

Ceres

BICEP NETWORK 2023 POLICY OUTLOOK





CERES BICEP NETWORK 2023 POLICY OUTLOOK BUSINESS FOR INNOVATIVE CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY

Table of Contents

Letter from Anne Kelly 3

Introduction..... 4-5

1. Clean Power 6-8

2. Clean Transportation 9 -10

3. Clean Buildings and Industry..... 11-12

4. Agriculture and Forestry 13

5. Environmental and Climate Justice 14-16

6. Sustainable Finance17-18

7. Emissions Reduction Strategies.....19-20

Resources for Members.....21-25

ABOUT CERES

Ceres is a nonprofit organization working with the most influential capital market leaders to solve the world’s greatest sustainability challenges. Through our powerful networks and global collaborations of investors, companies and nonprofits, we drive action and inspire equitable market-based and policy solutions throughout the economy to build a just and sustainable future.

For more information, follow [@CeresNews](https://twitter.com/CeresNews).

LETTER FROM ANNE KELLY

Dear Friends:

Now the fun begins.

After more than a decade of focused work to pass ambitious federal climate legislation, last year brought sweet success with the Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever climate investment. The historic legislation — along with Congress's bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, and the growing list of highly ambitious state climate legislation across the country — gives the U.S. a robust foundation of climate policy and investment that will guide the nation to a more competitive and just clean energy economy.

The passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, in particular, was due in no small part to your tireless advocacy. By the time the package became law last August, **more than 2,900 companies with more than \$5.1 trillion in annual revenue and 400 million global employees** had advocated in support of what ultimately became its climate provisions. From coast to coast, it was clear that robust federal climate policy had become a priority for leading members of the business community.

We also won some major victories in the states last year, including Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act that requires a net zero economy by 2045 and a huge tranche of investments in Massachusetts designed to help the state meet its climate mandates and become a clean energy industry hub. We also saw the adoption of strong electric car and truck rules in states across the country.

We thank you for the countless meetings, letters, and media appearances, along with the blood, sweat, and tears shed along the way, to bring us to this moment. You stood up, you showed up, and you spoke up about the economic case for climate action when we needed you most. The coming year will be about implementing crucial programs, amplifying successes, and defending victories while securing additional progress.

It will be a year of winning the wins.

Maximizing the impact of these legislative accomplishments is essential if the U.S. is to meet its national climate targets under the Paris Agreement, build the innovative industries that position the U.S. to compete globally for decades to come, and invest in the health and prosperity of communities that have for too long suffered disproportionately or been left behind in a rapidly changing economy.

As we move toward these goals, the BICEP Network continues to grow. We're now over 80 companies strong, having welcomed Advocate Health, Diageo, Dick's Sporting Goods, Eaton, Franklin Energy, Grove Collaborative, Holcim, Ideanomics, Lutron, the National Association of Energy Service Companies, Netflix, Sealed, Solectrac, and Trane as new members in the last year, while also integrating the Ceres Energy Optimization Workgroup into our network. Our thriving bench of climate champions continues to bolster our momentum.

The Ceres Policy Team has grown in tandem with the BICEP Network. We now have 23 team members and are still growing — and we are all [committed to working with you](#) to advance policies that are vital to the health of our communities, the planet, and the economy.

We are proud to present our 2023 Policy Outlook — your guide to the year ahead. With a focus on clean energy, clean transportation, clean buildings and industry, environmental and climate justice, climate smart agriculture, sustainable finance, and emissions reduction strategies, the Outlook showcases opportunities to push for positive change at both the state and federal levels, in nearly every sector of the economy.

We hope you find it helpful as you plan your advocacy priorities in 2023. Please feel free to reach out to us with questions and suggestions or if you need help in developing your customized advocacy plan. We have so much to celebrate — and so much to do.

Thank you for your committed leadership.

Anne L. Kelly



INTRODUCTION

“[We] are going to take the most aggressive action ever, ever, ever to confront the climate crisis and increase our energy security — ever in the whole world... And we’re going to build a future — the future — here in United States of America with American workers, with American companies, with American-made products.”



President Joe Biden on the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act

With widespread support from the U.S. business community, Congress in 2022 at last delivered landmark federal climate legislation. The Inflation Reduction Act’s \$370 billion in climate investments will touch nearly every corner of the economy, marking a significant advancement not only for U.S. climate policy but also the nation’s industrial and economic development outlook. It gives the U.S. a real chance to meet its 2030 climate goals and establish itself as the global leader in the clean energy economy.

This will be a turning point in the nation’s fight against the climate crisis — if we can execute on it.

As you read the 2023 Policy Outlook, you will notice implementation as a constant theme. Implementation means getting the rules right, setting the right standards, and making sure that your voice as climate leaders is heard by the agencies that are heading up new programs.

Success in every policy area will hinge on both strong regulatory guidance at the federal level and smart decisions at the state level to leverage these investments — a dynamic that plays to the BICEP Network’s strengths, as we have long grounded our policy strategy in engagement at both levels of government.

