

BICEP NETWORK 2024 POLICY OUTLOOK





CERES BICEP NETWORK 2024 POLICY OUTLOOK BUSINESS FOR INNOVATIVE CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY

Table of Contents

Letter from Anne Kelly.....	3
Introduction	4-6
1. Clean Power	7-8
2. Clean Transportation.....	9 -11
3. Clean Buildings and Industry	12-13
4. Responsible Business & Investment.....	14-15
5. Climate and Environmental Justice	16-17
6. Climate-Smart Agriculture & Forestry	18-19
7. Emission Reduction Strategies	20
Resources for Members	21-26

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).

A MESSAGE FROM ANNE L. KELLY

Dear Friends:

With each passing year, the effects of the climate crisis grow more urgent, more catastrophic, more real. Worsening storms, months of unbearable heat, and the dual extremes of drought and flooding keep hitting harder and closer to home, with dire consequences for human wellbeing, public health, and our economy. Tragically, the worst impacts both here at home and across the globe fall upon the most vulnerable populations who are the least responsible for our warming world.

Yet it is precisely at this challenging moment that we must not lose sight of another undeniable reality:

We are winning.

Look out across the country, and you'll see the groundswell of investment in clean energy solutions that has rapidly taken shape to confront the threat of a dangerously overheating planet. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the nation's largest-ever climate and clean energy investment, has spurred a renaissance in American manufacturing, innovation, and global leadership that promises to slash climate pollution.

From Georgia to Michigan, from Arizona to West Virginia, from Nevada to Pennsylvania — in red, blue, and purple states alike — the United States has become a flourishing hub of clean energy investment.

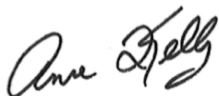
As members of the Ceres BICEP Network, who have long recognized both the dire risks of climate change and the business imperative of confronting it, you can take credit for the positive momentum afoot. Drawing from industries across the economy, with a powerful collective voice that carries influence across the political spectrum, you have been vital champions for the IRA, for the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, and for the strong state climate policies that are setting the standard across the country. In California, for example, we just saw the passage of two historic climate disclosure laws that together marked a massive leap forward for corporate transparency.

But our work is far from over.

We need you to stay in the game to work for smarter rules, and more efficient and far-reaching climate policies. The BICEP Network is better equipped than ever to secure serious wins, having increased our membership in the last year to 88 leading companies. We warmly welcome our newest members: Alterra Mountain Company, A.O. Smith Corp., Daikin, Eastern Bank, Honeywell, Keurig Dr Pepper, Lucid Motors, Palo Alto Networks, TRC, and Uplight.

To our members new and old, we are proud to present the 2024 Policy Outlook. It is your guide to the year ahead, highlighting the policies we must enact, implement, build upon, and defend to meet our climate, economic, and environmental justice goals. The Outlook is also a chance to reflect on our success. Throughout these pages, we highlight the enormous returns we are seeing on recent federal investments, as well as the remarkable state and federal policies that you have championed in recent years. We hope this Outlook makes you proud, inspired, and determined to do even more in 2024.

Thank you, as always, for your steadfast leadership.



Anne L. Kelly
Vice President of Government Relations, Ceres



INTRODUCTION

This is a critical moment in America’s clean energy transition. Just as federal and state policy have at last unlocked a groundswell of investment and innovation to fight climate change and power our economy, we also face an intensifying effort to undo this progress.

The companies in the Ceres BICEP Network have been instrumental in securing vital policy victories underpinning a surge in climate action in recent years. Your leadership, advocacy, and collaboration are built upon a keen recognition that strong public policy to fight climate change is not only necessary to reduce the massive risks it poses to your businesses, but that it also presents an enormous opportunity to build a clean energy economy that benefits the entire nation.

In 2024, BICEP Network companies will be called upon again — not just to push for new bold policies to protect our climate and support our economy. The current policy environment also requires a strong defense of the progress we have already made. We must be vigilant against growing efforts to reverse the historic investments in the clean energy transition — whether they take the form of repealing crucial public policies or interfering with the private sector’s clear financial interest in addressing climate change.

That’s why the 2024 Policy Outlook showcases the opportunities for strong corporate climate advocacy across the country and the economy, while also highlighting an impressive array of recent policy victories — which we must fight to preserve in 2024 and beyond. This is not the time to lose sight of the climate and sustainability risks that threaten corporate performance and the entire economy. Instead, the public and private sectors must redouble our shared effort to address those risks by maximizing the return on the clean energy boom and its investments in America.

