

North America Climate Mitigation

2025 Annual Report





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Letter from the **Directors**

2025 was a rollercoaster of a year for climate action, particularly in the U.S. At times it felt like whiplash as the federal government reversed course on a wide range of climate and clean energy policies. But times like these remind us of why TNC is such a unique organization. Our wide range of partners, nonpartisan approach and scientific expertise all helped us continue to make progress towards our climate goals even as we faced unprecedented headwinds. Climate change doesn't wait for political winds to change and neither did we.

This year, TNC staff across the North America Region helped create, implement and defend climate policies; advanced new clean energy and natural climate solutions projects; and contributed new pieces of research to help us create better climate solutions for nature and people.

Throughout it all, we've made space for staff and partners to connect and learn from one another as new hurdles to action were regularly thrown in front of us. When needed, we spoke up in defense of not just existing climate policies but also the climate science and regulations that underpin them. But we also found opportunities to engage with policymakers on areas of shared interest.

2025 was challenging. And while we didn't win every fight, we're entering 2026 having still made

progress. We have new state policies in place that will accelerate the development of clean energy, improve the country's energy infrastructure and provide more funding for climate projects. We hit a major milestone with the Family Forest Carbon Program so that our privately owned forests can continue to absorb and store greenhouse gases. And we've continued to strengthen our relationships with Tribes and communities across the country who are working on local climate solutions.

Looking ahead, 2026 might be another challenging year. But we're so proud of the work that people across TNC have done in response to such a rapidly changing political landscape and know that we will continue to respond in kind. We're inspired by the resilience TNC has shown and are more motivated than ever to continue the work. Thank you for your support throughout the entire year.

Sincerely,

Jason Albritton, North America climate mitigation program director

Beth Wheatley, North America climate mitigation program deputy director

Spotlight on Trustee Engagement

TNC's network of 1600 current and former state trustees are critical for our climate work, particularly in 2025 as the federal landscape for climate action changed so quickly and drastically. Throughout the year, our trustees provided strategic guidance and financial support and used their voices to support our priorities by engaging with and connecting us to partners and policymakers.

One important area of trustee engagement is the Trustee Climate Council, which is a group of current and former trustees from states all across the country who have expertise and a passion for addressing climate change. TNC staff regularly met with the Council to provide updates on TNC's work and gather feedback and guidance on everything from campaign plans to messaging. The Trustee Climate Council also engaged their peer trustees to build support for TNC's climate initiatives by hosting a happy hour at the Volunteer Leadership Summit and a year-end webinar.

Also at this past October's Volunteer Leadership Summit, the North America Climate Mitigation Program engaged trustees across the country. We presented on the team's work in a number of sessions and briefed trustees on our federal policy priorities. Trustees put what they learned into action by heading to Capitol Hill to advocate for TNC's policy priorities, including our efforts to reform permitting rules to benefit clean energy projects.

Keeping our trustees engaged on our climate mitigation work was essential in 2025, and we will continue to leverage their expertise and guidance as we move into 2026.



Creating Ways Forward for New Climate Policies

CLIMATE POLICY

TNC has a long history of helping create policies to accelerate clean energy deployment and expand adoption of natural climate solutions. In 2025, we focused on advancing state policies, given states' track record of stepping up when the federal government steps back.

Driving State Policy

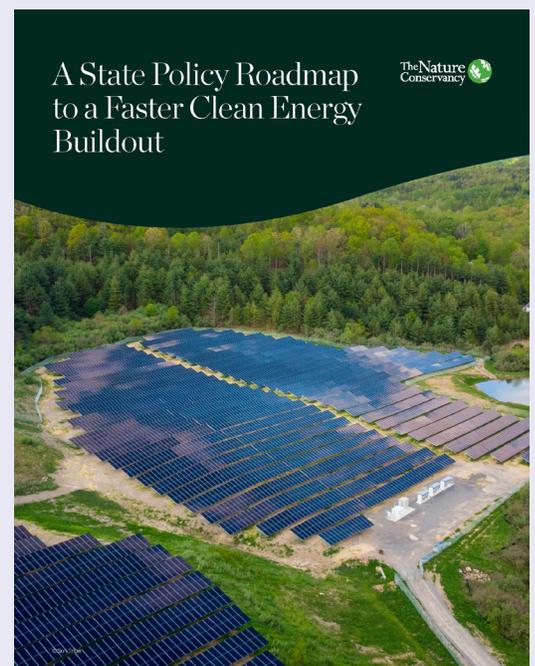
As the federal government reversed a range of climate and clean energy policies, TNC worked with states across the political spectrum to pass new policies to ensure climate progress continues.