In Washington, D.C. and statehouses across the country, BICEP members will again be called upon throughout 2023 to make the powerful case for climate action that cuts pollution and grows the economy. This is your chance to provide expertise on how to best design and implement programs so that companies, consumers, communities, and stakeholders across the economy all benefit.

We will also double down and expand upon our commitment to environmental and climate justice. Public policy must do more than merely limit the impacts of the climate crisis and pollution on the communities most at risk. The clean energy transition provides an unprecedented chance to uplift communities of color, rural communities, and energy industry communities with jobs, investment, and opportunity. Companies are well-positioned to advocate for empowering environmental justice measures that meet the growing demands of investors, employees, customers, and the communities in which they do business.

While robust implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act will help guide the U.S. toward its commitment of halving emissions by 2030, fully meeting that target will require more action in both the public and private sectors.

With the federal government now under divided control and narrow majorities in each chamber of Congress, near-term federal legislative action will be incremental and bipartisan. Still, there are considerable opportunities. The 2023 Farm

Bill is one of our top priorities, and our Climate Smart Agriculture and Healthy Soils Working Group — comprised of some of the nation’s leading food and apparel companies — is already hard at work, meeting with members of Congress to advocate for measures that position our nation’s farmers as climate leaders. Other opportunities ripe for bipartisan action on meaningful climate progress include efforts to hasten the build-out of clean energy resources and to adopt trade policies that favor cleaner manufacturing.

The midterm elections also presented new opportunities to pursue ambitious policies at the state level, especially in the Midwest. In Minnesota and Michigan, we have a chance to pursue 100% clean energy policies. In the states that have already taken aggressive action — such as setting net zero laws and clean energy standards, and adopting the strong policies to achieve them — we must now press forward with the next generation of climate legislation; decarbonized buildings, clean energy workforce development, and public transit investment will be major areas of focus. We will also continue to push state administrations to adopt smart regulations that advance clean transportation initiatives that companies are relying on as they transition to electric fleets.

The 2023 Policy Outlook outlines all the work ahead of us, though other policy opportunities will undoubtedly emerge as the year progresses. We are tracking crises closely tied to climate that represent major economic threats, including biodiversity loss and water scarcity and pollution, and are interested in hearing from BICEP Network members as we assess these issues.

Along with its many successes, 2022 also brought new challenges. Despite the indisputable fact that climate change and other sustainability risks are real, material, bottom-line financial issues, the long-agreed upon notion that these risks and opportunities must be factored into corporate and financial decision making has regrettably been called into question.

Policymakers in some states and in Congress are increasingly seeking to limit companies and investors from addressing sustainability risks and opportunities, and some are trying to turn back the clock on rules and regulations. This effort — which includes a number of bills in state legislatures and regulatory offices, and brewing efforts in Congress — has been riddled with non-facts. But the effect is that companies and investors are being punished for doing their jobs of leaning into their fiduciary duty and integrating these material risks into their core analyses and systems. In 2023, we will continue to confront these challenges as we work to assure that the solutions to the climate crisis not only protect infrastructure, supply chains, and capital markets, but will also bring about jobs, investment, energy security, savings, and economic growth across the country.

Those same economic risks and opportunities have long shaped the BICEP Network and its successful push for ambitious climate policies. They will guide us again in 2023 as we work to build the competitive, sustainable, and just clean energy economy that our future demands.

“The Inflation Reduction Act makes a historic commitment to build a new clean energy economy, powered by American innovators, American workers, and American manufacturers, that will create good-paying, union jobs and cut the pollution that is fueling the climate crisis and driving environmental injustice.”



John Podesta, President Biden’s Senior Advisor for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation



CLEAN POWER

“Business can help lead the way and innovate new climate solutions, but we cannot achieve the scale of emission reductions the world needs, nor can we secure a resilient energy future, without government support and leadership.”



Suzanne DiBianca, EVP and Chief Impact Officer, Salesforce

The Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act have already catalyzed economic momentum and widespread investor interest in clean energy development to reduce climate pollution from the power sector. Their implementation is now critical to success. In addition to accelerating the deployment of renewable power, the string of recent federal legislative victories also includes substantial investment in battery storage to fully capture its potential, as well as clean energy innovation to further decarbonize the grid. We must remain engaged to ensure these measures reach their maximum promise, while also working at the federal regulatory level to further reduce emissions and provide businesses and investors with certainty on the rules of the road.

We will also continue our work in the states to adopt and meet aggressive 100% clean electricity standards, leverage federal investments to achieve those targets, and build prosperous clean energy industries across the country. In addition to their own individual actions, states must also cooperate through regional initiatives to meet our clean power goals. Along the coasts, we will continue to support the development of the offshore wind industry. In the East, we’ll work to grow and further the ambition of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to reduce climate pollution from power plants. And in the West, we will support the development of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) to better deliver clean power across state lines.

Because electric power is key to a cleaner economy, our needs go beyond just cleaning up the electricity generation of today. Delivering clean power in enough abundance to electrify fossil fuel-dominated sectors like transportation, buildings, and industry will require new transmission lines and other infrastructure. As Congress continues to explore energy policy, including through potential bipartisan permitting reform legislation, we must work to accelerate the deployment of clean power to all energy consumers, while ensuring this legislation places no further environmental burdens on communities that have already suffered the most from climate and air pollution.



