandating that clean energy spending be equitably allocated, particularly benefiting Environmental Justice (EJ) and low-income communities. It establishes the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity with oversight to ensure the proportional distribution of tangible benefits like bill savings and jobs. By requiring compliance goals, transparent tracking, and regular reporting on benefit allocation, and mandating consultation with EJ stakeholders, HD.1885 moves beyond aspirational goals to create a legally binding framework for accountability, ensuring that the benefits of the clean energy transition actively address historical injustices and prioritize the well-being of frontline communities.
- Virginia Senate Bill 729 (SB729) (2024) - "creating a Virginia Climate Innovation Authority to accelerate the deployment of clean energy projects, greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects, and other qualified projects through the strategic deployment of public funds in the form of grants, loans, credit enhancements, and other financing mechanisms in order to leverage existing public and private sources of capital to reduce the upfront and total cost of qualified projects and to overcome financial barriers to project adoption, especially in low-income communities"
    - Significance: This bill establishes the Virginia Climate Innovation Authority, a public body designed to accelerate clean energy and greenhouse gas

emissions reduction projects, and fundamentally integrates equity by explicitly targeting low-income communities to overcome financial barriers, ensuring no less than 40 percent of direct benefits flow to environmental justice communities. The Authority is mandated to provide diverse financing (grants, loans, credit enhancements), prioritize projects that create high-quality local jobs (especially for EJ community members and transitioning fossil fuel workers), require prevailing wages, and utilize community navigators to ensure equitable access.

- Minnesota House File 1656 (HF1656) (2023-2024) - "Establishing a state fund meant to enhance the competitiveness of Minnesota in getting federal funding"
    - Significance: This bill empowers Minnesota entities, including those in historically underserved and environmental justice communities, to overcome barriers to applying for complex federal grants by providing crucial upfront resources for application development, technical assistance, and project planning. By strategically unlocking and directing these federal dollars, HF1656 ensures that substantial investments in clean energy, climate resilience, and energy efficiency flow directly to those who have disproportionately borne environmental burdens and faced energy insecurity.
- Connecticut House Bill 5921 (HB05921) (2025) - "1) expand funding for the CT Green Bank, 2) support income-based incentives for solar PV system installations for low and moderate income households, 3) provide tax credits for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems in economically distressed communities and EJ communities, 4) support community solar programs, 5) ensure net metering provides a fair economic benefit to end use customers utilizing such metering, 6) incentivize solar installation workforce expansion, and 7) improve electric distribution grid in underserved areas and provide for targeted incentives to increase the adoption of solar PV systems in underserved communities"
    - Significance: By expanding CT Green Bank funding and offering income-based incentives for solar installations for low- and moderate-income households, the bill directly tackles upfront cost barriers. The bill also provides tax credits for businesses to incentivize solar installations specifically within economically distressed and environmental justice communities, recognizing that while such credits are often inaccessible to individual low-income households, they can drive essential investment in these areas. The bill expresses support for equitable participation through community solar programs and fair net metering, while ensuring a just transition by incentivizing solar workforce expansion and improving electric grid infrastructure in underserved areas.

- Massachusetts Senate Docket 1984 (SD1984) (2025) - Establishing the Massachusetts Climate Bank
    - Significance: This bill establishes a first-of-its-kind green bank that is uniquely and entirely focused on accelerating the decarbonization of affordable housing, an often underserved niche where low- and moderate-income households and environmental justice communities disproportionately bear high energy costs and fossil fuel pollution. While this bill does not direct resources to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Environmental Justice (EJ) organizations, these groups often advocate for the improvement of affordable multifamily buildings. The MCCB will significantly enhance the ability for property owners to make critical investments in their buildings, thereby reducing energy burden and improving overall quality of life for renters in the communities these organizations serve. By leveraging MassHousing's expertise to attract and blend state, federal (including federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds with their Justice40 mandates), and private capital, the MCCB provides innovative, low-cost financing (e.g., loans with no upfront cash, wraparound customer service) for projects like heat pump installations, weatherization, and solar. This comprehensive approach ensures that the benefits of a clean energy transition—such as reduced energy burden, improved indoor air quality, and healthier communities—are equitably delivered to the very populations historically marginalized by energy and environmental injustices.
- Maryland House Bill 145 (HB0145) (2025) - “Establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems; establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Fund”
    - Significance: This bill establishes the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program, a program that provides no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying on-site clean energy systems.This is important because nonprofits, often operating as vital community anchors and service providers in low-income communities and communities of color, frequently face significant financial barriers to adopting clean energy. By reducing their operational energy costs, HB0145 frees up resources that these organizations can redirect towards their core missions (e.g., affordable housing, social services), thereby indirectly but powerfully benefiting the

vulnerable populations they serve. The bill's prioritization of smaller nonprofits further ensures that these crucial energy and climate benefits reach grassroots organizations deeply embedded in environmental justice communities.

Consumer Protections

Summary: This subsection highlights state bills vital for safeguarding vulnerable households in evolving energy markets and complex clean energy upgrades. These policies universally aim to shield low-income and marginalized communities from predatory practices, ensure transparency in contracts, and guarantee the quality and functionality of energy improvements before financial obligations are incurred. By empowering consumers with clearer information and dedicated representation, these bills are crucial for mitigating energy burden and ensuring equitable access to the benefits of a just energy transition.

- New Mexico Senate Bill 65 (SB 65) (2025) - Establishing consumer protections on solar financing. Payments are not due when the system is not operational
    - Significance: By explicitly prohibiting payments from being due when a residential solar energy system is not operational, this bill addresses a risk for consumers. This protection is especially vital for low-income households and those with limited financial flexibility, who cannot afford to pay for a non-functional system while simultaneously receiving no energy benefits. It safeguards against predatory practices, builds trust in the burgeoning solar market, and ensures that the financial benefits of solar energy are realized only when the system is actually providing usable power, thereby promoting more equitable and secure access to clean energy.
- California Senate Bill 282 (SB282) (2025-2026) - “The bill would require the commission, on or before July 1, 2026, to develop standardized permitting checklists, as prescribed, for local governments to use in the permitting process for installations of residential heat pump water heater or heat pump HVAC systems, as specified, subject to certain requirements, including that the standardized permitting checklists do not exceed 2 pages in length. The bill would require a city, county, or city and county, on or before July 1, 2027, to implement an online automated permitting process that verifies code compliance and issues permits in real time within the same day of the application being submitted to a licensed contractor for the installation of a residential heat pump water heater or residential heat pump HVAC system.”
    - Significance: By establishing a robust statewide certification and training program for heat pump installers, enabling self-certification by qualified

contractors, mandating online automated permitting, and capping residential permit fees (e.g., $50 for heat pump water heaters), this bill aims to streamline and reduce the cost and complexity of heat pump installations. Crucially, this framework prioritizes high installation quality through certified professionals, which directly protects consumers from financial loss, performance issues, and potential safety hazards, ensuring they realize the promised energy savings and comfort. For non-certified contractors, local entities must offer other streamlined alternative inspection options that do not require simultaneous presence.

- California Assembly Bill 2993 (AB2993) (2023-2024)- "This bill would prohibit contractor from requesting or accepting full payment from a lender or financier until the contractor, lender, or financier has received a written confirmation from the owner or tenant acknowledging that a home improvement project has been completed in accordance with the contract and is operational or fit for its intended use, and the lender has confirmed with the contractor that final approval has been provided by all permitting agencies."
    - Significance: The bill prohibits contractors from accepting full payment from lenders until the home improvement project is confirmed by the owner or tenant as completed, operational, and fit for use, with final approval from all permitting agencies. This is crucial for low-income households and vulnerable communities who are often disproportionately targeted by predatory practices or lack the resources to dispute incomplete or faulty work.
- Georgia Senate Bill 94 (SB94) (2023-2024) - "A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 46 of the O.C.G.A., relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to reestablish a consumer utility counsel to represent consumers in matters before the Public Service Commission or other agencies concerning public utilities; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes."
    - Significance: This bill reestablishes the Office of the Consumers' Utility Counsel (CUC), acknowledging the need for independent consumer representation in matters before the Public Service Commission and other agencies concerning public utilities. For too long, residential and small business customers, particularly low-income households and vulnerable communities who bear a disproportionate energy burden, have lacked a dedicated advocate in complex utility rate cases and service decisions. By creating a well-resourced counsel with the power to intervene, investigate, and represent consumers' exclusive interests, SB94 aims to ensure more equitable utility rates, fairer service practices, and greater accountability

from utility companies and regulators. This will help mitigate excessive bill increases, prevent unjust disconnections, and ultimately provide a stronger voice for those historically underrepresented in decisions that directly impact their energy affordability and well-being.

- Maryland House Bill 267 (HB0267) (2024) - "Establishing a salesperson license for people that offer or sell electricity or gas supply agreements to customers in the state"
    - Significance: This bill helps to safeguard consumers, particularly low-income households, seniors, and other vulnerable populations who are often disproportionately targeted by aggressive or misleading sales tactics in competitive energy markets. By setting licensing and renewal requirements for energy salespersons and empowering the Public Service Commission with disciplinary authority, HB0267 aims to prevent predatory practices, ensure transparent dealings, and protect consumers from unknowingly entering into unfavorable contracts that could lead to increased energy burden and financial distress. This measure is crucial for fostering trust, ensuring fair competition, and promoting more equitable access to energy services for all Maryland residents.
- Rhode Island Senate Bill 2801 (S2801) (2024) - Requiring solar retailers to register their companies annually, maintain an active roster of employees, provide potential customers a hard copy and an email copy of the standard disclosure form developed by OER.
    - Significance: The bill helps to safeguard consumers, especially low-income households, seniors, and other vulnerable populations who are often disproportionately targeted by aggressive or misleading sales tactics. By requiring solar retailers to register annually, maintain employee rosters, and provide a standardized, clear disclosure form with explicit warnings about variable savings and incentives, and prohibiting false claims of government/utility affiliation, S2801 aims to prevent predatory practices and ensure transparent dealings. This measure builds trust in solar technology and guarantees that consumers make informed decisions, protecting their financial investments and ensuring they genuinely benefit from the clean energy transition, thereby fostering more equitable access to distributed renewable energy.

Accelerating Equitable Renewable Energy Deployment

Summary: This section outlines diverse legislative strategies to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy, with a strong emphasis on energy equity and environmental justice. It details efforts to enable utility- and corporate-owned clean energy projects, which prioritize direct benefits for disadvantaged communities and support a just transition. These bills focus on expanding low-income and community solar programs, democratizing access to renewable energy for households previously excluded due to financial or structural barriers. The section also highlights dedicated solar incentives designed to overcome upfront costs and facilitate installations in underserved areas, alongside measures aimed at preventing restrictions on solar installations, safeguarding property owners' rights. Collectively, these initiatives ensure that the growth of renewable energy directly translates into reduced energy burden, improved public health, and equitable access to the benefits of a decarbonized future for all communities.