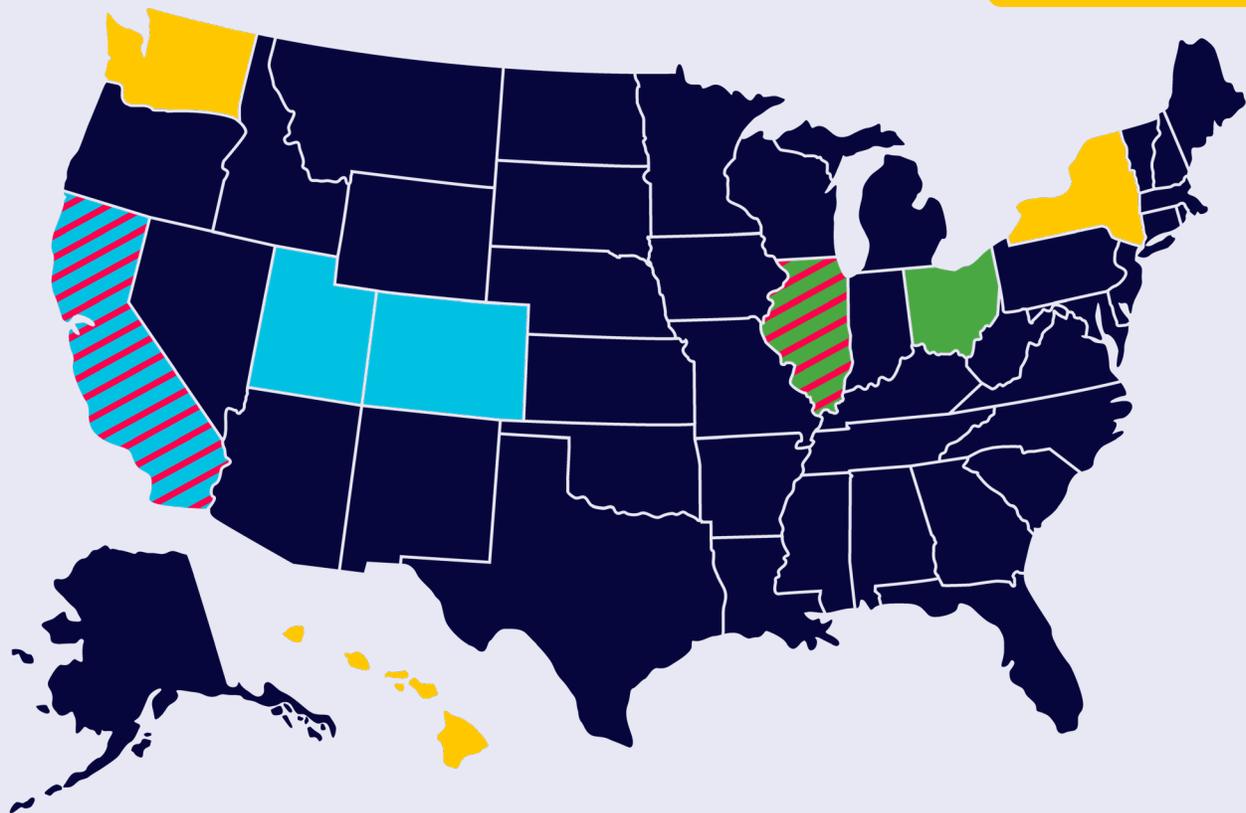


TNC helped pass 10 state-level climate policies that will make it easier for more clean energy to come online and for that energy to more efficiently and affordably reach the homes and businesses that need it.