“I’m proud that the MI Healthy Climate Plan has so many supporters in the business community. We know that protecting our climate is good for the planet and good for our clean energy economy.”



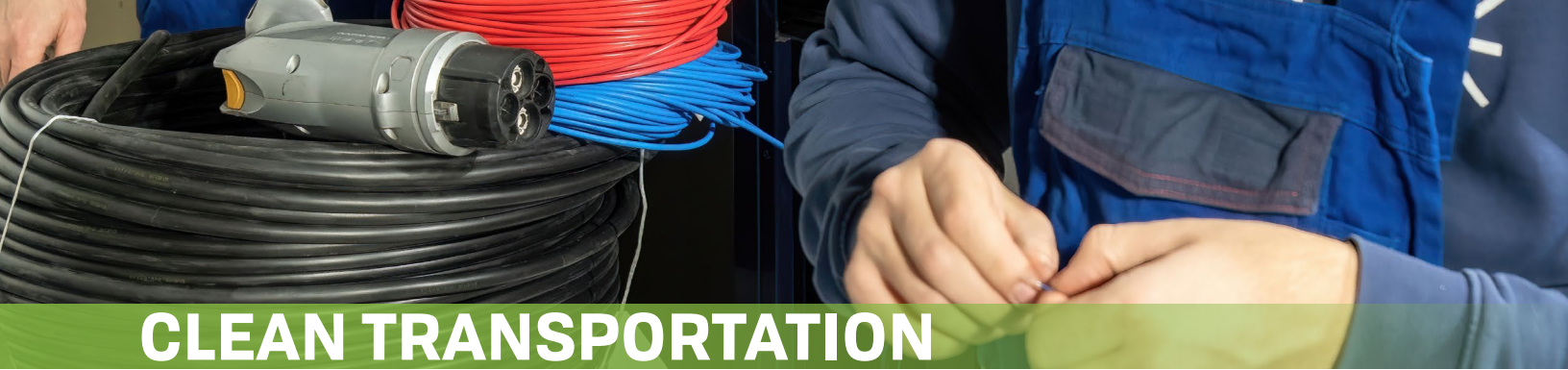
Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

Clean Power Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support clean energy priorities during Inflation Reduction Act implementation. ● Support the swift rollout of strong EPA clean power rules. ● Support clean energy and environmental justice goals during Congressional negotiations on permitting reform and transmission. ● Support state leveraging of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act funding to accelerate clean energy and energy efficiency programs.
Western Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the development of a well-designed regional organized wholesale electricity market — particularly a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington — that helps customers lower energy costs, achieve greater operational reliability, and meet sustainability and climate goals; and ensures the benefits generated from any market structure are available to all customers in participating states.
Arizona 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the establishment of a state energy office. ● Defend against utility attempts to expand fossil fuel use.
Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support solutions for siting issues with solar in communities and on agricultural land. ● Support the Residential and Commercial Development legislation designed to maximize solar collection. ● Support implementation of Governor Wes Moore’s campaign pledge of ensuring that Maryland generates 100% clean energy by 2035.
Massachusetts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure the equitable development of the offshore wind industry with diverse supply chains and regional cooperation.
Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support legislation to set a standard of 100% clean power by 2040.
Minnesota 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support legislation to achieve 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2040.
New Hampshire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the development of offshore wind resources in the Gulf of Maine and regional cooperation in transmission and planning.
New Jersey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the adoption of a 100% clean electricity standard. ● Support execution and legislative codification of offshore wind goals.
North Carolina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support measures to deploy renewable energy and energy efficiency in the final North Carolina Carbon Plan. ● Support energy choice and additional customer clean energy purchasing options, including Purchase Power Agreements (PPAs), and Commercial Property Accessed Clean Energy (C-PACE). ● Support consideration of electricity market and utility reform, including establishment of an RTO and performance-based ratemaking (PBR).

<p>Pennsylvania</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the Shapiro administration's implementation of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and defend against any attempted rollbacks. ● Support development of an increased clean energy standard.
<p>Virginia</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defend against executive branch efforts to end participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). ● Defend against efforts to weaken or repeal the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA). ● Support utility reform efforts, including greater oversight by the State Corporate Commission and reform of utility Rate Adjustment Clauses (RACS). ● Support community solar and solar siting benefits to extend solar farms and solar permitting.





CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

“To achieve our vision for a clean transportation future, we need smart policies to help accelerate the availability of and access to zero-emission vehicles of all types and size.”



Michael Hughes, U.S. Public Affairs Lead, IKEA USA

Between the commitments of corporate America, the wave of investment from the auto industry, the incentives in new federal and state legislation, and the growing preferences of consumers, electric vehicles have clearly become the way of the future. From passenger cars to semi-trucks, the Inflation Reduction Act provides crucial but complicated incentives to accelerate the shift toward clean vehicles in the U.S., bolster the domestic auto and trucking industries, and drive investment toward charging infrastructure and battery material mining and processing. Businesses have emerged as highly credible advocates for EV adoption as they work to make their operations and supply chains cleaner and more cost-effective, and BICEP Network members must continue to provide their input to ensure these complex rules are as effective as possible.