Utility- and Corporate-Owned Clean Energy

Summary: This subsection highlights state legislative efforts to accelerate decarbonization by enabling and mandating utilities and public authorities to directly invest in and operate clean energy infrastructure.

- New York State Build Public Renewables Act (BPRA) (2023) - “Implements the "New York State Build Public Renewables Act"; requires the New York power authority to provide only renewable energy and power to customers; requires such authority to be the sole provider of energy to all state owned and municipal properties; requires certain New York power authority projects and programs pay a prevailing wage and utilize project labor agreements.”
    - Significance: This bill empowers the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to directly build, own, and operate renewable energy projects, accelerating the state's clean energy transition. It mandates that NYPA prioritize projects benefiting disadvantaged communities, including shutting down polluting fossil fuel "peaker" plants often located in frontline neighborhoods and replacing them with clean power, thereby reducing air pollution and health disparities. The BPRA also ensures high-quality, union green jobs with prevailing wages and robust just transition provisions, and includes a bill discount program for low-income New Yorkers.
- Pennsylvania House Bill 330 (HB330) (2023-2024) - Public utilities are authorized to develop a local solar program, subject to PUC regulation, where the utility can

enter into a power purchase agreement with a developer. 5-15% of the output shall be reserved for low-income customers

    - Significance: This bill ensures that the benefits of reduced energy costs and clean power are directed to vulnerable households who often face disproportionate energy burdens. In power purchase agreements (PPAs), typically, a developer builds a solar farm or a wind farm, and a buyer (often a utility, but sometimes a large business or even a community group) agrees to buy all or a portion of the electricity produced by that project over a long period (say, 10 to 20 years). The PPA sets the price the buyer will pay for the electricity. This price can be fixed, or it can escalate slightly over time, but it provides predictability. The developer builds and operates the project, and the buyer just pays for the power it generates. PPAs are an important tool for getting new solar and wind farms built. For EJ communities, this means more clean energy on the grid, which helps reduce reliance on polluting fossil fuel power plants that are often located near their neighborhoods, leading to cleaner air and better health outcomes.

- Washington House Bill 1589 (HB 1589) (2023) - "Allows gas and most electric utilities to own and operate nonemitting thermal energy networks (TENs), with oversight from the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) for investor-owned utilities (IOU) and with oversight from governing bodies for consumer-owned utilities. Establishes a TEN pilot project program in which the Department of Commerce may award grants to gas companies according to specified criteria, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee must evaluate and report on the program after three years, and IOU gas companies must ask for pilot projects in requests for proposals. Amends a gas company's obligation to serve to include providing energy through a TEN. Authorizes gas and combination utilities to combine gas operations and TENs into a single rate base with approval from the UTC."

    - Significance: This bill establishes a regulatory framework for nonemitting thermal energy networks (TENs), enabling gas and electric utilities to own and operate these systems. This bill provides a pathway for utilities to transition towards decarbonized heating and cooling by investing in shared geothermal and other non-combustion thermal infrastructure. TENs have emerged as a way for environmental advocates and gas utilities to align on a pathway to reduce emissions in communities, by promoting non-emitting heating technologies that allow gas utilities to participate in the clean energy transition. It is particularly impactful because these pilot projects are explicitly required to prioritize low-income and environmental justice communities, thereby ensuring that the benefits of reduced greenhouse gas

emissions and local air pollution, along with potentially more stable and affordable heating/cooling costs, flow directly to historically overburdened populations.

Low-Income and Community Solar

Summary: This subsection highlights state legislative efforts primarily focused on expanding equitable access to solar energy, particularly for households unable to install rooftop solar.

- Wisconsin Assembly Bill 258 (AB258) (2023) - "This bill authorizes the establishment of community solar programs through which retail electric customers of an investor-owned electric utility may subscribe to a community solar facility and receive credits to their electric bills for electricity produced by the facility. Under the bill, entities called subscriber organizations may own or operate community solar facilities, which use solar energy to produce electricity. Retail electric customers may enter into a contract (subscription) with a subscriber organization through which the customers receive credits towards their electric bill based on their subscriptions. A subscriber and the community solar facility to which the subscriber subscribes must be located within the service territory of the same investor-owned electric utility. In addition, a subscriber may not receive an annual value of bill credits that exceeds the subscriber's average annual electric bill. Also, under the bill, subscribers may not receive any state subsidy for which generating electricity from a renewable energy resource is a criteria for eligibility nor may subscribers receive any payment or other benefit from a tax incremental district. The bill requires an investor-owned electric utility whose service territory includes subscribers to a community solar facility to credit the electric bills of the subscribers based on their subscriptions."
    - Significance: By enabling retail electric customers, including renters and those with unsuitable rooftops, to subscribe to local solar facilities and receive bill credits, this bill expands access to clean energy for populations historically excluded from direct solar ownership. This initiative is crucial for reducing energy burden by lowering monthly electricity costs for participating households and promoting local renewable energy development that contributes to broader decarbonization and improved air quality.
- Washington House Bill 1509 (HB 1509) (2023) - "Directs the Utilities and Transportation Commission to adopt rules, by April 30, 2024, to implement a new community solar program, and authorizes community solar project managers and community solar subscription managers to administer projects under this program.

Requires that electric utilities compensate subscribers of community solar projects for electricity generated by the project with a retail-rate bill credit that must be rolled forward until the credit is used. Increases the allowable size of community solar projects to 5000 kilowatts (kW) from 1000 kW for projects in the service territory of an investor-owned utility, and limits projects to 200 kW in the service territory of a consumer-owned utility, unless the utility approves a larger size."

    - Significance: This bill is significant because it directs the Utilities and Transportation Commission to establish a robust new statewide community solar program aimed at ensuring fair access to renewable energy. This bill is impactful because it requires electric utilities to compensate subscribers with a retail-rate bill credit that rolls forward, ensuring maximized energy bill savings for households, including renters and those without suitable rooftops. Furthermore, by substantially increasing the allowable size of community solar projects (to 5000 kW for IOUs) and authorizing dedicated managers, HB 1509 promotes greater deployment of cost-effective local clean energy.

- The Georgia Homegrown Solar Act of 2024 (HB 1083) (2024) - "A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to electrical service, so as to enact "The Georgia Homegrown Solar Act of 2024"; to provide definitions; to allow customers of an electric utility to aggregate demand from multiple locations and subscribe to certain off-site solar facilities; to provide for nondiscriminatory interconnection of such facilities; to provide for consumer protections for customers; to allow customers to access their own meter usage and provide such usage data to authorized third parties; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes."

    - Significance: By allowing customers to aggregate demand from multiple locations and subscribe to off-site solar facilities, the bill addresses barriers that prevent many residents — including renters, apartment dwellers, and those with unsuitable rooftops — from participating in solar energy. By allowing solar developers and subscriber organizations to pool the energy demand from a larger and more diverse group of customers, including those from multiple locations or accounts, it makes it easier to finance and build larger, more efficient community solar projects. A more robust and financially viable community solar market means there will be more off-site solar options available for renters to subscribe to, expanding their overall access to clean energy benefits regardless of their living situation. Furthermore, allowing customers to access their own meter usage data and provide it to authorized third parties empowers them to make informed energy decisions.

- Delaware House Bill 270 (HB 270) (2021-2022) - “In order to lower the cost of energy and accelerate the adoption of community-based solar photovoltaic systems in the State, this bill eliminates current barriers to such systems and sets up a regulatory process to be implemented by the Public Service Commission with consumer protection provided by the Department of Justice. More specifically, this bill: 1. Allows for multiple types of ownership models, defined as “community-owned energy generating facilities," to exist and compete in the marketplace; 2. Increases the maximum size of these systems to 4 megawatts (MW); 3. Eliminates the requirement that all customers of a system must be located on the same distribution feeder; 4. Eliminates the requirement that all customers of a system must be identified before the system can be built; 5. Provides for the regulation of these systems by the Public Service Commission and sets forth the fee and requirements for a Certificate to Operate; 6. Provides compensation to the system owner for 10% or less of unsubscribed energy; 7. Requires each system owner to certify that it serves at least 15% low income customers; and 8. Provides that the Public Service Commission will engage in rule-making in consultation with the Consumer Protection Unit of the Delaware Department of Justice and promulgate rules and regulations by March 11, 2022.”
    - Significance: This bill advances community-based solar adoption by eliminating key barriers, setting up a clear regulatory process, and embedding strong consumer protections. The bill explicitly mandates that at least 15% of customers served by new systems must be low-income, directly ensuring that the benefits of reduced energy costs and clean power reach vulnerable populations. By allowing diverse ownership models, increasing system sizes, and simplifying customer participation (e.g., removing same-feeder requirements), HB 270 dramatically expands access to solar for renters and those without suitable rooftops, while robust consumer protection oversight from the Public Service Commission and Department of Justice safeguards against deceptive practices.
- Oregon Senate Bill 1055 (SB1055) (2025) - “Allows a community solar project to participate in the community solar program irrespective of the project's nameplate capacity or location within this state.”
    - Significance: By allowing community solar projects to participate in the community solar program irrespective of their nameplate capacity or location within the state, and preventing the Public Utility Commission from setting program size limits below 25 percent of the load, this bill removes critical barriers to clean energy access. The 25% "load" provision is particularly significant, as it ensures that the total amount of community solar allowed in a utility's service territory cannot be arbitrarily restricted to a small percentage of its overall electricity demand. This is crucial because

it enables the development of larger, more cost-effective projects and allows for flexible siting that can prioritize locations best serving underserved and environmental justice communities.

- Maryland Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Subscription Eligibility Legislation - (MD HB1233) (2025) - Allowing LMI subscribers to benefit from solar that is not located in their utility territory
    - Significance: This bill addresses a structural barrier to low- and moderate-income (LMI) participation in community solar programs. By allowing LMI subscribers to benefit from solar projects located outside of their immediate utility service territory through a mechanism known as "cross-utility crediting," this bill eliminates a significant geographic mismatch. This ensures that LMI households, who often face disproportionate energy burdens and may live in areas less suitable for on-site solar, can access vital bill savings (up to 20%) from community solar projects built elsewhere in the state, receiving the same bill credit value regardless of project location.
- Michigan House Bill 4464 (HB 4464) (2023) - Requiring the PSC to expedite review and approval of community solar programs that will maximize the state's participation in the IRA. Require that not less than 30% of the electricity produced by each community solar facility be reserved for low-income households and low-income service organizations. Allow transferability of subscriptions if the subscriber moves within the electric providers service territory.
    - Significance: This bill aims to establish a robust community solar program designed to maximize Michigan's participation in the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) while embedding strong equity mandates. This bill requires not less than 30% of the electricity produced by each community solar facility to be reserved for low-income households and low-income service organizations, ensuring that the benefits of reduced energy costs and clean power explicitly reach vulnerable populations often excluded from traditional solar ownership.