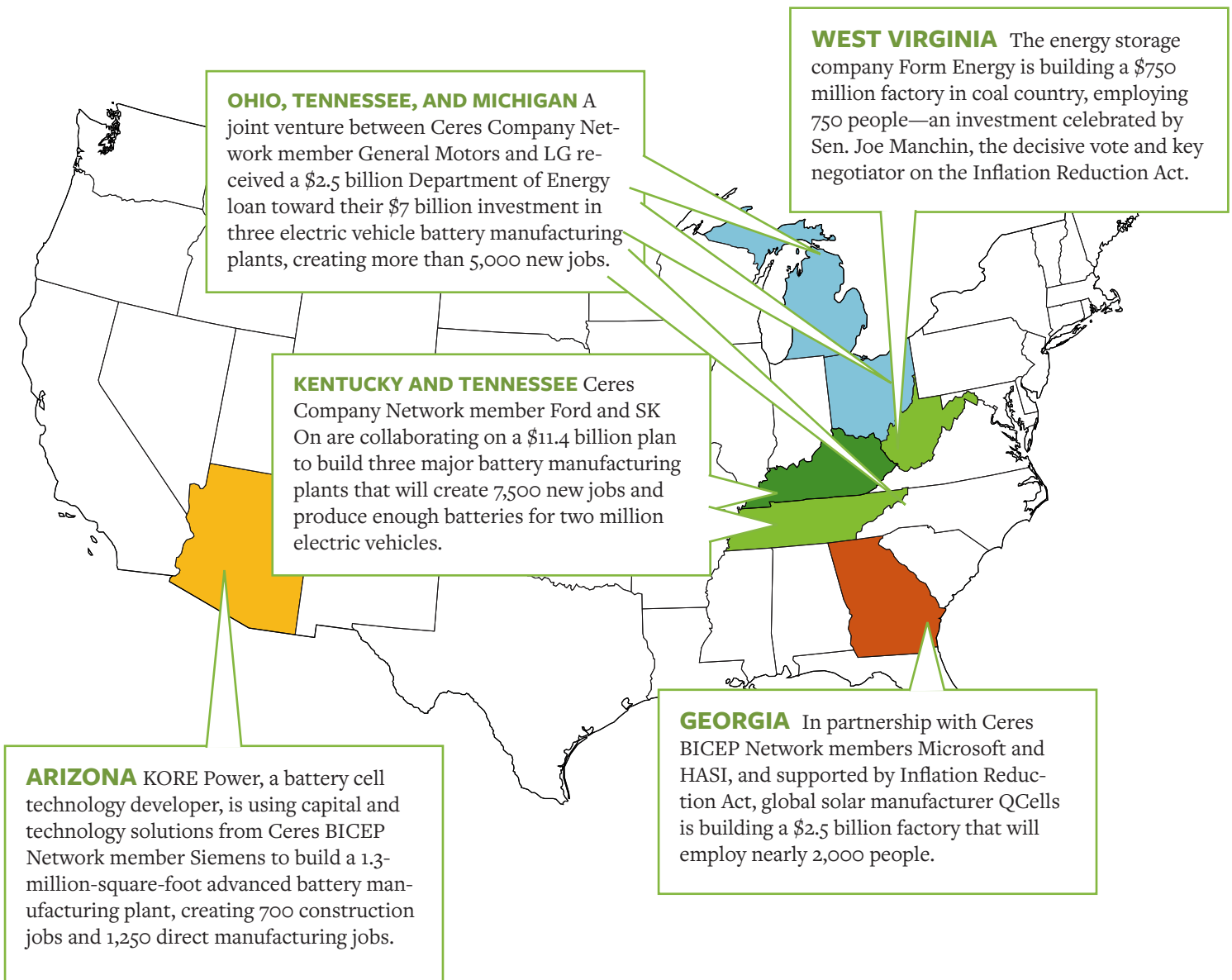


INVESTING IN AMERICA

The BICEP Network has been at the center of many major policy wins in recent years, including the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, as well as increasingly ambitious legislation at the state level. Now we're starting to see their impact, and it is massive — re-energizing the U.S.'s approach to climate change, revitalizing American manufacturing, and repositioning the nation to lead the clean energy transition.

Since mid-2022, global corporations, iconic American brands, ambitious startups, and others have collectively announced new clean energy manufacturing projects in the U.S. worth more than \$99 billion. The unprecedented influx of investment represents more than 130 new factories and will create some 80,000 jobs to build solar panels, electric vehicles, batteries, wind turbines, and other technology that will cut climate pollution, reduce utility costs, and increase energy security. About twice that level of investment has been committed to deploying this technology across the country.