States will play a key role in harnessing the EV momentum with rules that help quickly grow the market for electric vehicles and fleets. California’s Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks rules, which require increasing electric vehicle sales over time and have already been adopted in several additional states, represent a common-sense response to the signals of the market that also helps provide a guidepost to the auto and truck industries. We will continue to support their adoption across the country — including by calling on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide necessary federal approvals for the clean trucks rule and other policies to limit pollution from heavy-duty vehicles. Additional complementary policies should require companies to electrify their fleets over time, starting with California’s ongoing development and consideration of the Advanced Clean Fleets rule.

Meanwhile, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is providing states with large influxes of transportation funding, and state leaders will dictate how it is all spent. It is incumbent on those of us who championed these investments at the federal level to now remain active at the state level and ensure they are deployed in ways that best serve our climate, economic, and equity goals — including through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure charging program and public transit investments. Especially in congested metro areas where traffic represents a major challenge for employees, customers, and suppliers, companies can be powerful champions for public transit as a clean alternative to driving that provides better access to all members of their communities.

The Corporate Electric Vehicle Alliance is a collaborative group of corporate fleet operators, led and organized by Ceres, that are focused on accelerating the U.S. transition to electric vehicles for both passenger and commercial models. Although the Corporate Electric Vehicle Alliance is not solely focused on policy and operates outside the Ceres BICEP Network, its members support key policy efforts to reduce the cost of electric vehicles, expand the availability of and access to critical electric vehicle models, and build out the necessary infrastructure to support this transition. Contact Ceres Director of Clean Vehicles Sara Forni (forni@ceres.org) for more information..

Clean Transportation Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the effective implementation of the clean transportation provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act. ● Support the adoption and swift rollout of strong EPA vehicle emissions and efficiency rules.
Arizona 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support state leveraging of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act funding to accelerate utility and state agency plans for electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure expansion.
California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the development and adoption of an ambitious Advanced Clean Fleets rule.
Colorado 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the adoption of Advanced Clean Trucks and Advanced Clean Cars II rules.
Illinois 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support adoption of the Advanced Clean Trucks rule through executive action or legislation.
Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support adoption of the Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks rules through executive action or legislation. ● Support efforts to achieve Governor Wes Moore’s campaign pledge to incentivize electric vehicles.
Massachusetts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the adoption of the Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Fleets rules. ● Support the electrification of transit systems in the Commonwealth.
Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support state budget proposal to accelerate electric vehicle adoption and charging infrastructure build-out, including by leveraging Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act funds. ● Consider the business case and support for a Clean Fuels Standard to accelerate the transition to zero-emission vehicles.
New Jersey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the adoption of Advanced Clean Cars II rule. ● Support the adoption of the Heavy-Duty Omnibus rule.
Nevada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support policies to meet the goals of the previously adopted Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding.
North Carolina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support implementation of an ambitious Clean Transportation Plan and executive directives to increase electric vehicle adoption. ● Support the rulemaking process to adopt the Advanced Clean Trucks rule.
Pennsylvania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the adoption of Advanced Clean Trucks and Advanced Clean Cars II rules.
Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defend against attempts to repeal Advanced Clean Cars rule.



CLEAN BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRY

“Scaling the deployment of sustainable technologies enables us to prepare people for the jobs of tomorrow... Together, we will demonstrate that investments in decarbonization not only protect our environment, but bolster productivity and generate strong business results. Our collective action will shape the next century of American leadership and growth.”

Barbara Humpton, U.S. CEO, Siemens



Successfully decarbonizing building operations across the economy will require widespread deployment of technology that is still in development, significant retrofitting of existing buildings, and replacement of equipment that can last decades. None of that will be quick or easy, so we must rapidly accelerate these efforts in order to meet our 2030 and 2050 goals. This is another area where the proper implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act — which includes substantial incentives in energy efficiency, clean building operations, and clean industrial processes — will be key. As these investments take hold to make materials and technologies more affordable and reliable, state and municipal building codes will come into greater focus as an important area for climate action.








We support purchasing rules that require federal and state government contractors to use clean materials and processes, because it provides an opportunity to leverage immense buying power toward progress in these areas.

States must establish more pathways for low-income residents, renters, and marginalized communities to take advantage of efficiency and decarbonization programs that they may struggle to access or learn about. We will not meet our climate goals by focusing merely on homeowners and large business facilities, and it is in the interest of all energy consumers to advocate for wider adoption of efficiency programs because slashing waste in as many buildings and homes as possible will increase grid reliability and reduce pollution.



The Energy Optimization Working Group now operates within the Ceres BICEP Network. Its goal is to build and support business engagement on state and federal energy optimization policies, such as those that support energy efficiency, demand response, and building electrification. Contact Mel Mackin (mackin@ceres.org) for more information.