The policies will also reduce emissions from the transportation sector and provide new sources of funding for states, communities and Tribes to implement their own clean energy projects and natural climate solutions.

To help keep state momentum going, we also [published a roadmap that can help state legislators develop clean energy policies](#) in ways that factor in climate, conservation and communities—what we call “the 3Cs.”





■ New climate and clean energy funding

■ Improving transmission and the grid

■ Reducing emissions

■ Building more clean energy

Ohio

In Ohio, TNC helped pass House Bill 15. This bill allows local government officials to designate abandoned mines, landfills and industrial sites as Priority Investment Areas where energy projects can be approved and built more quickly than is currently possible. The law includes several other provisions, including one that will open the door to using renewable energy to power more schools. This new law will make it faster, easier and cheaper to build new clean energy projects across the state.

California

A new law supported by TNC helps accelerate the construction of electric transmission and clean energy projects. It also allows California to join a West-wide regional energy market, making it easier to share affordable clean energy across state lines. This could drive down electricity costs, strengthen electrical grid reliability and expand clean energy. TNC research has shown a West-wide regional energy market would support better land use decisions for new energy projects across the entire West, which would protect important habitat. TNC's Power of Place West and Power of Place California studies recommend this type of regional clean energy sharing, which formed the basis for TNC's advocacy on this bill.

Colorado

A new Colorado state law makes it easier to install power lines along existing highways so renewable energy can be transmitted from its source to the homes and businesses that need to use it. Having power lines alongside highways is much better than having them cut through natural areas, like grasslands or forests. An exciting component of this law, HB25-1292, is that it requires including local communities and Tribal Nations in the process of deciding where to install power lines. Engaging tribes and disproportionately impacted communities early in the process avoids conflicts and negative impacts that can slow the construction of this critical clean energy infrastructure.

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Expanding Clean Energy Technologies

At the federal level, TNC advocated for policies to help expand emerging clean energy technologies like advanced geothermal. TNC's Nevada chapter staff testified in front of a House Natural Resources Committee subcommittee about how the country can scale geothermal energy around the country while still protecting communities and nature.



© House Natural Resources Committee

Federal Permitting Reform

In Congress, TNC worked to advance reforms to the process for issuing permits for clean energy projects, such as building solar farms and the power lines that carry electricity to homes and businesses. Delays in permitting and project approvals are a significant barrier to the transition to clean energy.

We worked behind the scenes with members of Congress who hold influential positions on key committees. Both Democratic and Republican Congressional offices actively sought our counsel. Congress continues to work to find a bipartisan solution that will make it easier for more clean energy to come online while still protecting essential conservation and community engagement considerations. But, as we enter the new year, we're encouraged by where the conversations are heading and hopeful that we can make progress towards modernizing the permitting process in 2026.

Defending Climate Progress

CLIMATE DEFENSE

Our work doesn't end when a bill passes and becomes law. We continue to monitor and protect good pieces of climate legislation from threats of repeal or rollback.

Clean Energy Tax Credits

In the first half of 2025, clean energy tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act were at significant risk of being canceled out or significantly reduced.

Our wide-ranging advocacy efforts helped preserve some of the tax credits. We commissioned economic research in 17 states and nationally that showed the monetary benefits of the tax credits. We earned media including news stories, op-eds and letters to the editors in over half of our target media markets. We also held dozens of meetings with key Congressional offices and helped connect roughly 6,000 constituents directly to their members of Congress.

Even though some of the tax credits were curtailed, our advocacy efforts made a difference. Many clean energy incentives remain in place, and we heard directly from members of Congress and their staff about how TNC's advocacy efforts helped prevent even worse outcomes.

Clean energy tax credits support jobs and the economy in the U.S.

People around the country are benefiting from the 2022 clean energy tax credits. To quantify those benefits, TNC partnered with BW Research to model the economic impacts of the tax credits from 2025 to 2032. In this analysis we grouped the tax credits by sector: power, industry, buildings and transportation.