Here's just a small sample of major projects from America's clean energy boom.



“These transformational investments in infrastructure and industry are powerful tools to help us shape a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future.”



Barbara Humpton, CEO, Siemens USA

Showcasing a Public-Private partnership



As federal policy drives a private-sector clean energy boom, business leaders and state policymakers are each working to ensure they maximize the return on these generational investments. In November, BICEP Network member Honeywell hosted Powering Arizona: Maximizing Historic Federal Investment, a roundtable event bringing major employers and state officials together to discuss their shared commitment to the clean energy future. Stay tuned for similar events in other states in 2024, and thanks to Honeywell for having us and fellow BICEP Network members at the Advanced Air Mobility Lab in Phoenix.



CLEAN POWER

“We are witnessing an unprecedented acceleration of the energy transition that is laying the foundation for the deployment of massive amounts of affordable, clean, and reliable power over the next decade-plus.”



Susan Nickey, EVP and Chief Client Officer, HASI

From solar and wind power to innovative new energy sources, federal investments from the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act are pouring into clean electricity solutions. States have set the pace for their adoption with ambitious clean electricity standards and promises to reach 100% clean power as soon as 2040. And multistate programs like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative continue to reduce power-sector emissions while bolstering investments that benefit the climate and local communities. Yet the need for greater ambition and an accelerated buildout of clean power sources is clear: not only must we replace the polluting electricity sources of the present, but we must build enough clean power to meet the needs of other climate solutions like electric vehicles and electric appliances.










In 2024, the Ceres BICEP Network will support state and federal efforts that take full advantage of the nation’s swelling public and private clean energy investments. Businesses will be especially crucial advocates for policies that responsibly reform permitting processes to accelerate the buildout of clean electricity resources and transmission to connect to the grid. We must also find policy solutions to confront the temporary economic challenges facing many key clean energy projects, and to develop the workforce that will build the energy system of the future.

POLICY SHOWCASE

100% Clean Electricity in the Midwest

In the closing days of the 2024 legislative session, Michigan lawmakers finalized one of the nation’s most ambitious clean electricity standards, committing to a carbon-free grid by 2040. Coming just months after nearby Minnesota set a similarly ambitious standard, the [legislation was supported](#) by a broad cross-section of the Michigan business community. More than a dozen businesses operating in the state urged the legislature to adopt the standard, emphasizing its benefits for job creation and utility cost reduction, and its potential to fully leverage the Inflation Reduction Act to attract private investment.

Clean Power Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the rollout of strong EPA rules for new and existing power plants. ● Support clean energy and environmental justice goals during any Congressional negotiations on permitting reform and transmission.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support an improved resource planning process for electric and gas utilities in Arizona and Nevada.
Southeast Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pursue opportunities for electricity market reform, including support for participation in a regional transmission organization (RTO) in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.
Western Region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the establishment of a well-designed regional organized wholesale market — particularly a regional transmission organization (RTO) in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the implementation of 2023 clean energy legislation, including the state's new 100% clean energy standard, energy waste reduction programs, worker protection and transition programs, MSPC climate and equity reforms, and a streamlined permitting process.
Minnesota 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support implementation of the recently passed 100% clean electricity standard by 2040. ● Support efforts to responsibly reform clean energy permitting processes.
New Jersey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support legislation to establish a 100% clean electricity standard as soon as possible.
Pennsylvania 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support passage of a clean electricity standard and increasing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard to 30% by 2030.
Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support efforts to establish retail choice in the electricity market. ● Maintain and strengthen the Virginia Clean Economy Act, including by updating the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS).



CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

“Placing strong standards across the U.S. transportation sector is a priority for our industry, to protect the future of our businesses, our local winter tourism-based economies, and the healthy mountain environments that we all depend on.”



Chris Steinkamp, Head of Advocacy, Snowsports Industries of America

Between significant advances in public policy and private-sector ambition, there is little doubt that the future of the nation’s roadways is electric — to the benefit of both the climate and businesses’ bottom lines. As this transition accelerates, it is essential that policymakers at both the state and federal levels focus on building out the clean transportation infrastructure to support it, including charging stations and the grid upgrades to facilitate them. The BICEP Network will play a vital role this year in advocating for state and federal policies that guide the adoption of clean vehicles and reduce tailpipe emissions, as well as smart infrastructure investments that member companies and the public will depend on.