Solar Incentives

Summary: This subsection highlights state legislative efforts to broaden solar adoption by creating targeted financial programs that overcome significant upfront cost and structural barriers for traditionally underserved populations, such as residents in multifamily housing, low- and moderate-income households, and environmental justice communities.

- Connecticut Senate Bill 895 (SB00895) (2025) - “To create an incentive program for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems in common interest ownership communities and other forms of multifamily housing developments.”
    - Significance: This bill creates an incentive program for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems in common interest ownership communities and other forms of multifamily housing developments. This bill tackles a critical barrier to clean energy access for residents in these types of properties, including renters and condominium owners, who are often excluded from direct rooftop solar ownership. By reducing the upfront costs of solar installations for these developments, SB00895 ensures that the benefits of clean energy—such as lower energy bills, reduced fossil fuel reliance, and improved local air quality—are more broadly accessible and affordable to a diverse range of households, particularly those with low and moderate incomes who frequently reside in such housing.
- Massachusetts House Bill 3559 (H.3559) (2025) - Establishing regulations and a solar incentive program on built land as well as a roof repair program
    - Significance: This bill establishes a framework to accelerate solar deployment on developed and disturbed lands while directly addressing barriers in vulnerable communities. The bill strategically promotes solar on "built land" (e.g., parking lots, structures, brownfields, landfills) through expanded net metering and enhanced incentives, aligning with environmental justice principles to avoid further land disturbance and leverage already impacted sites. Importantly, HD940 includes a dedicated incentive for roof repair or replacement for rooftop solar projects, with explicit priority for buildings in environmental justice communities.
- California Senate Bill 851 (SB-851) (2023-2024) - “This bill instead would require, among other things, that the incentives described above for eligible residential households be used in addition to the self-generation incentive program. The bill would require the commission to establish a system to equitably award incentives to support adoption of commercially available behind-the-meter solar photovoltaic systems and energy storage systems by eligible residential customers. The bill would also require the commission to establish a block grant structure and associated guidelines for entities with demonstrated success in providing service to low-income populations in the state.”
    - Significance: This bill reforms how incentives for behind-the-meter solar and energy storage systems are delivered, ensuring equitable access for eligible residential customers. The bill mandates the establishment of a system to equitably award incentives and creates a block grant structure for

entities with a proven track record of serving low-income households. While the bill removes reference to California Indian Tribes, community based service providers, local publicly owned electric utilities and community choice aggregators, these entities can still qualify for the block grant. This approach addresses historical access barriers, ensuring that the financial benefits, energy burden reduction, and critical resilience benefits (e.g., backup power during outages) of solar and storage technologies are intentionally directed to vulnerable populations who have often been excluded.

Preventing Restrictions on Solar

Summary: This subsection highlights a widespread legislative effort to dismantle institutional and legal barriers that hinder residential solar energy adoption. These bills collectively focus on prohibiting homeowners associations, condo associations, and local governments from creating or enforcing deed restrictions, covenants, or zoning ordinances that effectively prevent or unduly restrict the installation and use of solar energy systems. The bills in this subsection are representative examples of this legislative approach, collectively showcasing a significant trend, but aren't necessarily more impactful than other similar bills.

- Texas House Bill 4455 (HB4455) (2023) - “Relating to the regulation by a property owner's association of the installation of solar energy devices and certain roofing materials on property. A property owners’ association may not include or enforce a provision in a dedicatory instrument that prohibits or restricts a property owner from installing a solar energy device.”
    - Significance: This bill is an example of prohibiting property owners' associations and deed restrictions from blocking solar installations. It tackles a common contractual barrier for homeowners.
- New Mexico Senate Bill 98 (SB98) (2025) - Local governments shall not prohibit solar installations nor make them more expensive
    - Significance: This bill exemplifies legislation that prevents local governments from prohibiting solar installations or making them more expensive. It addresses municipal-level regulatory hurdles that can impede solar deployment.
- California Senate Bill 1190 (SB1190) (2023-2024) - “This bill would make any covenant, restriction, or condition contained in any rental agreement or other instrument affecting the tenancy of a homeowner or resident in a mobile home park, in a subdivision, cooperative, or condominium for mobile homes, or in a

resident-owned mobile home park that effectively prohibits or restricts the installation or use of a solar energy system, as defined, on the mobile home or the site, lot, or space on which the mobile home is located void and unenforceable."

    - Significance: This bill focuses on mobile home parks and rental agreements, making void and unenforceable any restrictions that prohibit solar energy systems on mobile homes or their sites. It highlights efforts to expand solar access to specific and often overlooked segments of the housing market, including renters.

100% Renewable Targets that Benefit Everyone

Summary: This section highlights state legislative efforts to achieve ambitious decarbonization goals while explicitly ensuring that the benefits of this transition are equitably distributed across all communities. It details policies setting aggressive 100% renewable or carbon-free electricity targets, alongside initiatives to decarbonize the thermal sector through appliance standards and Clean Heat Standards. Furthermore, it explores the push for significant energy storage deployment and the evolution of energy efficiency portfolio standards to include explicit greenhouse gas reduction targets. Across all these areas, the core focus is on embedding principles of environmental justice and energy equity by prioritizing historically burdened populations, ensuring affordability, improving public health, and fostering a just and inclusive transition to a clean energy future.

Renewable Portfolio Standards

Summary: This subsection explores state legislative efforts to set ambitious 100% renewable or carbon-free energy targets that aim to reshape the energy future to be not only clean but also fair and inclusive.

- Rhode Island House Bill 7277 SUBSTITUTE A (H 7277 SUB A) (2022) **-** Rhode Island enacted legislation (H7277 SUB A in 2022) updating its Renewable Energy Standard to require 100% of the state's electricity to be offset by renewable production by 2033.

    - Significance: This bill establishes the most aggressive 100% renewable energy target in the United States, aiming for 100% renewable electricity by 2033.

- New York Assembly Bill A02652 (2023) - "Establishes a Green New Deal for New York task force; requires such task force to develop a detailed statewide, industrial, economic mobilization plan for the transition of the New York economy to become

greenhouse gas emissions neutral by 2030 and to significantly draw down greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and oceans and to promote economic and environmental justice and equality."

    - Significance: This bill extends beyond mere decarbonization; it explicitly requires the statewide, industrial, economic mobilization plan to "promote economic and environmental justice and equality," aiming to virtually eliminate poverty and ensure prosperity and economic security for all New Yorkers.

- Connecticut House Bill 5004 (HB05004) (2025) - Establishing GHG emissions reductions goals of 45% of 2001 levels by 2030, 70% by 2040 and net-zero by 2050 and the goal of 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2030. Allowing state agencies to use the social cost of GHG emissions when evaluating the costs and benefits of activities and improvements of the facilities of such agencies to meet the goals in this section.

    - Significance: Connecticut House Bill 5004 (HB05004) establishes ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, including an aggressive target of 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2030. This makes Connecticut among the most accelerated states for power sector decarbonization, matching New York's Green New Deal bill's proposed electricity goal and exceeding targets set by other states like California (2045), Michigan (2040), and Minnesota (2040). The most significant part of the bill is that it allows state agencies to incorporate the "social cost of GHG emissions" into their evaluations. This is vital because the social cost of carbon quantifies the economic damages of climate pollution, including harms to human health and ecosystems—costs disproportionately borne by environmental justice communities. By monetizing these previously externalized burdens, agencies are compelled to properly value the avoided harms of decarbonization which can help justify investments in cleaner, more equitable energy solutions and infrastructure that directly benefit historically overburdened populations.

- New York Assembly Bill A01787 (2023) - "Requires the establishment of a one hundred percent clean energy system by 2032; requires the adoption of a climate action plan; establishes the renewable energy revolving fund; provides for legal standing to sue for enforcement of the state clean energy plan."

    - Significance: This bill mandates an ambitious 100% clean energy system by 2032, complemented by a comprehensive climate action plan. The bill also establishes a renewable energy revolving fund to help finance this transition, providing a dedicated mechanism to ensure that clean energy

investments benefit all New Yorkers, including those in underserved communities. Furthermore, by providing legal standing to sue for enforcement of the state clean energy plan, A01787 empowers communities and advocates to hold the state accountable, ensuring that the benefits of rapid decarbonization are equitably delivered and that frontline communities are not left behind in the transition.

- California Assembly Bill 1279 (AB 1279) (2022) - "This bill, the California Climate Crisis Act, would declare the policy of the state both to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter, and to ensure that by 2045, statewide anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 85% below the 1990 levels. The bill would require the state board to work with relevant state agencies to ensure that updates to the scoping plan identify and recommend measures to achieve these policy goals and to identify and implement a variety of policies and strategies that enable carbon dioxide removal solutions and carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies in California, as specified. The bill would require the state board to submit an annual report, as specified.

  This bill would make its operation contingent on the enactment of SB 905 of the 2021–22 Regular Session, as provided."

  - Significance: This bill built upon the foundational clean energy targets established by Senate Bill 100 (SB 100) (2018), which set California's goal of 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045. AB 1279 expanded this baseline by codifying the state's economy-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions goal by 2045, solidifying a comprehensive climate mandate. The bill also strengthened the integration of equity and environmental justice considerations by explicitly requiring the State Air Resources Board (CARB) to ensure that updates to the state's climate scoping plan prioritize direct emissions reductions and align with environmental justice principles. The scoping plan is California's comprehensive roadmap developed by CARB that outlines the strategies, regulations, and programs across various sectors to achieve the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. This makes California a model for operationalizing equity within high-level climate mandates by prioritizing direct benefits for historically burdened communities, actively engaging disadvantaged communities in planning, and guiding resource allocation to ensure equitable investments. Unfortunately, the AB1279 is contingent on the passage of SB 905 (2021-22), which establishes the regulatory framework for carbon capture

and removal technologies. Check out this memo by the Equity fund on why carbon capture and storage (CCS) is not a truly feasible climate solution.