Clean Buildings and Industry Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support guidance that maximizes the benefits of industrial incentives and investments from the Inflation Reduction Act. ● Support investments in the research and development and deployment of technologies that advance industrial decarbonization. ● Support implementation of the Steel Upgrading Partnerships and Emission Reductions (SUPER) Act to bolster the development of clean steel breakthrough technologies. ● Promote bipartisan legislation to further incentivize energy efficiency in industrial, commercial, and residential settings. ● Support Federal Buy Clean Initiative and supporting policies. ● Support Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's Federal Supplier Climate Risks and Resilience Rule.
Arizona 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defend the ability to advance energy efficiency and building code investments.
Colorado 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support Colorado's rulemaking to develop and adopt Building Performance Standards in 2023.
Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the Low-income Energy Efficiency Bill. ● Support legislation to ensure the implementation of EmPower and ensure the Energy Efficiency Program is distributed effectively and prioritizes greenhouse gas emissions reductions. ● Support the development of strong Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) by participating in the Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force.
Massachusetts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the establishment of building performance standards.
Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build coalition of support for extending and expanding the Energy Waste Reduction Standard (EWRS) through legislation.
North Carolina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote building decarbonization as a key component to achieving state emissions reductions and energy conservation goals.
Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defend the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) as established by the Virginia Clean Economy Act. ● Defend the use of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds for Virginia's Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program.



AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

“Agriculture has the potential to be an important part of the solution to climate change. But to get there, farmers are going to need technical assistance, financial support, and the right risk management tools.”




Britt Lundgren, Senior Director of Sustainability, Stonyfield Farm

The climate crisis presents a major risk to our food and agricultural systems — and by extension to U.S. public health and rural prosperity. But we know that investments in this sector can play a substantial role in fighting the crisis, all while delivering healthy soil, biodiversity, clean water, and more sustainable jobs and economic opportunity to farmers and their communities.

Agricultural solutions to the climate crisis are now a focal point for the BICEP Network, as the 2023 Farm Bill will likely be the greatest federal legislative opportunity we have this year to make progress on climate. The Ceres Climate Smart Agriculture and Healthy Soils Working Group has already begun meeting with lawmakers from both parties to champion our priorities for a more sustainable and equitable farming system and agricultural supply chain, and we will continue pushing for these measures until the bill is finalized.

The Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act also provide significant new funding for agriculture, conservation, and forestry programs, and we will be hard at work implementing these measures in 2023. The potential of forests to mitigate the effects of climate change by capturing carbon and maintaining biodiversity are of growing interest in corporate America. We will work this year to develop a policy framework that verifiably achieves these goals and earns the support of leading businesses.

Agriculture and Forestry Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrate climate smart agriculture and environmental justice into the 2023 Farm Bill. ● Implement and defend the Inflation Reduction Act’s \$20 billion investment in conservation spending. ● Work with key corporate leaders who have significant exposure to agricultural import markets to find consensus on policy mechanisms to combat global deforestation.

The Climate Smart Agriculture and Healthy Soils Working Group is primarily made up of food and clothing companies from the Ceres BICEP Network that are leading the way on climate smart agriculture and pushing for policy solutions to tackle emissions from the agriculture sector, improve crop resilience, and protect water, soil health, and biodiversity. Contact Cindy Clark (cclark@ceres.org) for more information.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

“Climate change is a public health crisis, and communities of color and low-income populations shoulder a disproportionate burden of both. We have a responsibility to lead in modelling solutions to address our environmental and equity challenges.”



Dr. Lindsey Butler, Director of Climate and Health Resilience, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

After decades of struggle and leadership by communities of color, political and legislative momentum in 2023 will continue to build toward environmental and climate justice. We will focus on empowerment for environmentally overburdened communities in an economy investing in renewable energy, fossil fuel pollution reduction, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.










The Biden administration’s Justice40 initiative pledges 40% of federal climate action benefits to environmental justice communities. And the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act each feature significant investments in environmental and climate justice for historically marginalized and environmentally overburdened communities of color. This policy framework supports and reflects the commitment of communities of color to ensuring a healthy environment, addressing climate change, and being part of the clean energy transition.





The next steps are clear, if not easy. They do not involve lofty language but require concrete efforts toward implementation. Public policy and private sector expertise and investment must work together to build a clean, decarbonized economy that genuinely includes all communities — including rural communities and those with strong energy industry footprints — to redress the grim reality of past and present pollution burdens, public health disparities, redlining, and economic disinvestment.

In 2023, the Ceres BICEP Network will focus on granular legislative and regulatory efforts at the state and federal levels to create pathways for protecting and empowering communities of color and low-income communities in a decarbonized economy. Among our highest priorities will be working with environmental justice groups, companies, investors, and policymakers to support the effective implementation of environmental justice programs within the Inflation Reduction Act. We will also closely engage the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect public health with the strongest possible standards addressing air and water pollution. And as Congress considers reforms to speed energy permitting, we must act to balance the demand for the expansion of renewable energy and transportation electrification with the need for environmental justice and a just transition for workers and communities.

The Environmental and Climate Justice Working Group (ECJ) was founded as a learning community within the BICEP Network to provide education about the disparities in environmental and climate change burdens faced by low- and moderate-income communities and communities of color, in line with the struggle for racial and economic justice. In 2023, the ECJ will convene Ceres experts, corporate partners, and environmental justice thinkers to build thought leadership and practical tools oriented toward ensuring environmental and climate justice. Contact Richard Juang (rjuang@ceres.org) or Amna Khan (akhan@ceres.org) for more information.