While we must defend, build upon, and take full advantage of the policies that are supporting clean vehicle adoption, achieving our climate and economic goals will require a broader approach to transportation in 2024 and beyond. Investments in public transit benefit the climate and are also essential to defeating the traffic congestion that slows workers, customers, and supplies in cities. And additional policy action is necessary to clean up other key nodes of our transportation and economic systems, including airlines, ships, and ports, and to open further opportunities for companies to measure and cut pollution throughout their supply chains.

POLICY SHOWCASE

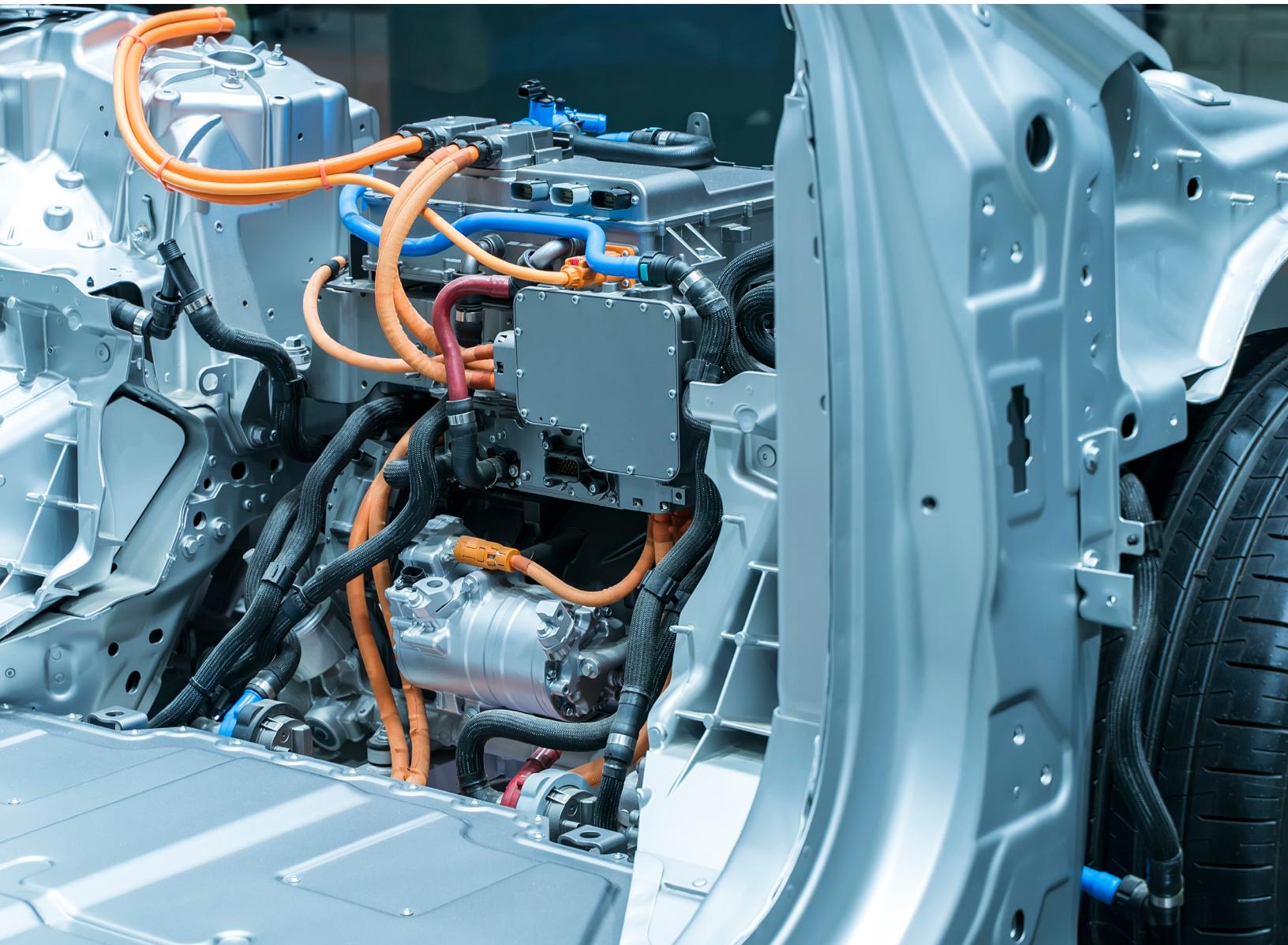
Advanced Clean Trucks Rule

Seeking to electrify their fleets to meet their climate goals while reducing fuel and maintenance costs, companies have emerged this decade as major supporters of electric vehicles and the policies to support them. That’s why **more than 85 companies** have signed a letter supporting adoption of the Advanced Clean Trucks rule in states across the country. Now adopted by 10 different states and approved by the federal government, the ACT rule sets ambitious standards for increased clean medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sales over time. It is already helping to grow electric vehicle production and sales to meet demand that has swelled as the technology’s business benefits grow more clear and new purchasing incentives from the Inflation Reduction Act take hold.