- Michigan Senate Bill 271 (SB 271) - Clean Energy and Jobs Act (2023) - "Requires electric providers regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to maintain renewable energy plans that meet standards for renewable energy usage by specified dates. For example, the Act requires an electric provider to achieve a renewable energy credit portfolio of at least 15% in 2021. Under the bill, an electric provider would have to achieve a portfolio of at least 15% through 2029, 60% through 2034, and 100% in 2035 and after. The bill would allow the MPSC to grant an electric provider a good cause exemption to any of these deadlines and remove advanced clean energy systems from the list of renewable technologies for which a provider could recuperate costs. In addition, the bill would allow the Attorney General or a customer of a municipally owned electric utility or a cooperative electric utility to commence a civil action against that utility if it failed to meet the renewable energy portfolio standards of Subpart A (Renewable Energy) of the Act."
    - Significance: This bill establishes a legally binding requirement for Michigan utilities to achieve a 100% "clean energy" portfolio by 2040. This aggressive target, while including carbon capture as a clean energy source, drives substantial decarbonization. The legislation's broader context, known as the "Clean Energy and Jobs Act," is designed to foster significant job creation, economic growth, and improved affordability, ensuring that the statewide mandate for clean energy deployment leads to widespread air quality benefits and equitable job opportunities that extend to historically impacted and low-income communities throughout Michigan. The bill also removed "advanced cleaner energy systems" from the list of technologies for which electric providers could automatically recover costs through retail rates. This category previously included technologies like gasification, cogeneration, coal plants with 95% carbon capture, and hydroelectric pumped storage. By deleting this category, SB 271 signals a preference for cost recovery mechanisms to apply solely to renewable energy systems (like wind, solar, and traditional hydro), effectively limiting the financial incentives for utilities to pursue these other "cleaner" but not fully renewable options through this specific avenue. Unfortunately, the bill also had several major issues. Among those issues is the bill's provision allowing the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to grant electric providers a "good cause exemption" from meeting these renewable energy deadlines. If you're interested in learning about some of the other issues, reach out to the Equity Fund.
- Minnesota Senate File 4 (SF 4) (2023): This bill requires all electric utilities in the state to procure 100% of their electricity from carbon-free sources by 2040,

including interim targets. Beyond setting these ambitious energy goals, the bill also formally defines "environmental justice areas" based on specific criteria such as non-white population percentages, limited English proficiency, and poverty levels. Furthermore, it mandates that utilities report on the environmental and social impacts of their facilities within these designated areas and detail their efforts to support fossil fuel workers transitioning to new roles in the clean energy economy.

    - Significance: By explicitly recognizing and defining "environmental justice areas," the bill focuses attention and resources to communities that have historically been disproportionately burdened by pollution from energy infrastructure. The requirements for utilities to report on their impacts in these areas increase transparency and accountability, compelling them to acknowledge and address environmental disparities. Moreover, the bill prioritizes a "just transition" for workers and communities reliant on fossil fuels, with mandates on utilities and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to ensure the creation of high-quality, local jobs and equitable siting of new clean energy facilities in areas impacted by power plant retirements. This comprehensive approach ensures that the shift to 100% carbon-free electricity not only cleans the air but also creates equitable job opportunities and economic benefits for the workforces and local economies most affected by decarbonization, preventing new forms of injustice during the energy transition.

Appliance Targets/Clean Heat

Summary: This subsection delves into state legislative efforts crucial for decarbonizing the thermal sector, focusing on accelerating the transition to clean heating and hot water in buildings.

- Pennsylvania House Bill 952 (HB952) (2023-2024) - Establishing zero-emission standards for space and water heaters sold in this Commonwealth so that by 2030 all space and water heaters for new construction and replacement of worn-out equipment in existing buildings sold in this Commonwealth meet the zero-emission standards

    - Significance: This target accelerates the transition away from fossil fuel-burning appliances towards electrified heating and hot water. By focusing on both new construction and replacement units, the bill ensures that all residents, regardless of the age or type of their housing, can benefit from clean heating and hot water, preventing a two-tiered system where clean energy is only accessible to the affluent. While the bill sets standards, the implementation of such a mandate will necessitate supportive programs

(incentives, financing, workforce training) to ensure that the costs of transitioning to zero-emission appliances are not disproportionately borne by low-income households, and that the benefits of lower operating costs (from efficient electric appliances) are accessible to all.

- Connecticut House Bill 5927 (HB05927) (2025) - "Increase the rate of replacement of residential electric resistance heating systems and identify such dwelling units that would benefit from such replacement"
    - Significance: This bill aims to accelerate the replacement of inefficient residential electric resistance heating systems. By requiring additional marketing and incentives, and identifying dwelling units that would most benefit, this bill directly targets the critical issue of high energy burden faced by households relying on these costly heating methods, which are often prevalent in low-income homes and older housing stock within environmental justice communities. Replacing these inefficient systems will lead to substantial reductions in energy consumption and utility bills.
- Minnesota House File 4574 (HF4574) (2024) - "Allowing public utilities providing electric service to propose goals for efficient fuel-switching improvement achievements to the commissioner and authorizing the PUC to approve financial incentives for efficient fuel-switching"
    - Significance: This bill empowers public utilities to propose goals and gain Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approval for financial incentives for efficient fuel-switching. While fuel-switching is still not a common component of energy programs nationwide, this bill allows utilities to directly enable customers to transition from fossil fuel-burning appliances to more efficient electric versions, such as heat pumps. This initiative accelerates the decarbonization of buildings, leading to immediate reductions in on-site fossil fuel combustion. While the bill text doesn't explicitly detail equity requirements for incentives, authorizing financial support for fuel-switching creates opportunities for program design that prioritizes vulnerable households and ensures they are not left behind due to upfront costs.
- Vermont - Affordable Heat Act (VT H.96) (2024) - "Establishing the Clean Heat Standard, which shall be administered by the PUC"
    - Significance: This bill establishes a Clean Heat Standard designed to ensure an equitable transition to reduced thermal sector greenhouse gas emissions. The bill is robust in its equity focus, not only mandating that at least 16% of clean heat credits be retired from low-income customers and

16% from moderate-income customers, with incentives to frontload benefits, but also uniquely specifying that all funds from noncompliance payments shall be directly used to provide clean heat measures to low-income customers. Furthermore, its dedicated Equity Advisory Group is tasked with addressing the challenges renters face in accessing clean heat measures, and its membership includes renters and individuals from diverse socioeconomic and racial backgrounds, reflecting a holistic equity intent that considers economic effects on all energy users and the workforce.

Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards/Targets

Summary: This subsection highlights a "next generation" of state legislative efforts that move beyond traditional Energy Efficiency Resource Standards (EERS) and solely energy savings metrics to explicitly integrate climate goals, affordability, equitable distribution of benefits, and public health outcomes. While typical EERS aim for annual savings between 0.5% and 2% of retail sales, the bills in this subsection stand out with features such as quantifiable low-income and hard-to-reach carve-outs, the direct involvement of housing agencies, the shift to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets that open the door for fuel switching and building electrification, and ambitious, cumulative targets for existing buildings.

- Texas Senate Bill 258 (SB258) (2023) - “Remove the specific percentage goals currently in statute. Instead proposes specific peak kilowatt (kW) and energy savings kilowatt-hour (kWh) goals in 2024 based on the size of the utilities. Clarify that utilities should continue to offer demand response and load management programs at least at current 2023 levels. Make changes to the transmission and distribution utilities (TDU) programs to reach both low-income and hard-to-reach customers, including customers living in rural areas. Require utilities to spend at least 20 percent of their program goals by 2027 on these programs. Move toward an eventual goal of reaching at least one percent energy savings by 1) Increasing peak goals by at least 25 percent each year and the energy savings goals would increase by at least 50 percent each year and 2) Levels off after 2027 unless the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or the legislature raise the goals.”
    - Significance: This bill pursues an explicit and quantifiable commitment to expanding energy efficiency programs for underserved populations, aiming to significantly increase state energy savings goals by 50% each year and peak savings goals by 25% each year as well as mandate that at least 20 percent of program goals by 2027 be spent on low-income and hard-to-reach customers, including those in rural areas.

- Maryland Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans (MD HB0864) (2024) - “Require each electric and gas company, and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to develop plans for achieving energy efficiency and GHG emissions reduction targets”
    - Significance: This bill mandates electric and gas companies, alongside the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), to develop plans for achieving energy efficiency and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets. A key aspect of this bill is the paradigm shift from using traditional energy savings metrics to focusing on GHG emissions reduction targets, explicitly opening the door for fuel switching and building electrification to meet the state's climate goals. This bill is also important because it strategically involves DHCD, ensuring a direct focus on improving the energy performance of the affordable housing stock, which is critical for low-income households and environmental justice communities. Furthermore, the bill aims to address the "missing middle" in energy assistance by directing the Public Service Commission to form a working group to study aid for moderate-income households. However, the bill's effectiveness hinges on moving beyond mere study to the actual and timely implementation of solutions to expand access to energy efficiency upgrades that can lower bills.
- Minnesota House File 1983 (HF1983) (2023-2024) - Establishing an energy use reduction target of 50% by 2035 for existing and residential buildings
    - Significance: This bill establishes an ambitious 50% energy use reduction target by 2035 for existing and residential buildings. This shifts focus from general sales targets to the deep, cumulative transformation of the existing housing stock, which would be required in order to retrofit older housing often located in disadvantaged communities.

Governance and Management of the Entity Providing Energy

Transitioning to a More Democratic Utility Ownership

Summary: This subsection explores state legislative efforts to fundamentally reshape the governance and management of energy providers, moving beyond the traditional investor-owned utility model. These bills delve into studies and direct pathways for public, nonprofit, or community-based utility ownership or control, aiming to establish energy

systems that prioritize public benefit, local accountability, and equitable outcomes for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.

- Massachusetts House Bill 3883 (HD3883) (2025) - "Facilitating public ownership of public utilities"
    - Significance: This bill establishes a task force mandated to study and make recommendations for public ownership of natural gas and electricity utilities in the Commonwealth. This bill aims to fundamentally shift the energy system from a profit-driven model to one prioritizing public benefit. The task force's composition, includes representatives from four Environmental Justice-focused organizations and various labor unions, ensuring that the perspectives of historically burdened communities and workers are central to the study. The task force is charged with exploring how public ownership can lead to fair and equitable rates for all consumers, facilitate a rapid transition to net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 and 100% renewable energy by 2040, ensure service to all geographic areas, and foster union participation and cross-subsidization for other public services.
- Connecticut House Bill 5750 (HB05750) (2025) - "Study the establishment of a state-wide nonprofit entity to replace privately owned or investor-owned utility companies"
    - Significance: This bill mandates a study into the establishment of a state-wide nonprofit entity to replace privately owned or investor-owned utility companies. Similar to HD3883 (MA), this is also a study bill, but it specifically focuses on the establishment of a state-wide nonprofit entity to replace privately owned utilities. A nonprofit or public utility model could offer greater transparency and direct accountability to ratepayers and the public. This can empower environmental justice organizations and community advocates to have a stronger voice in critical decisions regarding rates, infrastructure development, and environmental impacts.
- Connecticut House Bill 6297 (HB06297) (2025) - "To (1) allow a municipality to establish a municipal electric company to provide electricity for residents of the municipality, and (2) establish a joint powers authority for the purpose of providing electrical supply, developing solar and battery projects and creating programs to encourage energy efficiency, electrical demand management and electric vehicle charger deployment."
    - Significance: This bill facilitates the democratization of energy ownership by allowing municipalities to establish their own electric companies and create a joint powers authority for energy services. Unlike the study bills, this bill

acts to shift from investor-owned, profit-driven utilities to entities that are directly accountable to local residents and prioritize public benefit. Municipal electric companies and joint powers authorities are governed by local communities, allowing them to prioritize affordable rates, reliable service, and investments tailored to local needs over shareholder profits. In addition, localized energy control can lead to more resilient energy systems that are better equipped to respond to community-specific needs and climate-related disruptions.