Environmental and Climate Justice Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support environmental justice priorities during Inflation Reduction Act implementation. ● Ensure the Inflation Reduction Act's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund maximizes benefits for environmental justice communities. ● Defend environmental justice priorities during Congressional negotiations on permitting reform, transmission, and critical minerals mining. ● Support the swift rollout of strong and equitable EPA rules to advance environmental justice priorities. ● Amplify environmental justice positions in public comment on the EPA's Supplemental Methane Rule. ● Support policies to improve accessibility of electric vehicle charging infrastructure to financially marginalized households. ● Support implementation of federal programs and state-federal cooperative programs to provide clean energy and electric-vehicle-related workforce development. ● Advocate for EPA staffing to fulfill the agency's expanded role under the Inflation Reduction Act.
Northeast Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support energy justice components of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program review. ● Support the swift rollout of strong and equitable EPA standards to advance environmental justice priorities and tackle particulate matter, coal ash, mercury, and other air and water pollutants. ● Improve transparency and environmental justice community engagement in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) regional modeling process and program review.
Western Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incorporate economic equity requirements in the development of a Western Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington..
Arizona 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support equity considerations and the federal Justice40 Initiative in implementation of state programs.
California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure timely and complete implementation of Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order on Racial Equity. ● Advocate for the ambitious and equitable implementation of the final 2022 California Air Resources Board (CARB) Climate Change Scoping Plan.
Illinois 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build business support for environmental justice benefits of Advanced Clean Trucks rule adoption.
Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support Governor Wes Moore's priority of initiatives to ensure equitable access to electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in low-income communities and communities of color.
Massachusetts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support air quality monitoring legislation and regulations. ● Explore gubernatorial and legislative interest in market mechanisms to reduce transportation emissions. ● Support expanded energy efficiency and building decarbonization initiatives for moderate and low-income households.
Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support expanded building decarbonization programs for moderate and low-income households.

<p>Minnesota</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support labor, energy equity, and environmental justice provisions in the 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2040 bill.
<p>New Jersey</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support labor, energy equity, and environmental justice components of the clean energy jobs campaign.
<p>North Carolina</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitor the Workgroup for the Clean Energy and Workforce Diversity Commission's DEI report to the Climate Council.
<p>Virginia</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support Toward Equitable Electric Mobility (TEEM) community of practice to ensure the advancement of racial equity goals in electric mobility.





SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

“Capital markets need comprehensive, decision-useful data from all enterprises facing material climate risks and opportunities.”



Jeff Eckel, Chairman and CEO, Hannon Armstrong


Institutional investors base their decisions on a sound understanding of material risk. They rightly recognize the effects of the climate crisis as a central threat to the stability and growth of the economy, and their ability to deliver sustainable returns. However, some state and federal policymakers are now adopting and supporting policies to discourage and punish investors, asset managers, and banks that consider the impacts of climate change in their decision making.



As these policy proposals arise in the states and in Congress, it is essential that investors and companies alike speak out to emphasize the smart decision making and risk management practices that have caused them to take climate action. Policymakers must be confronted with the simple truth at the heart of the matter: climate change is a material financial risk to supply chains, infrastructure, capital markets, and the economy, and acting to understand and prevent it is both a business imperative and a business opportunity.

Because of these material impacts, the Ceres BICEP Network believes companies should be required to provide investors with standardized information about their own climate risks, climate impacts, and climate transition plans — just as they must disclose other financial concerns. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is expected to finalize its climate disclosure rule this year, and we will continue to provide input to shape it and support its roll-out and implementation.

The Inflation Reduction Act includes new lending authority for clean energy innovation, a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to draw additional private capital to clean energy projects, and measures to better track companies’ climate commitments and progress — all of which will benefit from companies’ input. We also expect to engage this year in efforts to better define the environmental, social, and governance factors that increasingly guide investors’ decisions, elevate climate concerns within banking regulations, and ensure state and municipal finances are operating sustainably.

Sustainable Finance Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<p>Federal</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support roll-out of the SEC’s Climate Disclosure Rule. ● Shape EPA’s development of GHG Corporate Reporting as called for in the Inflation Reduction Act, as well as other sustainable finance measures in the law. ● Defend against any proposed legislation or legislative efforts to restrict consideration of climate-related and other sustainability risks and opportunities. ● Support the Federal Reserve’s pilot climate scenario analysis program for the six largest U.S. banks. ● Support the adoption of the SEC’s Fund Naming Rule that would provide investors with stronger ESG disclosure.

<p>Multi-State</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Defend against proposed legislation or regulation restricting consideration of climate-related and other sustainability risks and opportunities in states such as Arizona, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.
<p>California</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support passage of comprehensive climate risk and climate emissions disclosure legislation.
<p>Massachusetts</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish a Green Bank to leverage public and private dollars for decarbonization and resilience projects.



EMISSIONS REDUCTION STRATEGIES

“Bold climate leadership is needed across the public and private sector to tackle the accelerating climate crisis. While I am proud of the progress our company has made on climate action, it is going to take ambitious government action to reduce carbon emissions in the U.S. and across the globe.”