Clean Transportation Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support adoption of strong Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards for light-duty vehicles. ● Support adoption of strong multipollutant emissions standards for light-and medium-duty vehicles. ● Support “Phase 3” proposal for strong greenhouse gas emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support state deployment of federal grants in the transportation sector, including funds from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) and Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) programs.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support implementation of the Advanced Clean Cars II rule in California, Colorado, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support implementation of the Advanced Clean Trucks rule in California, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support adoption of the Advanced Clean Trucks rule in Illinois, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support adoption of the Advanced Clean Fleets rule in Washington and Oregon, and its implementation in California.
Colorado 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support policies that require utilities to plan for demand increases and necessary upgrades due to transportation electrification.
Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the adoption of legislation to require state departments proposing highway expansions to conduct an impact assessment on vehicle miles traveled and GHG emissions, and alter the project if the assessment finds an increase in either.
Michigan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support adoption of a clean fuel standard.
Nevada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support an improved resource planning process for utilities that advances transportation electrification plans.

The Corporate Electric Vehicle Alliance is a collaborative group of corporate fleet operators, led and organized by Ceres, that focuses 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 BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRY

“Clean, energy-efficient buildings can provide important cost saving benefits for households and businesses, while reducing pollution that harms communities and the climate.”



Savannah Bertrand, Policy Outreach Manager, Sealed

Representing 30% of the nation’s emissions, buildings of all sorts and purposes pose a difficult climate challenge. While new buildings must be built as efficiently and cleanly as possible, existing homes, offices, and commercial and industrial facilities must also be retrofitted to reduce their climate impacts and minimize stress on the electric grid. This is arduous work that will take years — so it must take on greater urgency. The good news? Proven technologies already make much of this possible, federal and state incentives are already making those technologies attainable, and the financial benefits of these upgrades already make them well worth it for families and businesses alike.

This is also a policy area that highlights the important collaboration between the state and federal governments, as the Inflation Reduction Act has provided states with billions of dollars to fund new efficiency programs and rebates. Businesses will now play an important role at the state level to ensure policymakers make the best use of these funds to maximize benefits to the climate, the grid, and ratepayers. The BICEP Network will also sharpen its focus in 2024 on policies that accelerate the shift to cleaner industrial processes.

POLICY SHOWCASE

Heat Pump Push

At Climate Week 2023 in September, a bipartisan group of more than two dozen of the nation’s governors pledged to collaborate on strategies and policies that reduce emissions from buildings — highlighted by a goal to quadruple heat pump adoption by 2030. The pledge was **met with strong support** from businesses organized by Ceres, including from several building solutions leaders who promised to lend their industry insight to help develop policy frameworks and best practices. Ceres is excited to work with BICEP Network members to advocate for smart clean building policies that will achieve the governors’ goals as this effort gets underway.

Clean Buildings and Industry Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Department of Energy efforts to provide guidance and support to states on the design and implementation of HOMES and HEAR rebate programs. Support the Concrete & Asphalt Innovation Act to accelerate innovation and commercialization of low-emission cement, concrete, and asphalt.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support state implementation of federal HOMES and HEAR rebate programs in targeted states across the country. Support state energy offices and public utility commissions by offering technical support and business expertise in designing their rebate programs. Build trust with consumer action agencies and advocacy groups to ensure equity is a focal point in rebate program implementation. Support state adoption of improved appliance standards such as clean heat and clean lighting initiatives. Collaborate with regional coalitions to ensure cohesive appliance standards and adoption of industry best practices.
California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the California Air Resources Board's building decarbonization efforts through participation in zero-emission appliance standard planning.
Colorado 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improved Clean Heat Plans to accelerate decarbonization of the gas sector.
Maryland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support adoption of updated EmPower legislation and ensure that updated program rules are designed with industry best practices and market expertise in mind.
Massachusetts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support adoption of the Better Buildings Act to create building performance standards and ensure new construction is built with energy efficiency in mind. Support adoption of strong clean heat and clean lighting standards to reduce fossil fuel usage and lower energy bills.
Minnesota 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Building Performance Standard legislation.
Ohio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support reinstatement of end-use customer energy efficiency/waste reduction programs.