- California Senate Bill 332 (SB332) (2025) - The bill initiates a study by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to analyze the feasibility and benefits of transitioning IOUs to alternative models like public or non-profit entities, requiring a historical energy justice assessment and a justice-centered implementation plan if a transition is recommended. It also enhances customer protections by prohibiting disconnections for nonpayment for low-income and vulnerable households, mandating percentage of income payment plans, and increasing transparency through quarterly data reporting on disconnections. The bill also introduces stricter accountability measures for utilities, including tying executive compensation to public safety performance, requiring annual independent audits of electrical infrastructure with mandatory replacement of end-of-life equipment in high fire-risk areas within five years, and shifting 95% of Wildfire Fund costs from ratepayers to utilities. The bill also allocates $100 million annually from greenhouse gas allowance revenues to climate resilience programs benefiting disadvantaged communities, aiming to address concerns about rising rates, wildfire risks, and perceived prioritization of profits over public safety.
    - Significance: At its core, this bill requires an in-depth study, led by the Energy Commission, to conduct a historical energy justice assessment of IOU operations and impacts and to compare the benefits and challenges of transitioning IOUs to a successor entity. If a transition is deemed in the public interest, the study must develop a justice-centered implementation plan for managing that shift. This explicitly embeds equity, historical redress, and community well-being into any potential structural change of California's energy providers. Beyond the study, SB332 also significantly enhances consumer protections by: 1) Prohibiting utility disconnections for nonpayment for households at or below 200% of the federal poverty line, and for vulnerable individuals such as pregnant or recently postpartum persons, directly safeguarding energy access for those most at risk of energy insecurity, 2) Limiting residential rate increases to not exceed the Consumer Price Index for PUC-approved rates, and restricting other increases to once per year, thereby protecting consumers from

unpredictable energy burden, and 3) Requiring annual independent audits of utility equipment to ensure reliability and safety.

- Connecticut House Bill 5945 (HB05945) (2025) - "Allowing community choice aggregation"
    - Significance: This bill proposes to allow community choice aggregation (CCA) and empower local governments to procure electricity on behalf of their residents, shifting power away from traditional investor-owned utilities to a more localized and democratically accountable model. CCAs allow local governments to procure electricity supply on behalf of their residents and businesses, shifting procurement power from the utility to the local level. Its distinction is that it offers a middle ground—it doesn't change utility ownership of wires and delivery, but grants communities control over their energy supply, often prioritizing renewable energy and equitable programs, while retaining customer opt-out choice. This means communities can choose cleaner energy sources, negotiate more favorable rates, and develop programs tailored to their specific populations, including low-income and environmental justice communities. With local control, CCAs can also design and implement energy efficiency programs, solar initiatives, and bill assistance measures that specifically target and benefit vulnerable households.

Creating Utility Oversight and Increasing Public Input

Summary: This subsection highlights state legislative efforts to transform energy governance into a more transparent, accountable, and equitably responsive system. These bills primarily focus on strengthening consumer representation, increasing transparency and accessibility of regulatory processes, and providing financial support for intervenors to ensure diverse voices can engage in complex utility proceedings. Furthermore, they mandate that utility regulation and energy efficiency programs explicitly align with state climate justice and emissions reduction targets, thereby ensuring that decisions regarding rates, infrastructure, and clean energy deployment directly prioritize environmental justice communities, mitigate energy burden, and promote equitable outcomes for all.

- Ohio Senate Bill 229 (SB229) (2024) - Requiring a member of the PUC to be a consumer advocate chosen by the Governor from a list of nominations by the state's consumers counsel
    - Significance: This bill mandates that a member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) be a consumer advocate chosen by the Governor from

nominations by the state's consumer's counsel. This bill addresses the need for robust, independent representation of residential utility customers in regulatory proceedings. In complex utility rate cases, service quality debates, and infrastructure planning, utilities often have extensive resources and influence. A dedicated consumer advocate on the PUC ensures that the interests of individual ratepayers, particularly low-income households, seniors, and other vulnerable populations who are disproportionately impacted by rate increases and service disruptions, are consistently and expertly represented.

- West Virginia House Bill 4618 (HB 4618) (2024) - "Making the consumer advocate a separate, independent agency from the PSC"
    - Significance: This bill aims to make the state's Consumer Advocate division a separate, independent agency from the Public Service Commission (PSC). This enhances the advocate's autonomy and ability to represent the interests of utility customers, free from potential internal institutional pressures. A truly independent consumer advocate can more aggressively challenge utility rate increases, advocate for fair service practices, and push for equitable investments that directly alleviate energy burden for low-income households and vulnerable populations. By providing an unbiased voice in complex regulatory proceedings, HB 4618 seeks to ensure greater accountability from utilities and regulators.
- New York Senate Bill 8372 (S08372) (2023) - "Relates to utility intervenor reimbursement to a participant for its reasonable costs of participation in any proceeding before the Public Service Commission (PSC)."
    - Significance: This bill mandates utility intervenor reimbursement to participants for their reasonable costs of engaging in Public Service Commission (PSC) proceedings. This bill addresses a critical systemic barrier: the prohibitive financial burden that often prevents environmental justice organizations, consumer advocates, and community groups from effectively participating in complex utility rate cases, infrastructure decisions, and clean energy planning. The bill prohibits organizations that represent public utilities or their investors or employees from being eligible to receive compensation through this program. By leveling the playing field and empowering public interest groups to provide expert testimony and robust arguments, S08372 ensures that the voices and needs of low-income households and disproportionately impacted communities are strongly represented in regulatory decisions.

- Wisconsin Assembly Bill 675 (AB675) (2023) - "Under the bill, PSC must include, with at least the first reference to a public utility in any page or document PSC produces and publishes on its website, all names by which the public is likely to know the utility, such as the name of a parent company. The bill requires PSC, in its website that offers public access to docket information, to establish a function that allows a person to sign up to receive email notifications relating to a single docket or a single utility and to specify the type of activity relating to that docket or utility about which the person would like to receive notifications. The bill requires PSC to produce a report each year that shows each docket that either was opened or had a decision issued on it during the prior calendar year, organized into the following two lists: one list that includes dockets relating to investor-owned utilities and one list that includes dockets relating to municipal water, electric, gas and sewer utilities. Under the bill, PSC must organize each list by utility and include for each docket the docket identification number, the title of the proceeding, the number of public comments received in the docket if a public comment period was held, the date of the application, and, if applicable, the dates of the notice of investigation and the decision."
    - Significance: By requiring the PSC to use all known utility names on its website, establish an email notification system for specific dockets or utilities, and produce annual reports detailing proceedings (including public comments and a ratepayer impact opinion), this bill fundamentally reduces critical information barriers. This is crucial for low-income households, non-English speakers, and environmental justice communities who often lack the resources to effectively engage with utility rate cases, service quality decisions, and infrastructure planning. By fostering greater accessibility and accountability in utility governance, AB675 empowers community advocates to provide more effective input.

Utility-Administered Energy Programs

Summary: This subsection highlights state legislative efforts to mandate and significantly expand utility-funded energy efficiency and demand-side management programs. These bills often include explicit, quantifiable requirements, such as dedicating significant portions of program funds to low-income households and vulnerable communities.

- Wisconsin Assembly Bill 826 (AB826) (2023) - "Current law requires investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities to fund statewide energy efficiency and renewable resources programs, known as Focus on Energy. This bill requires that Focus on Energy includes programs that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy measures for low-income households and that address the energy needs and decrease the energy burden of low-income households."

    - Significance: This bill mandates Focus on Energy, the state's investor-owned utility-funded energy efficiency and renewable resources program, to prioritize low-income households. This bill aims to address low-income households' energy needs and decrease their disproportionate energy burden. It mandates that not less than 25 percent of the money utilities spend on Focus on Energy annually must be directed towards these low-income programs. This set-aside ensures that vital energy-saving and clean energy benefits are directly and consistently delivered to the households that need them most. The bill also requires coordination with the state's Weatherization Assistance Program, streamlining access to comprehensive support for vulnerable families. Many states have low-income carve-outs, but 25% is a strong legislative commitment that pushes for direct benefit delivery.

- Wisconsin Assembly Bill 840 (AB840) (2023) - "Under the bill, the Public Service Commission must require those utilities to spend 2.4 percent of their annual operating revenues derived from retail sales to fund Focus on Energy and related programs. Under current law, the amount those utilities must spend is 1.2 percent of their annual operating revenues derived from retail sales."
    - Significance: This bill aims to double the funding for the state's Focus on Energy program, increasing utility contributions from 1.2 percent to 2.4 percent of annual revenues. This substantial increase would dramatically expand the availability of energy efficiency and renewable resource programs across Wisconsin. While some states have higher funding rates than Wisconsin, the act of a legislated doubling is a strong commitment to scaling. To ensure a more equitable distribution of these expanded resources, the bill would be even more effective if it included a set-aside for low-income households.
- Ohio House Bill 79 (HB79) (2023-2024) - "Permit electric distribution utilities to establish energy efficiency and demand reduction portfolios.." Note: Ohio's utility energy efficiency programs ended in 2020. There have been several attempts to bring them back.
    - Significance: This bill aims to re-establish robust, mandatory energy efficiency and demand reduction programs for electric utilities across the state, reversing previous setbacks. This bill is important because it addresses the disproportionate energy burden faced by vulnerable households by mandating that at least 15% of total program funds be dedicated to low-income customers. Legislatively re-establishing mandatory utility-led energy efficiency with a built-in, quantifiable low-income carve-out is a significant step, especially as many states

already have such programs but Ohio is *rebuilding* them with equity from the ground up.

- Vermont House Bill 196 (H.196) (2025) - "Amend the legislative direction to the PUC to require the energy efficiency utilities to prioritize greenhouse gas reductions and equitable access for all Vermonters and Vermont businesses"
    - Significance: This bill reorients the legislative direction for energy efficiency utilities (EEUs) to prioritize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions and equitable access for all Vermonters and businesses. This bill requires EEUs to prioritize GHG reductions, allowing them to fund fuel-switching and electrification (e.g., heat pumps, EVs for low-to-moderate income households) even if it increases electricity consumption, as long as it results in overall GHG reduction. It also requires a minimum of 25% of the annual budget be targeted for low-to-moderate income residential services and 12.5% for small businesses/nonprofits, with these costs excluded from cost-effectiveness calculations. Excluding low-to-moderate income set-asides from cost-effectiveness calculations is important because it acknowledges their higher delivery costs and non-energy benefits, such as improved health and energy burden reduction, which traditional metrics often fail to capture, thereby prioritizing equitable access to clean energy upgrades.