This research shows that clean energy is critical to supporting American jobs and the economy. Congress needs to maintain these tax credits so that they can continue to deliver for the American people and our environment.



In the U.S. from now to 2032, the clean energy tax credits will:



Jobs
285,000
Support more than 285,000 jobs annually



Wages
\$16B
Generate over \$16 billion in household income annually



GDP
\$32.5B
Support nearly \$32.5 billion in annual economic value added



Tax Revenue
\$4.1B
Yield more than \$4.1 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue annually



ROI
\$1.33
Provide a return of \$1.33 for each federal dollar invested

The Nature Conservancy

Preserving the Ability of States to Lead

State climate policies also faced threats throughout the year as the Administration targeted and tried to weaken them with Executive Orders. In response, we gathered climate and policy staff from affected states to provide capacity, partnership and a space to share learnings about how to respond. We also issued a public statement reiterating our support for states and their role in driving climate action forward.

Maintaining Bedrock Environmental Protections

Long-standing climate regulations came under scrutiny this past year. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed repealing the endangerment finding, which is the legal determination that allows the government to regulate emissions of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. In response, our statement emphasized that the data and science of climate change are clear. Large swings in policy, such as the proposed changes to the finding, undermine the government's ability to protect nature and people.

Defending Climate Science

The Department of Energy released a climate science report that ran counter to the long-standing scientific consensus on climate change. We responded in kind again. Our message affirmed that climate change science and data are clear, and this report does not change the well-established body of evidence and understanding. We will continue to speak up for climate science and policies that benefit nature and people.

Advancing the Clean Energy Transition

CLEAN ENERGY

Policy is only one part of the climate solution equation. We also work closely with communities, clean energy companies and local governments to accelerate the transition to clean energy.



© Sun Tribe

Mining the Sun

Millions of acres of former industrial sites, around the country, like mine lands and brownfields, offer a significant opportunity to host clean energy while providing an economic boost to local communities. Throughout the year, TNC's Mining the Sun work prioritized these types of lands for clean energy development.

In February 2025, TNC and the Cumberland Forest Limited Partnership announced new agreements with TerraForm Power (formerly Sun Tribe Development) and ENGIE to develop 14 solar energy and three battery storage projects on 360 acres of former coal mines in the Appalachians. These projects will serve as living laboratories to help show communities the benefits of redeveloping these sites with clean energy, including demonstrating best practices for siting, project design and community engagement. Together, the new energy projects are expected to generate enough electricity to power over 6,500 Appalachian homes annually.

In addition to announcing new Mining the Sun projects, TNC also showcased the important role of Mining the Sun in the clean energy transition. We presented the Mining the Sun concept at the National Brownfields Conference, the International City/County Management Association Conference and the Society of Environmental Journalists Conference, reaching over 2,000 people who are key to advancing clean energy built on former mines.

TNC developed several resources to advance

Mining the Sun projects. One report we wrote is a resource of community benefits and site-based conservation learnings—informed by previous project experiences—to support TNC staff and partners as they work on new projects. TNC also commissioned research to explore what it takes for local government to play a larger role in leading on projects in their communities and how TNC may support them. And, TNC developed a roadmap to help nonprofit organizations in the Appalachians understand the existing policies and public funding opportunities that can be leveraged to help make Mining the Sun projects faster, cheaper and easier.



© Treeline Utility

Finally, TNC worked to embed Mining the Sun into corporate energy procurement. Large corporations often build renewable energy projects to meet their own energy and sustainability needs. We drafted standards to embed conservation and community values into corporate energy development and purchasing and recruited more than two dozen industry leaders to participate in the review process.

Improving Electric Transmission Infrastructure

In addition to deploying more clean energy, the U.S. also needs to greatly expand and update its electric transmission infrastructure to carry electricity from where it's generated to where it's used. Throughout the year, we worked with partners across the country to improve coordination on transmission policies and planning between regions and drive improvements to the electric grid.