The Energy Optimization Working Group builds and supports business engagement on state and federal energy optimization policies, such as those that advance energy efficiency, demand response, and building electrification. Contact Raagan Wilhelm (rwilhelm@ceres.org) for more information.



RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS & INVESTMENT

“Smart companies and investors have long recognized that climate change should be understood as both a massive financial risk and business opportunity.”



Stuart Landesberg, Founder and Executive Chairman, Grove Collaborative

Investors, companies, and capital market leaders have long recognized climate change and other sustainability risks as direct threats to business — impacting facilities, supply chains, infrastructure, workforces, and more. That’s why these concerns have been widely incorporated into investment strategies and business practices. Now, special interests are attempting to ban investors from even considering them, despite clear evidence that such bans will harm taxpayers, pension beneficiaries, and forward-looking companies. Last year, they passed restrictive laws in several state legislatures and won a platform in certain corners of Congress. Confronting these policies and defending the freedom to invest will be a key priority of the BICEP Network in 2024.




As we challenge the bans, we take heart in the positive momentum we’ve seen to provide more — not less — information on climate-related financial risk. Notably, California last year passed a nation-leading climate disclosure framework that will apply to large companies across the U.S., and we will be closely involved in its successful and timely implementation this year. We also look forward to the successful finalization of the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission’s long-awaited climate disclosure rule, as well as other critical policies designed to ensure markets account for the deep financial and economic risks posed by climate change.

POLICY SHOWCASE

California Leads the Nation

Two first-in-the-nation laws passed by the California legislature in 2023 will have a sweeping impact, requiring large public and private companies that do business in the state to report their emissions and their climate-related risks. Having worked for decades on improved climate disclosure standards, Ceres was proud to cosponsor this legislation to provide unprecedented insight for investors, consumers, workers, and others. As the bills moved through the legislative process, [they won the support of many leading companies and trade groups](#), including several BICEP members, who recognized that standardized, consistent, and economywide disclosure rules give businesses an opportunity to showcase their efforts to reduce climate risk and meet the expectations of investors.

Responsible Business & Investment Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oppose attempts to repeal the SEC’s proposed climate disclosure rule. ● Oppose proposals to limit business or investor consideration of climate and other sustainability risks. ● Support implementation of the Federal Acquisition and Regulatory (FAR) Council rule on greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks for federal contractors.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oppose proposals to limit responsible business and investment policies in Arizona, Georgia, Kansas, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, and elsewhere.
California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the timely implementation of the nation’s landmark climate disclosure legislation.





CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

This work is vast. But success would build a more inclusive, just, and sustainable economy and society — a future shaped by our shared opportunities rather than our risks.”



Keesa Schreane, Author, Consultant, and Ceres President’s Council Member

The clean energy transition is a monumental opportunity to empower communities that have been economically marginalized and overburdened by air, land, and water pollution. It is essential that the economic and public health benefits from fighting the climate crisis are felt widely. Anchored by the Biden administration’s Justice 40 initiative, the policy landscape has begun to reflect this need and opportunity. The Inflation Reduction Act, for example, includes tax credit bonuses for projects in environmental justice and energy-industry communities, as well as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which seeks to support clean energy projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities. State policies, meanwhile, are increasingly designed to ensure low-income and marginalized communities can access crucial clean technologies.



But ensuring a just transition to a clean energy economy that genuinely includes all communities will require much more. In recent years, the Ceres BICEP Network has sought to ensure that climate policy solutions properly balance, support, and advance environmental justice principles. Now, as the clean energy transition takes hold, we must work to ensure communities that have long faced the worst impacts of pollution are not forced to unfairly bear the burden of new activities. These concerns will play into many clean energy policy areas in the coming years, such as increased mining for critical materials and accelerating the deployment of new clean energy resources without lowering environmental standards. BICEP Network companies will be called upon to advocate for climate and clean energy policies that strike a necessary balance to ensure the clean energy economy is a just one.