Equitable Rate Design and Affordability

Summary: This subsection explores state legislative efforts dedicated to ensuring that utility rates are not only fair and predictable but also proactively advance energy equity and environmental justice. These bills introduce innovative approaches to rate design—from income-based fixed charges and direct financial relief for low-income households to preventing ratepayers from being burdened by obsolete fossil fuel infrastructure and funding clean heat initiatives through new charges. They also enhance oversight and accountability by linking service quality for vulnerable communities to rate determinations and by introducing legislative approval for rate adjustments.

- Massachusetts Senate Docket 1533 (SD1533) (2025) - Adjusting rates so that households electrifying aren't penalized through volumetric charges
    - Significance: This bill mandates the implementation of income-based fixed charges for electric and gas utilities, ensuring that lower-income ratepayers are assessed smaller fixed charges than higher-income ratepayers, addressing the regressivity of traditional fixed charges and alleviating energy burden. Furthermore, it strengthens equitable access to clean energy by mandating quantifiable allocations of energy efficiency program

funds specifically for low-income residential programs and requires the "social value of greenhouse gas emissions reductions" to be included in cost-effectiveness calculations for these programs, thereby enabling investments that directly benefit climate and public health in environmental justice communities, ultimately linking decarbonization with equitable affordability.

- New Mexico House Bill 91 (HB 91) (2025) - Authorizing rates designed to reduce the burden of energy costs on low-income customers or rates that seek to decrease or eliminate participating customer arrears
    - Significance: This bill authorizes the Public Regulation Commission to approve rate structures designed to reduce the burden of energy costs on low-income customers or to decrease or eliminate participating customer arrears. This bill is crucial because it directly addresses the energy burden faced by many low-income households, providing the legal foundation for utilities to propose and implement targeted financial relief programs. By unlocking mechanisms like discounted rates or arrearage management, HB 91 aims to reduce energy burden, improve financial stability, and ensure the continuity of essential utility services for vulnerable populations.
- Massachusetts Senate Docket 2249 (SD2249) (2025) - Preventing gas companies from recovering the cost of construction, expansion, or replacement of gas distribution infrastructure unless they prove that they've considered non-pipe alternatives
    - Significance: This bill aims to prevent gas companies from recovering the cost of new or expanded gas distribution infrastructure unless they prove they've considered non-pipe alternatives (NPAs). This bill is crucial for accelerating decarbonization by pushing utilities towards cleaner solutions like energy efficiency and electrification, thereby reducing reliance on fossil gas and its associated pollution burdens on environmental justice communities. By prioritizing NPAs, it also critically helps mitigate the risk of stranded assets, protecting ratepayers, particularly low-income households sensitive to rate increases, from being burdened with the costs of unnecessary infrastructure that will eventually become obsolete in the clean energy transition.
- West Virginia Senate Bill 687 (SB687) (2025) - "A BILL to amend and reenact §24-1-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the authority of the Public Service Commission; providing limitations on the jurisdiction on electric utilities by the Public Service Commission; requiring rate adjustment

recommendations be forwarded to the Legislature; and establishing rate adjustments require specific bill approval by the Legislature."

    - Significance: This bill shifts the authority for electric utility rate adjustments from the Public Service Commission (PSC) to the state Legislature. By requiring all electric utility rate adjustments to be approved through a specific bill passed by the Legislature (with the PSC making only a recommendation), this bill dramatically increases the political accountability for utility costs. This is important for low-income households and vulnerable communities who are often disproportionately impacted by rate increases, as it provides them with more direct recourse to their elected representatives. This shift aims to ensure greater scrutiny of proposed rate hikes, amplify consumer voices in the decision-making process, and reinforce the legislative policy for "just, reasonable, and without unjust discrimination or preference" rates, ultimately combating energy burden and fostering a more equitable energy system for all West Virginians. Still, the impact of this bill depends on the makeup of your PSC and legislature.

- Georgia House Bill 1089 (HB 1089) (2023-2024) - "A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to provide for the quality of services to low-income customers to be examined by the Public Service Commission when determining just and reasonable rates and charges of utilities; to require utilities to make certain quarterly filings concerning their residential customers; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes."

    - Significance: This bill mandates the Public Service Commission (PSC) to examine the quality of services provided to low-income customers when determining just and reasonable utility rates, and requires utilities to make certain quarterly filings concerning their residential customers. This bill aims to elevate service quality for vulnerable customers who often face disproportionate burdens by increasing transparency and accountability through data on service disparities and ensuring that all ratepayers, particularly low-income households and environmental justice communities, receive reliable and equitable service commensurate with the rates they pay, thereby combating implicit discrimination and advancing energy justice.

- Vermont House Bill 224 (H.224) (2025) - Establishing a thermal benefits charge, which would establish a charge on heating fuel that would be used to fund thermal energy efficiency measures

    - Significance: This bill proposes establishing a thermal benefits charge on heating fuel to create a dedicated funding stream for thermal energy efficiency measures. It aims to directly finance the decarbonization of the heating sector, a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. While a charge on heating fuel could increase costs, the bill includes a cap on the charge amount and dedicates all collected funds to efficiency programs, which, if equitably designed and targeted, can significantly accelerate clean heat adoption and mitigate energy burden for low-income households through lower long-term energy bills, and improve public health and air quality by reducing fossil fuel consumption.

Limitations on Utility Lobbying

Significance: This subsection highlights state legislative efforts to enhance consumer protection and promote energy equity by prohibiting public utilities from recovering certain non-service-related costs from ratepayers. These bills target expenses related to lobbying, political contributions, institutional advertising, and other non-essential activities, ensuring that utility bills are solely dedicated to delivering reliable energy services. The bills in this subsection are representative examples of this legislative approach, collectively showcasing a significant trend, but aren't necessarily more impactful than other similar bills.

- Illinois Senate Bill 1275 (SB1275) (2025-2026)**:** "Amends the Public Utilities Act. Provides that the Illinois Commerce Commission shall not consider as an expense of any public utility company, for the purpose of determining any rate or charge: (1) any amount expended for contributions or gifts to political candidates, political parties, political or legislative committees, or any committee or organization working to influence referendum petitions or elections or contributions to a trade association or a chamber of commerce; or (2) any amount expended by a public utility company for director and officer liability insurance and fiduciary liability insurance. Provides that, in determining whether other types of insurance purchased by the public utility are recoverable, the Commission shall consider whether the insurance provides a financial benefit to ratepayers of the public utility or the public utility's shareholders. Provides that, if the Commission determines the insurance purchased by the public utility provides a financial benefit to the public utility's shareholders, then the amount expended shall not be a recoverable expense. In provisions concerning advertising, provides that goodwill or institutional advertising shall not be a recoverable expense. Provides that any amount expended by a public utility to compensate attorneys or technical experts to prepare and litigate a general rate case filing is a nonrecoverable expense. Provides that, in any general rate increase requested by any gas, electric, water, or sewer utility company under the provisions of the Act, the Commission shall hold at least one public hearing for members of the public to provide input on the requested rate increase. Provides that a public hearing shall be held in the service territory of the utility that is requesting the general rate increase, at a time and location to be determined by the Commission."

    - Significance: This bill prohibits the Illinois Commerce Commission from considering expenses for political contributions, gifts, lobbying (including trade associations/chambers of commerce), and goodwill advertising as recoverable costs for rate determination. It also includes specific prohibitions on certain insurance costs and general rate case litigation expenses for utilities.

- Utah Senate Bill 153 (SB0153) (2025) - "Prohibiting a qualified utility from recovering in rates expenses related to advertising, lobbying, and political activities.

    - Significance: This bill prohibits public utilities from recovering costs related to advertising, lobbying, and political activities from ratepayers. It provides a clear and direct legislative statement against such cost recovery.

- Arizona Senate Bill 1390 (SB1390) (2025) - "A public service corporation that is regulated by the corporation commission or a public power entity as defined in section 30-801 may not make contributions to:
  1. Any political action committee that makes expenditures, including a committee that makes independent expenditures, for or against any candidate.
  2. A corporation that is registered under section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the internal revenue code and that makes expenditures to influence the outcome of an election of one or more candidates for the corporation commission."

    - Significance: This bill focuses on prohibiting public service corporations and public power entities from making contributions to Political Action Committees (PACs) that influence Corporation Commission elections or to 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) organizations that make election expenditures related to the Commission. This directly targets utility influence over their primary regulators.

Resilient Grid Management

Summary: This section delves into state legislative efforts crucial for modernizing and strengthening the electric grid to withstand escalating challenges, from extreme weather events to increasing demand. It encompasses strategies for proactive grid planning that integrates equity and environmental justice into long-term infrastructure and resource decisions. The section also highlights the strategic deployment of energy storage systems across all scales to enhance reliability and resilience, and the enablement of microgrids and Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) to foster localized energy security and community empowerment. Collectively, these policies aim to ensure that the transition to

a clean energy future delivers a robust, reliable, and equitably resilient grid for all, particularly for vulnerable communities.

Grid Planning

Summary: This subsection explores state legislative efforts to ensure the electric grid is proactively modernized and planned for a clean energy future. These bills mandate comprehensive, long-range planning processes for transmission, distribution, and overall resource development, integrating considerations for equitable infrastructure siting, cost management to prevent energy burden, and mitigating the environmental and economic consequences of energy development on communities.

- California Senate Bill 604 (SB604) (2023) - "This bill would require the Energy Commission, working with the State Air Resources Board and the Public Utilities Commission, to prepare a statewide assessment of the supply needs for transmission and distribution infrastructure and equipment that is necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045, as specified. The bill would require the commission to update the assessment at least once every 3 years, and to submit the assessment to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2025, and on or before January 1 every 3 years thereafter."
    - Significance: This bill mandates a statewide assessment of transmission and distribution infrastructure needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. While this strategic approach offers the potential to advance equity—by promoting greater transparency regarding future transmission and distribution infrastructure needs and enabling the strategic siting of new infrastructure—the bill itself does not contain specific equity provisions. Therefore, achieving truly equitable outcomes will heavily depend on how the bill is implemented. This implementation could and should explicitly mandate robust, early, and continuous engagement with environmental justice communities throughout the planning process, establish clear criteria to actively avoid overburdening these communities with new infrastructure, include mechanisms for direct investment in local, community-driven clean energy projects that offer tangible benefits and ownership opportunities to historically marginalized populations, and ensure that the costs of decarbonization are managed equitably to prevent undue energy burden on low-income households, while delivering the benefits of decarbonization (such as cleaner air and reliable clean energy access) across all communities.

- Wyoming Senate File 24 (SF0024) (2024) - Requiring electric utilities to engage in long-range planning including the 10 year demand and energy forecast and the utility's options for meeting requirements shown in its load and resource forecast

    - Significance: This bill requires electric utilities to engage in long-range integrated resource planning (IRPs), including 10-year demand forecasts and options for meeting load in an economic and reliable manner. It also requires utilities to explicitly consider "external environmental and economic consequences" of their plans, providing an opportunity for regulatory oversight and public input regarding local pollution, land use impacts from infrastructure, and economic effects on communities, particularly those historically burdened by energy facilities. Still, the bill's primary significance lies in its mandate for long-term grid planning, enabling the strategic deployment of cost-effective energy sources. Solar and wind are now among the cheapest energy sources and are becoming increasingly more cost-effective, which would make investments in those power sources more attractive.