For example, in West Virginia, we worked with our partners to help accelerate Advanced Transmission Technologies. ATTs are a suite of infrastructure upgrades and software technologies that boost the capacity of power lines to carry more electricity. This will help meet growing energy demand and modernize the state's energy grid to improve electricity reliability and reduce costs.

We also engaged directly with governors and regional leaders to help move critical multi-state transmission projects forward and ensure that planning efforts translate into real progress on the ground. Across states and regions, we supported permitting modernization, improved planning processes, and advanced land-saving strategies such as co-location of power lines along existing transportation corridors and replacing existing lines with new lines that can carry more electricity. Through these efforts, we're helping build a more modern, resilient, and environmentally responsible electric grid.

Advising States on Clean Energy

As the clean energy buildout continues across the country, TNC has been invited by states and other local jurisdictions to advise them on actions to accelerate a clean energy transition. TNC staff participated in state councils and task forces in New York, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee and Washington. These groups work to improve energy siting and community engagement, and also further consider emerging energy and environment challenges such as data centers. Our participation helped ensure that key principles such as TNC's 3Cs—climate, conservation and communities—were considered when states worked with and in communities to build out a clean energy future.





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Solar Uncommon Dialogue

The Solar Uncommon Dialogue brings together environmental groups, community and tribal representatives and the solar industry to help advance solar energy development that considers TNC's 3C's - climate, conservation, and communities. TNC is one of the founding conveners of the group. This past year, five of the six Solar Uncommon Dialogue Working Groups started working with consultants to advance their goals. For example, the Community Engagement Working Group began developing a comprehensive guide to best practices for community and stakeholder engagement, and the Siting Working Group started developing a risk assessment and decision-making framework to guide best practices for large-scale solar siting. Also, with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, TNC was able to provide pass-through funding to 15 universities and non-profit organizations focused on community engagement, climate equity and Tribal partners.

"We're committed to accelerating the renewable energy buildout and have to go smart to go fast. Bringing environmental groups to the table ensures that we strike the right balance, delivering clean energy solutions while safeguarding our precious natural resources and communities."

- Jennifer Morris, CEO, The Nature Conservancy



Helping Nature Tackle Climate Change

NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

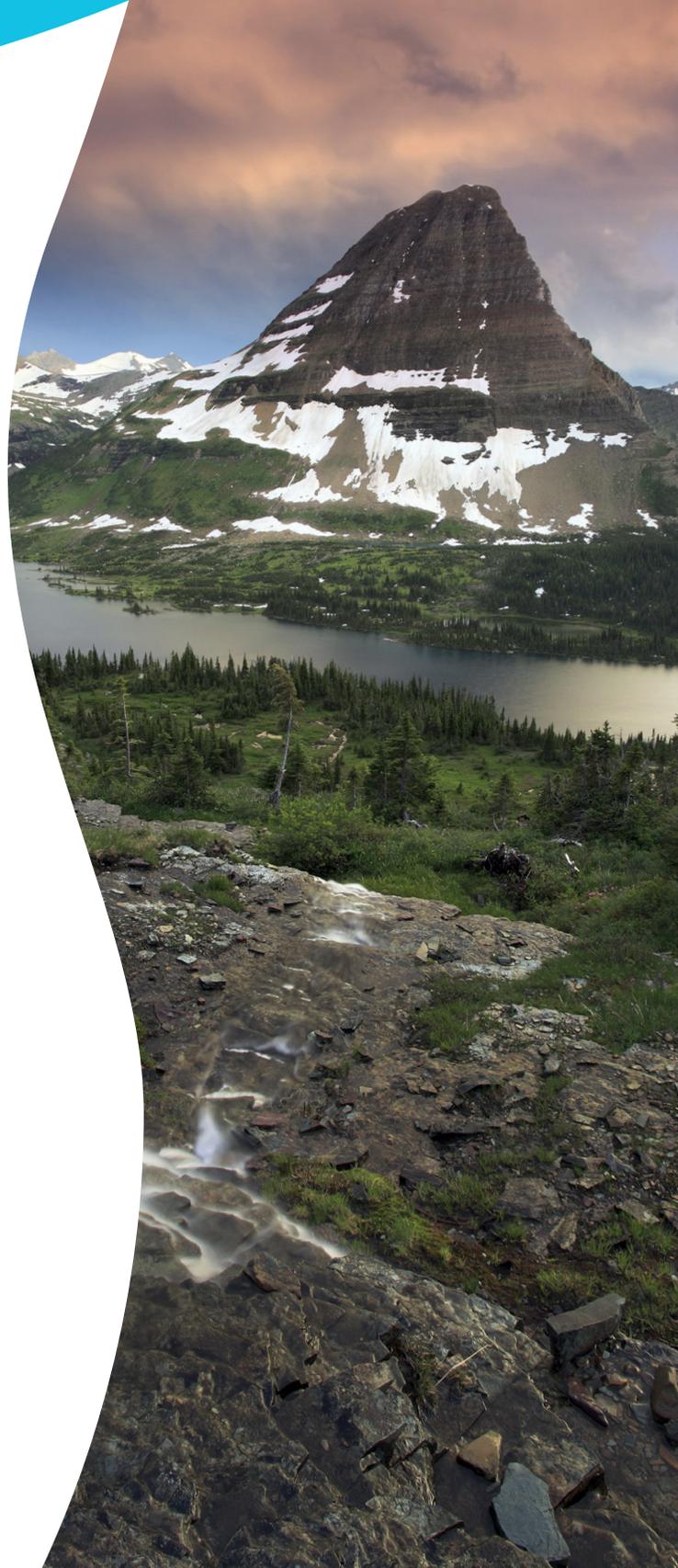
We can't achieve our climate goals without nature. We need to expand natural climate solutions across the country so that they can safely sequester greenhouse gas emissions.