Bracken Darrell, President and Chief Executive Officer, Logitech





The U.S. has set a national goal to reduce climate pollution at least 50% compared to 2005 levels by 2030. Several states have set even more ambitious targets. The Inflation Reduction Act, meanwhile, is projected to get the U.S. to a 40% drop by 2030. It’s a number to celebrate, but it also means that between the private sector, the states, and other federal actions, there is still a lot of work to do.

The midterm elections ushered in exciting opportunities for states to advance their emission reduction plans — especially in the Midwest, where we will work with Minnesota and Michigan lawmakers to pass legislation to further codify their governors’ ambitious climate and clean energy goals. States that have already passed strong climate laws, now, must get to work on passing and implementing additional legislation and regulations to meet legally mandated targets by their quickly approaching deadlines.

The federal government is positioned to begin tackling methane, one of the most potent warming pollutants. In addition to pending methane regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Inflation Reduction Act includes both funding to reduce methane emissions and a fee on its pollution — marking the federal government’s first-ever greenhouse gas pricing system. Together, these policies give the U.S. a holistic mix of investment, regulatory, and market-based solutions to reduce this greenhouse gas’s dangerous effects on the climate, and we will work with companies to ensure these policies go into place swiftly, effectively, and fairly.

Further EPA rules to reduce carbon pollution from new and existing power plants will be critical to meeting the nation’s emissions targets, and we will support stronger standards this year. In Congress, future federal legislative efforts could focus on leveraging the U.S. economy to drive global emissions reductions by placing a border adjustment on carbon-intensive foreign-made products. In a divided government, this climate-focused trade policy could have bipartisan appeal because it would bolster U.S. manufacturing and competitiveness in recognition of the fact that U.S. industries are often cleaner than foreign competitors — and will become more so as the Inflation Reduction Act takes hold.

Emissions Reduction Strategies Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support bipartisan efforts to develop a carbon border adjustment mechanism to promote clean industry in the U.S. and abroad and engage allies on their efforts. ● Support the roll-out of ambitious EPA oil and gas sector methane emission rules, as well as new and existing power plant standards. ● Support robust implementation of the Methane Emissions Reduction Program included in the Inflation Reduction Act.
Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the implementation of the Climate Solutions Now Act by driving support for policies that set the state on a path to net zero emissions by 2045.
Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support implementation of Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s MI Healthy Climate Plan recommendations through legislative and executive action to align with the state’s net-zero economy by 2050 ambition.
North Carolina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the implementation of HB 951 through the North Carolina Carbon Plan and the Clean Transportation Plan, to achieve a 70% reduction in emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

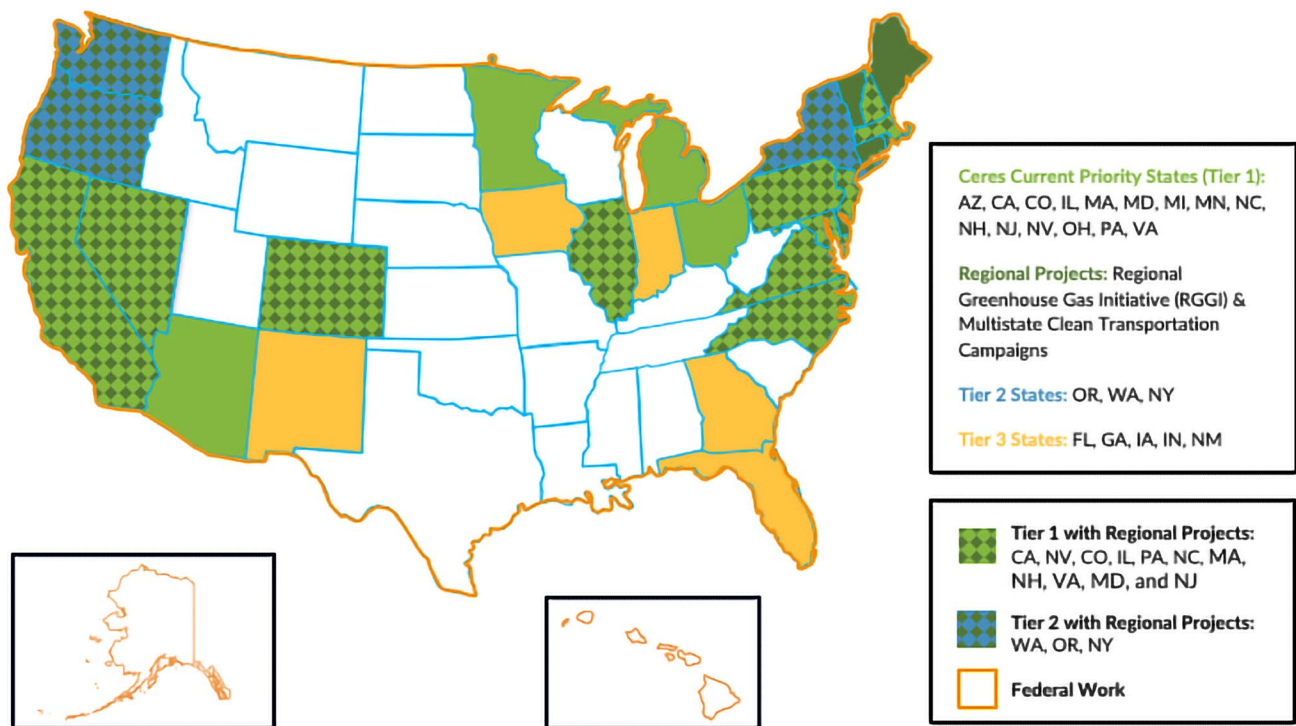




RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS

Where We Work

The Ceres BICEP Network is active in 20+ states and works on regional projects such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and others.