Storage

Summary: This subsection delves into state legislative efforts to strategically deploy **energy storage systems** as a foundational component of a resilient, modern, and equitable electric grid. These bills establish ambitious deployment targets, provide innovative financing mechanisms, and mandate comprehensive planning and equitable access for energy storage across various scales—from utility-scale assets to customer-sited distributed resources.

- Vermont House Bill 437 (H.437) (2024) - "Proposed to direct the electric distribution utilities and Vermont Electric Power Company to submit to the Department of Public Service a report identifying where energy storage facilities and flexible load management initiatives, and how much of each solution, would deliver the greatest reliability, affordability, community resilience, and sustainability benefits, which would then be used by the Clean Energy Development Board to award grants to those locations"

    - Significance: This bill mandates electric distribution utilities and VELCO to develop a data-driven Energy Resiliency Plan and Map for energy storage facilities and flexible load management initiatives. Its significance lies in requiring this plan to explicitly identify optimal locations for investment by leveraging community health indicator data, ensuring that the deployment of storage assets prioritizes locations that deliver the greatest reliability, affordability, and community resilience. By focusing on keeping critical

community buildings like hospitals and warming shelters online during outages, H.437 directly addresses the disproportionate impacts of grid disruptions and climate-related extreme weather on vulnerable populations and environmental justice communities, thereby ensuring that investments translate into enhanced local resilience, reduced energy burden, and equitable access to decarbonization benefits.

- Rhode Island Senate Bill 2499A (S2499A) (2024) - Require the PUC to adopt a framework for an energy storage system tariff for energy storage systems connected to the electric distribution system and direct the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank to develop programs to distribute funds to meet the energy storage systems capacity goals
    - Significance: This bill combines statewide energy storage capacity goals (e.g., 600 MW by 2033) with explicit financial mechanisms for equitable deployment. The bill requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to create an energy storage system tariff framework for fair compensation, while crucially directing the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank to provide supplemental funding specifically for low-income residential electric customers to deploy energy storage. This initiative is vital for enhancing grid reliability and resilience (especially for vulnerable communities during outages), facilitating renewable energy integration (reducing reliance on polluting peaker plants), and ensuring that the benefits of a modern, clean energy grid—including lower energy bills and improved public health—are equitably distributed across all communities.
- Michigan House Bill 4256 (HB 4256) (2023) - Requiring electric utilities to procure energy storage equivalent to the their load share of a total of 2,500 megawatts for all electric utilities combined
    - Significance: This bill requires electric utilities to procure a total of 2,500 megawatts of energy storage, proportional to their load share. This bill drives the deployment of critical, centralized grid infrastructure, which is crucial for accelerating decarbonization and enhancing overall grid stability and reliability. By integrating significant energy storage, HB 4256 aims to provide backup power during outages while also facilitating greater renewable energy integration to reduce reliance on polluting fossil fuel peaker plants, thereby improving local air quality, public health, and holding the potential for long-term cost savings and enhanced energy affordability for all ratepayers. While there is no specific carve out for low-income and environmental justice communities, these households and communities can still benefit as they often suffer disproportionately from power disruptions.

- California Assembly Bill 1181 (AB1181) (2023-2024) - "This bill would require the commission, on or before January 1, 2025, and as part of a new or existing proceeding, to evaluate program or tariff improvements to multifamily installations of hybrid resources, specifically the inclusion of energy storage paired with solar energy systems, and to consider possible adjustments to existing or successor tariffs to facilitate the installation of energy storage technologies with new or existing solar energy systems, as specified."
    - Significance: This bill mandates the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to evaluate and improve programs and tariffs specifically for multifamily installations of solar energy systems paired with energy storage technologies. This bill directly addresses barriers that often exclude residents of multifamily housing, including renters and low-income households, from accessing the benefits of clean energy. By requiring that participants receive direct economic benefits and facilitating the installation of solar+storage, AB1181 aims to democratize access to vital technologies that reduce energy burden, enhance household-level resilience during outages (crucial for vulnerable populations), and accelerate decarbonization efforts.
- Minnesota House File 1386 (HF1386) (2023) - "Energy storage provisions added and modified to support deployment, utilities required to install an energy storage system, Public Utilities Commission required to order the installation of energy storage systems, public utilities required to file a plan to install energy storage systems, incentive program established, and money appropriated."
    - Significance: This bill provides a multi-scale approach to energy storage deployment in the state. This bill mandates both utility-scale (setting a 3,000 MW statewide target by 2033) and distribution-level energy storage installations, and establishes an incentive program with peak-shaving tariffs for customer-owned on-site energy storage. This multi-pronged approach is crucial for enhancing grid resilience and reliability while also democratizing access to clean energy, reducing energy burden, and actively promoting environmental justice in siting by reducing reliance on polluting fossil fuel peaker plants. While there isn't a focus in this bill on low-income customers or environmental justice communities, households in these communities can still benefit from increased grid stability, which will reduce the risk of power outages and blackouts.
- Hawaii House Bill 790 (HB 790) (2025) - "Establishes an installation goal for customer-sited distributed energy resources in the State. Ensures that fair compensation is provided to distributed energy resources exports as part of grid service programs."

    - Significance: This bill targets customer-sited distributed energy resources (DERs), primarily residential solar and energy storage systems. Its significance lies in setting an ambitious numerical installation goal of 50,000 new DERs by 2030 and mandating fair compensation for DER exports that reflects their full value, including payments for capacity and grid services. This bill aims to democratize access to clean energy and resilience by making it financially viable for individual households to invest in or host solar+storage, thereby directly reducing energy burden, enhancing household-level resilience (particularly for vulnerable populations during outages), and empowering customers to be active participants in the clean energy transition. A key caveat is that this bill does not include specific provisions or added incentives to maximize benefits for low-income households, nor does it specify incentive amounts. The real opportunity for ensuring equitable access for low-income households lies with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), which could, through its implementation mandates, require utilities to provide higher incentives tailored to these communities.

- Massachusetts House Bill 4155 (HD4155) (2025) - Requiring the establishment of DER deployment goals such that the capacity is greater than 20 percent of the total electric load

    - Significance: This bill mandates the establishment of a distributed energy resource (DER) deployment goal, requiring DER capacity to be greater than 20 percent of the total electric load. This bill accelerates the transition to a more decentralized and resilient energy system by prioritizing customer-sited and localized clean energy technologies. By setting such a high target, HD4155 inherently expands opportunities for more customers, including those in low-income and environmental justice communities, to participate in and benefit from local clean energy (e.g., rooftop solar, battery storage), signaling a fundamental shift towards a highly DER-penetrated grid aiming for widespread resilience and pollution reduction across the entire Commonwealth. While the bill's broad target is expected to create opportunities for all customers, it does not include a specific sub-goal or set aside for direct investment or deployment within low-income communities, which could otherwise ensure more targeted and accelerated benefits for these populations.

Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) and Microgrids

Summary: This subsection explores state legislative efforts to strategically deploy decentralized energy solutions that bolster grid reliability and empower local

communities. These bills focus on establishing regulatory frameworks and incentivizing the development of both microgrids, which can operate independently during outages, and Virtual Power Plants (VPPs), which aggregate distributed energy resources to provide grid services.

- California Senate Bill 1305 (SB1305) (2023-2024) - "This bill would require the PUC, in coordination with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission and the Independent System Operator, to take specified actions in relation to virtual power plants, as defined. The bill would require the PUC, on or before March 1, 2026, to begin a proceeding to determine targets for each electrical corporation to procure generation from cost-effective virtual power plants, and would require the PUC, on or before October 1, 2026, to finalize its proceeding and issue a decision adopting virtual power plant procurement targets to be achieved by each electrical corporation on or before December 31, 2028, and on or before December 31, 2033. The bill would, upon the PUC adopting virtual power plant procurement targets, require each electrical corporation, beginning January 30, 2028, and each year thereafter, to file a report with the PUC on its progress toward complying with the virtual power plant procurement targets."
    - Significance: This bill establishes ambitious, mandatory procurement targets for Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) for electric utilities and other load-serving entities, aiming to reach 15% of peak grid demand by 2035. This bill fundamentally integrates customer-sited clean energy resources (like solar+storage, EVs, smart appliances) into grid operations, directly addressing core challenges of energy affordability, grid resilience, and decarbonization in an equitable manner. By reducing costs to ratepayers through avoiding expensive peak power plants and grid upgrades, providing crucial backup power during outages (particularly benefiting vulnerable populations who are more susceptible to blackouts), and significantly reducing polluting emissions from fossil fuel peaker plants, SB1305 aims to deliver substantial financial, health, and environmental benefits.
- Oregon House Bill 2066 (HB2066) (2025) - "Directs the Public Utility Commission to establish a regulatory framework to allow the ownership, deployment and use of microgrids and community microgrids."
    - Significance: This bill directs the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish a regulatory framework for the ownership, deployment, and use of microgrids and community microgrids. This bill enables the development of localized, self-sufficient energy systems that provide critical energy resilience for communities, allowing them to maintain power during outages caused by extreme weather or grid failures. This benefits vulnerable populations and environmental justice communities, who often suffer disproportionately from power disruptions and lack alternative resources, by providing an effective solution to foster community resilience. This bill

also includes a provision that allows owners or operators of the microgrid to incorporate "front-of-meter" energy resources such as wind farms, solar farms, or large battery storage systems that are owned by entities including community-based organizations. This means microgrids are not limited to just smaller, on-site power generation; thereby increasing their flexibility and resilience.

Decarbonization

This section delves into state legislative efforts to directly tackle climate change by accelerating decarbonization across various sectors of the economy. It highlights diverse strategies, including explicit fossil fuel bans and phase-outs that eliminate polluting sources, the implementation of comprehensive emissions reduction programs with strategic planning and funding mechanisms, and the establishment of carbon taxes or fees that internalize environmental costs. Crucially, these policies are designed not only to achieve ambitious climate goals but also to embed environmental justice and energy equity principles, ensuring that the transition minimizes burdens on vulnerable communities, reduces pollution, and equitably distributes the benefits of a clean energy future.

Fossil Fuel Bans

Summary: This subsection highlights state legislative efforts to accelerate decarbonization and protect communities by explicitly prohibiting or phasing out certain fossil fuel activities, infrastructure, or energy sources. The bills presented in this subsection are representative examples of this type of legislative idea and do not necessarily indicate greater significance or best practice for this type of policy. The bills in this subsection are representative examples of this legislative approach, collectively showcasing a significant trend, but aren't necessarily more impactful than other similar bills.