Supporting Family-owned Forests

In 2025, the Family Forest Carbon Program hit two major milestones. The FFCP is a joint initiative with the American Forest Foundation that provides financial and technical assistance for small forest landowners to sustainably manage their forests. This past year, the FFCP enrolled its 1000th private landowner in the program and it also issued its first carbon credits. These credits were the first to be issued under a new carbon counting methodology (Verra's dynamic baseline methodology) and were the first to receive the Core Carbon Principles certification.



© David Ike



© Mike Wilkinson

Floodplain Reforestation

Multiple teams from across the North America region partnered to launch a new Floodplain Reforestation Program. The program is designed to offer reforestation opportunities to historically underserved and small-scale landowners. The first cohort in this program will enroll 3500 acres of private, frequently flooded agricultural land of the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley—specifically, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi—into a grouped reforestation project. These projects will sequester over 483,000 tons of greenhouse gases, reduce flooding impacts to local communities and increase wildlife habitat. By prioritizing frequently flooded lands, these projects will provide a model for how we can reforest larger swaths of the country that aren't as likely to receive government assistance.

Building Community Support for Natural Climate Solutions

U.S. Nature4Climate, which is a coalition of environmental and business groups led by TNC dedicated to advancing natural climate solutions, launched its Nature4Communities tool. Nature4Communities helps decision-makers and advocates better communicate how natural climate solutions benefit people and communities. It provides customizable factsheets and includes four case studies from California, Georgia, North Carolina and Minnesota.

Developing a National Vision for Forests as a Climate Solution

To achieve the potential forests offer as a climate solution, the country will need a more coordinated approach to advancing natural climate solutions in forests and communities. To help facilitate that, TNC sponsored and sat on the steering committee of the 9th American Forest Congress. The Congress convened leaders from across the forestry sector to chart a path forward for a new era of forest stewardship. Twelve TNC experts participated in the Congress and helped craft the resolutions that came out of it.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are scoping out new opportunities to expand our natural climate solutions and reforestation work into more state-level policy opportunities throughout the country and particularly in the southeast and throughout Appalachia.



Supporting Climate Action with New Science and Research

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

This past year, TNC scientists published a wide range of new research to help advance the clean energy transition and expand natural climate solutions.