POLICY SHOWCASE

Supporting New Jersey’s Green Workforce

Gov. Phil Murphy unveiled the state’s Green Jobs for a Sustainable Future report in 2022, mapping the path to equitably building a workforce in the clean energy economy. In response, [six leading New Jersey employers](#) committed to adopting key principles to achieve those goals. The companies pledged to ensure a diverse and well-paid workforce centered in New Jersey communities while working to help the state achieve its climate goals — providing a blueprint for how businesses of any industry can position themselves as leaders in a clean energy transition that is just to workers and communities.

Climate & Environmental Justice Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support implementation of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund’s National Clean Investment Fund with a strong Justice40 component. ● Support mining reform that meets clean energy and environmental justice goals, including through the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act. ● Support the Environmental Justice for All Act and its comprehensive climate and environmental justice policy framework.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support environmental and climate justice in state climate planning funded by the Inflation Reduction Act’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grants.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support mining reform efforts in Arizona and Nevada to better balance the needs of native and environmentally overburdened communities, economic development, the prevention of nature loss, and sensible water use.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitor CCUS regulatory and policy developments in California and Colorado, and support policy design that is conscious of environmental justice.
California 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support implementation of the state’s Racial Equity Commission.
Massachusetts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support implementation of the Community Climate Bank, a green bank with a focus on housing 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 2024, 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.



CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE & 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

Our food system is already feeling the effects of the climate crisis as droughts, floods, and storms cause crop failures that hurt farmers and jam supply chains across the U.S. But smart agricultural investments can be a key tool to confront climate change, improve soil and water quality, and boost biodiversity. Despite the delay of the Farm Bill’s reauthorization in 2023, it remains the greatest opportunity for meaningful federal climate action this Congress. We are confident we will have the opportunity to champion a Farm Bill that equitably grows climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies, bolstering rural economies and creating more resilient and reliable supply chains that companies from the food and apparel sectors rely upon.

Ceres also supports efforts to engage companies in restoring and protecting nature and biodiversity, including through newly proposed corporate disclosure standards. We will seek policy solutions that help companies limit their impacts on global forests throughout their supply chains, and work to refine and sharpen a policy framework that earns leading businesses’ support.

Climate-Smart Agriculture & Forestry Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defend Inflation Reduction Act funds for agriculture, conservation, and rural development while ensuring their proper implementation to reduce emissions. Pass a Farm Bill that equitably addresses climate change by integrating the policy priorities of the Climate-Smart Agriculture & Healthy Soils Working Group.

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 by pushing for policy solutions to tackle emissions from the agriculture sector, improve crop resilience, and protect water, soil health, and biodiversity. Contact Clausell Stokes III (cstokes@ceres.org) for more information.

POLICY SHOWCASE

Conservation in the Inflation Reduction Act

The Inflation Reduction Act features unprecedented new funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s climate-smart agriculture and conservation programs. These funds were hard-earned, and the [strong advocacy of the food and apparel industry](#) — including several BICEP Network members — helped to secure them. Despite their skyrocketing popularity, these investments could also be put at risk if Congress seeks to reduce federal spending in the coming year, and we must stand up in support of maintaining this crucial funding in 2024.



EMISSION REDUCTION STRATEGIES

“Higher greenhouse gas pollution should never be a competitive advantage.”



Michael LeMonds, Chief Sustainability Officer, Holcim US

The U.S. and many of its states have committed to a net zero economy by 2050. We must continue establishing strong targets wherever possible, and it remains equally important to take additional policy action aimed at actually achieving them. As the Inflation Reduction Act and other investments spark the buildout of clean infrastructure and facilitate the transition to a clean energy economy, policies must increasingly serve to deter dirty energy, including by putting a cost on its pollution.




These efforts should extend beyond U.S. borders, including by supporting international aid to help the world shift toward clean energy and guard against climate change. The BICEP Network additionally supports a bipartisan concept to use U.S. trade policy to reduce emissions across the world. A so-called foreign polluter fee would require global businesses to reduce emissions to match U.S. standards or else pay to enter the market. At once reducing global emissions and air pollution, promoting domestic manufacturing, and strengthening U.S. geopolitical interest, its many benefits give the policy potential to appeal across the full political spectrum. We expect to advocate strongly for this and other policy solutions that will build on the momentum to confront the global climate crisis by investing in America.

POLICY SHOWCASE

Climate Solutions Now in Maryland

Maryland’s highly ambitious net zero commitment passed into law in 2022 [with considerable business support](#). In backing the state’s legal mandate for a net zero economy by 2045, companies emphasized the need for a binding climate target to guide their decision-making and investments. Importantly, the Climate Solutions Now Act went beyond setting a strong net zero target by including a number of policy measures designed to make progress toward the goal.