Representative Examples:

- Massachusetts House Docket 3428 (HD3428) (2025) - “Preventing new and expanded gas facilities near EJ communities”
    - Significance: This bill prevents new and expanded gas facilities near environmental justice communities, which directly addresses the disproportionate burden of fossil fuel infrastructure on frontline communities.

- New York Assembly Bill 411 (A00411) (2023) - “Declares a climate emergency and places a ban on fossil fuel infrastructure projects but shall not apply to repair or maintenance of existing infrastructure.”
    - Significance: This bill is declares a climate emergency and places a ban on new fossil fuel infrastructure projects statewide, allowing only for repair or maintenance of existing infrastructure. This directly curtails future fossil fuel expansion across multiple sectors.
- Colorado Senate Bill 24-159 (SB24-159) (2024) - “On or before July 1, 2027, section 2 of the bill requires the energy and carbon management commission (commission) to adopt rules (permitting rules) to cease issuing new oil and gas permits (permits) before January 1, 2030, which rules must include certain reductions in the total number of oil and gas wells covered by new permits issued in 2028 and 2029. Section 2 also requires the commission to include as a condition in any permit issued after July 1, 2024, that certain operations must commence on or before December 31, 2032, as to each oil and gas well included in the permit.”
    - Significance: This bill requires the energy and carbon management commission to adopt rules to cease issuing new oil and gas permits before January 1, 2030, with specific reductions in permits in interim years. This is a direct regulatory phase-out of new fossil fuel extraction.
- Washington House Bill 1589 (HB 1589) (2023) - A large gas company is prohibited from furnishing or supplying gas service, instrumentalities, and facilities to any commercial or residential location that did not receive gas service or file an application for gas service as of June 30, 2023. A large gas company must file a gas decarbonization plan as part of any multi-year rate plan filed on or after January 1, 2026, and every four years thereafter. The plan must aim to achieve the gas company's proportional share of the statewide statutory greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions. A combination utility must file with the UTC an electrification plan as part of a gas decarbonization plan on or after January 1, 2026. A combination utility is a public service company that is both an electrical company and a large gas company.
    - Significance: This bill showcases a nuanced phase-out approach for gas utilities. It prohibits large gas companies from extending new gas service to commercial or residential locations that did not receive service or apply for service by June 30, 2023. It also requires gas companies to file decarbonization plans proportional to statewide GHG reductions, including electrification plans from combination utilities. This prevents new gas hookups and mandates a strategic, utility-led gas phase-out plan.

Emissions Reduction

Summary: This subsection highlights state legislative efforts directly aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across various sectors, often by strategically managing the transition away from fossil fuel infrastructure and usage.

- California Senate Bill 1221 (SB-1221) (2023-2024) - “This bill would require each gas corporation, on or before July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, to submit to the commission a map containing certain information, including the location of all potential gas distribution line replacement projects identified in its distribution integrity management plan and other foreseeable gas distribution pipeline replacements. The bill would require the commission, on or before January 1, 2026, to designate priority neighborhood decarbonization zones considering, among other things, the concentration of gas distribution line replacement projects identified in the maps. The bill would require the commission, on or before July 1, 2026, to establish a voluntary program to facilitate the cost-effective decarbonization of priority neighborhood decarbonization zones, as defined, not to exceed 30 pilot projects across the state and affecting no more than 1% of each gas corporation’s customers within its service territory, except as provided.”
    - Significance: This bill establishes a strategic framework for targeted, neighborhood-level decarbonization directly linked to gas infrastructure. The bill requires gas utilities to map future distribution line replacements, enabling the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to designate "priority neighborhood decarbonization zones" based on these plans. The bill also mandates that the commission consider the presence of a low-income or disadvantaged community as well as the presence of other environmental and social justice communities as criteria for designating priority neighborhood decarbonization zones. This is important for proactively addressing historical pollution burdens and mitigating the risk of stranded gas assets for ratepayers by piloting cost-effective decarbonization solutions (e.g., electrification, geothermal microdistricts) in these specific communities.
- California Senate Bill 527 (SB527) (2023-2024) - “This bill would, until January 1, 2030, require the Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with gas corporations, to develop and supervise the administration of the Neighborhood Decarbonization Program to facilitate the cost-effective decarbonization of targeted natural gas zones with the intent to provide benefits that include, but are not limited to, reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollution, the maintenance of reliable, safe, and resilient energy service, and the maintenance of rate affordability for California gas customers, and with the intent to decommission

gas assets in zones with the highest community burdens and those that would result in the highest projected ratepayer cost savings."

    - Significance: This bill mandates the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish a Neighborhood Decarbonization Program (NDP) that requires the strategic decommission of gas assets in "zones with the highest community burdens" (implicitly environmental justice communities) and those offering the highest ratepayer cost savings. The program aims to facilitate cost-effective decarbonization in these targeted neighborhoods through advanced energy efficiency and clean heating technologies. The bill explicitly requires guidelines to ensure just and reasonable rates for low-income customers and renters and prioritizes projects serving a large percentage of low-income households.

- California Assembly Bill 1182 (AB1182) (2023-2024) - "This bill would require the Department of Finance, in conjunction with the Governor's Budget, to submit a decarbonization funding plan (plan) to the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change and to post the plan on its internet website. The bill would require the plan to, among other things, identify decarbonization opportunities to help the state reach its targets to reduce the effects of climate change and set out priorities for funding, suggest efficiencies distributing decarbonization funds, including expediting the application and award process, and provide recommendations on how to effectively align state decarbonization incentives and allocated general fund moneys with federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The bill would require, by July 1, 2024, the department to establish an internet web portal for purposes of identifying decarbonization funding opportunities with specified information."

    - Significance: This bill mandates the Department of Finance to develop a comprehensive decarbonization funding plan and establish an internet web portal for funding opportunities. While there are no specific equity provisions, this bill aims to accelerate climate action and increase accessibility by coordinating state decarbonization incentives with substantial federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

- New York Assembly Bill 4592 (A04592) (2023) - "Aligns utility regulation with state climate justice and emission reduction targets; repeals provisions relating to continuation of gas service; repeals provisions relating to the sale of indigenous natural gas for generation of electricity."
    - Significance: This bill mandates a realignment of utility regulation with the state's ambitious climate justice and emission reduction targets. By repealing provisions related to the continuation of gas service and the sale

of indigenous natural gas for electricity generation, this bill enables utilities to plan for a future with reduced reliance on fossil gas and accelerate the transition to clean energy. This shift minimizes pollution burdens in marginalized communities and prevents stranded assets for ratepayers.

Carbon taxes/Fees

Summary: This subsection explores state legislative efforts to drive decarbonization by implementing various forms of carbon pricing or "polluter pays" mechanisms. These bills establish carbon taxes, cap-and-trade programs, or climate 'superfunds' that generate revenue or create disincentives for greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels. Crucially, these policies often include robust provisions for how the generated funds are used to mitigate energy costs for consumers, directly invest in clean energy and resilience in environmental justice communities, and support a just transition for workers, ensuring that the financial burden of climate action is equitably distributed and benefits are universally shared.

- Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1191 (SB1191) (2023) - "Establishing the PA Climate Emissions Reduction Program (PACER) to implement the PA-run CO2 Budget Trading Program."
    - Significance: This bill establishes the Pennsylvania Climate Emissions Reduction (PACER) Program to implement a PA-run CO2 Budget Trading Program. This bill drives decarbonization by pricing carbon emissions and embeds strong equity mechanisms by establishing dedicated funds like the Consumer Protection Account, Low-Income Support Account, and Workforce Enhancement Fund, which are designed to mitigate potential energy cost increases for consumers, provide targeted relief to low-income households, and support a just transition for workers and communities impacted by the shift away from fossil fuels. Still, it's important to acknowledge that pricing carbon may inadvertently perpetuate or even exacerbate localized pollution. Industries might opt to pay the carbon price rather than invest in cleaner technologies at facilities located near historically burdened communities, thereby allowing these 'pollution hotspots' to persist despite overall emissions reductions.
- California Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025 (AB1243) (2025) - "This bill would enact the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025 and would establish the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Program to be administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency to require fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the damage caused by greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere during the covered period, which the bill would define as the time period between

the 1990 and 2024 calendar years, inclusive, resulting from the extraction, production, refining, sale, or combustion of fossil fuels or petroleum products, to relieve a portion of the burden to address cost borne by current and future California taxpayers."

    - Significance: This bill, known as the "Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025," establishes a program requiring fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share for climate damages caused by their greenhouse gas emissions, thereby relieving the financial burden on California taxpayers. The collected funds are explicitly designated for climate adaptation and mitigation projects that directly benefit disadvantaged communities, with a mandate that at least 40% of the funds be spent on projects and programs directly benefiting these communities, ensuring they also do no harm. By financing initiatives like wildfire prevention, extreme heat mitigation, sea-level rise adaptation, and notably, energy burden relief and workforce development for those impacted by climate change, this bill represents a commitment to climate accountability and restorative justice, ensuring that those most affected by pollution and climate change impacts receive critical resources.

- New York Assembly Bill 8469 (A08469) (2023) - "Establishes an economy-wide cap and invest program to support greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the state by setting a maximum allowable amount of greenhouse gas emissions by covered entities and regulating the sale or auction of greenhouse gas emissions allowances to covered entities."

    - Significance: This bill establishes an economy-wide "cap-and-invest" program to drive greenhouse gas emissions reductions across the state. Beyond setting a declining cap on emissions, it is designed to generate substantial revenues from the sale of allowances, which are intended to be strategically recycled back to New Yorkers and invested in accelerating a just and equitable clean energy transition. Specifically, a significant portion of the revenue is earmarked for direct bill relief or rebates to offset potential energy cost increases for consumers, directly alleviating energy burden. The remaining funds are intended for investments in clean energy technologies, energy efficiency, and climate resilience projects that explicitly prioritize disadvantaged communities and support workforce development for a just transition. Still it is important to acknowledge the risk of localized pollution hotspots within cap-and trade systems. Even with an economy-wide cap, industries may choose to purchase allowances rather than reduce emissions at certain facilities, potentially exacerbating air quality issues in overburdened communities already facing cumulative pollution impacts.

- Vermont House Bill 277 (H.277) (2025) - Increases the tax on the purchase of fossil fuels to fund Home Weatherization Assistance Program. Expand eligibility criteria to apply for Weatherization Assistance Program grants and increase administrative and financial support of weatherization trade workforce
    - Significance: The bill proposes to increase taxes on fossil fuels (and also include electricity sales) to fund the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP), establishing a "polluter pays" mechanism for this critical program. It also expands HWAP eligibility to 125% of area or state median income, dramatically broadening access to free weatherization for low-to-moderate income households, thereby directly reducing energy burden and improving health in their homes. Furthermore, H.277 makes strong commitments to a just workforce transition by mandating increased wages for weatherization staff and directing robust recruitment and training programs (including for marginalized populations like the homeless), ensuring the creation of high-quality green jobs while accelerating decarbonization of the building sector.