BICEP Network in Numbers (as of January 2023):

 **83**
Total Members

 **\$1.24 Trillion**
Total Revenue

 **3.9 Million**
Total Employees Worldwide

Key Legislative Dates

Federal

[Senate Calendar](#)

[House Calendar](#)

State

[List of State Legislative Calendars](#)

Congratulations to Our 2022 BICEP Award Winners

BICEP Most Valuable Player Award

Salesforce, Inc.

BICEP Internal Champion Award

Dana Villeneuve, Policy Advocacy, Government Affairs, and Sustainability, New Belgium Brewing

BICEP Federal Policy Champion

PayPal

BICEP State Policy Champion

IKEA

Most Valuable Partner

We Mean Business Policy Team

BICEP Emerging Leader Award

Lio Barrera, Director of Government and Public Affairs, Holcim

BICEP Transportation Advocate of the Year

Megan Villarreal, Manager of Policy and Public Affairs, Nestlé

BICEP Climate Smart Agriculture Groundbreaker

Britt Lundgren, Senior Director of Sustainability and Government Affairs, Stonyfield

BICEP CEO Climate Champion

Barbara Humpton, President and CEO, Siemens

BICEP Lifetime Achievement Award

Brad Figel, Senior Counsel, Mars

Senate Climate Champion

U.S. Senator Tina Smith of Minnesota

Ryan Martel Capitol Hill Climb Award

Daniel Dudis, Senior Counsel, Office of U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

BICEP Crown

Hugh Welsh, General Counsel, Secretary, and President, DSM North America

Read more about the BICEP Award winners [here](#).

Ceres Policy Team Staff Contacts

Anne Kelly, kelly@ceres.org (Head of the Ceres BICEP Network and Policy team)

Amna Khan, khan@ceres.org (Ceres BICEP Network Membership and Partnerships)

Laura Miller, lmiller@ceres.org (Ceres BICEP Network Membership and Partnerships)

Richard Juang, rjuang@ceres.org (Environmental and Climate Justice Policy)

Julie Brown, jbrown@ceres.org (Policy Team Support)

Federal Policy

Zach Friedman, zfriedman@ceres.org (Head of the Federal Policy Team)

Kai Peterson, kpeterson@ceres.org (Clean Industry, Building Decarbonization, and Sustainable Investing Policies)

Cindy Clark, cclark@ceres.org (Climate Smart Agriculture Policy)

Meredith Epstein, mepstein@ceres.org (Clean Power and Environmental Justice Policies)

Levi Kamolnick, lkamolnick@ceres.org (Clean Transportation and Deforestation Policies)

Clausell Stokes, cstokes@ceres.org (Methane, Oil and Gas, International, and Climate Smart Agriculture Policies)

Daniella Angulo, dangulo@ceres.org (Federal Policy Support)

State Policy

Alli Gold Roberts, goldroberts@ceres.org (Head of the State Policy Team)

Geoff Crook, gcrook@ceres.org (Western State Policy)

Deana Dennis, ddennis@ceres.org (Midwest State Policy)

John Carlson, jcarlson@ceres.org (Northeast State Policy)

Sarah Sachs, ssachs@ceres.org (Pacific West State Policy)

Kelly Trombley, ktrombley@ceres.org (Intermountain-West State Policy)

Sebbi Wu, swu@ceres.org (Mid-Atlantic State Policy)

Dave Robba, drobba@ceres.org (State Transportation Policy)

Mel Mackin, mackin@ceres.org (Research and Multi-State Policy)

Communications

Helen Booth-Tobin, booth-tobin@ceres.org (Strategic Communications)

Adam Vaccaro, avaccaro@ceres.org (Content Development)

Ceres Policy Network Members (BICEP)





Lbrands

logitech

L'ORÉAL
USA

LEVI STRAUSS & CO.

LinkedIn

LUTRON



MARS

Mass General Brigham



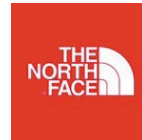
Microsoft

NAESCO
National Association of Energy Service Companies



Nestlé
Good Food, Good Life

NETFLIX



NortonLifeLock

OUTDOOR
INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION



patagonia

PayPal



Sealed

seventh
generation

SIEMENS



SIA
Snowsports
Industries
America

SOLECTRAC
by Ideanomics



TIFFANY & CO.

Timberland



TRANE



VFC CORPORATION

VAIL RESORTS
EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

workday