Emerging Renewable Energy Technologies

TNC published new studies about the feasibility of agrivoltaics in Washington state and the potential that floating solar panels can help expand these promising technologies and practices.

Nature and Economy

Nature United, TNC's Canadian affiliate, contributed to a new report about the critical role nature can play in pro-growth agendas. The report emphasized how nature is central to Canada's economic future and how Canada must create the right conditions to increase investment in nature-friendly practices and business models that will help advance natural climate solutions.

Support for Equitable Climate Solutions

On a national level, TNC conducted research on people's understanding of and opinions on climate equity. This information helps us understand how we can better incorporate equity across our entire climate mitigation portfolio.



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Evaluating Public Support for Clean Energy

We carried out new social science research. TNC polled residents of Maine to learn what messages to lean into when talking about renewable energy, especially offshore wind. And in Texas, TNC is working on a public education campaign around renewable energy and natural climate solutions. We completed the first step in that campaign this year. TNC polled Texans to understand what people's existing knowledge level and opinions are surrounding energy and natural climate solutions.



Spotlight on Storytelling

Climate solutions and the policies and projects behind them benefit people across the country. But sometimes, how these climate solutions touch down in people's lives can be hard to see. That's why it's vital for us to share the stories of those who are working on or benefitting from climate action.

In North Carolina, [we wrote a new article and produced a video that introduce us to the Thiel family](#). The Thiels have sustainably managed their land and forests for generations. Federal policies and funding make it possible for them to use smart land management practices and reforestation techniques to maintain a healthy forest ecosystem.

In addition to the Thiels in North Carolina, we've produced videos in Massachusetts and Iowa about climate mitigation. [In Massachusetts, Joe Czajkowski takes us around his farm where he uses agrivoltaics](#) to harvest both solar energy and his crops. [And in Iowa we meet Bob Riley](#). Bob used clean energy tax credits to install solar panels on his business and is now saving thousands of dollars on monthly electricity bills.

Bob's story is also part of a larger feature we wrote about how the clean energy tax credits are helping people install solar panels on their homes and businesses.

These stories have helped connect the sometimes-abstract world of climate action to funders, legislators and people across the country in a tangible and understandable way. It's a key tool we will continue to invest in as we work to achieve our climate goals.



Centering Our Work Around People

COMMUNITIES

Tackling climate change can't come at the cost of nature or our communities. That's why we worked internally to increase our understanding and expertise on centering people in our climate work and strengthened partnerships with Tribes and affected communities across North America.

Gathering with Indigenous Elders

TNC hosted a gathering with Indigenous Elders in Pyramid Lake Paiute Territory to discuss renewable energy, equitable conservation and to strengthen our networks and relationships. The Elders represented the Tribal Nations of Pyramid Lake Paiute, Hopi, Havasupai, Duck Valley Shoshone/Paiute, Akwesasne Mohawk, Tewa/Tesuque Pueblo and Washoe.

Tribal Energy Opportunities

We sponsored and participated in the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Annual Energy Summit to discuss topics from Tribal Benefits Agreements to agrivoltaics. TNC Washington also partnered with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians to provide grant writing, policy, project management, GIS and other technical assistance to help them stand up a new ATNI Tribal Clean Energy Collaborative.

Climate Justice Learning Community

The TNC Climate Justice Learning Community played a central role in bringing together the wide range of people within TNC who have expertise, experience or interest in how climate change and our response to it affects people and communities. The group hosted panels with external experts and climate equity practitioners, engaged in dialogue with TNC leaders on the region's work on equity in climate and conservation and provided review and input on the development of new resources like the Climate Equity Rationale Statement and the emerging NACMP's Climate and People Strategy.



© Dave Lauridsen

Community Benefits Agreements

To help advance new renewable energy projects in an equitable way, we created many new internal resources including a Community Benefits Agreement primer. Community Benefits Agreements are any type of agreement between a project developer and the community or groups within a community where the project is located. These resources helped and will continue to help TNC staff better assist with community-led projects such as those that are a part of our Mining the Sun work.