Emission Reduction Strategies Policy Priorities

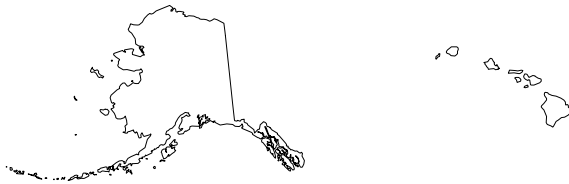
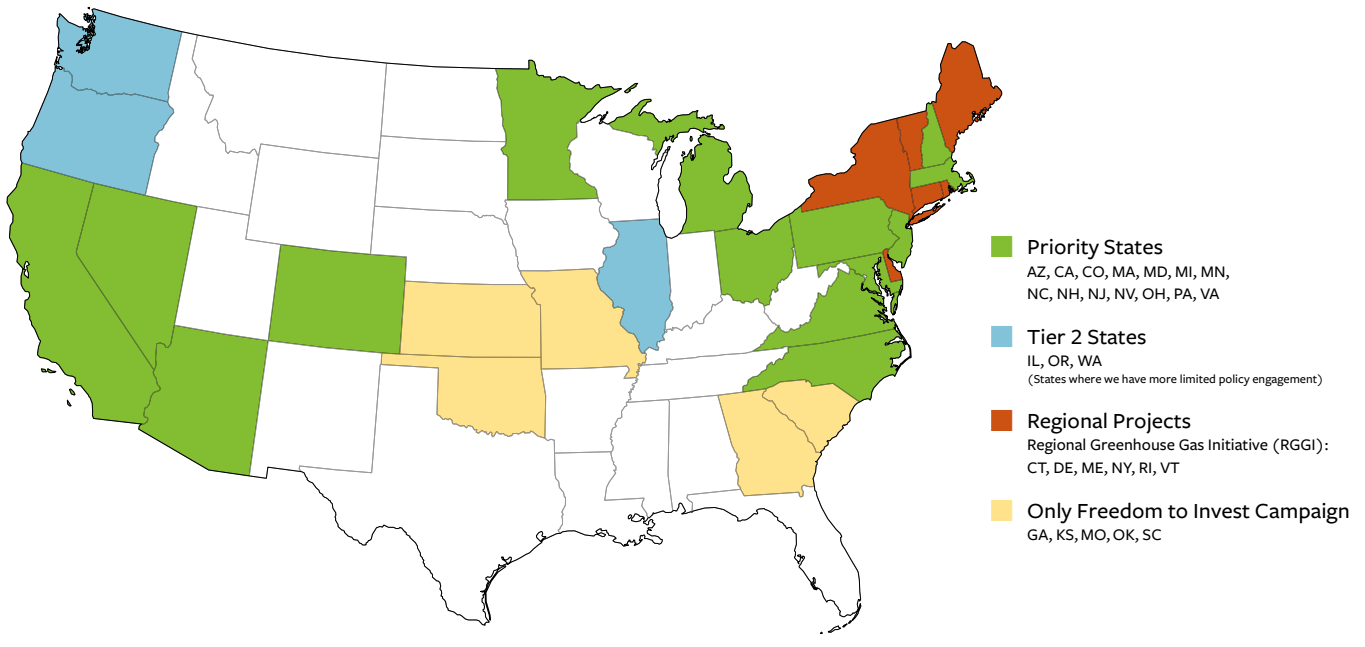
Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
Federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support passage of a foreign pollution fee or carbon border adjustment mechanism on carbon-intensive imports.• Pass the PROVE IT Act directing the Department of Energy to conduct a study on the average emissions intensity of carbon-intensive products by country.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support and inform development of Climate Action Plans, driven by Climate Pollution Reduction Grants from the Inflation Reduction Act.
Multi-State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defend, update, and improve upon carbon markets in California and Washington.



MEMBER RESOURCES

Where We Work

The Ceres BICEP Network is active at the federal level and in 20+ states, and works on multi-state projects such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).



BICEP Network in Numbers (as of December 2023):



88
Total Members



1.02 Trillion
Total Revenue



4.2 Million
Total Employees Worldwide

Key Legislative Dates

Federal

[Senate Schedule](#)

[House Schedule](#)

State

[List of State Legislative Schedules](#)

Congratulations to Our 2023 BICEP Award Winners

BICEP Crown

Abigail Campbell Singer of Siemens

BICEP Federal Policy Champions

Danone N.A. and Logitech

BICEP State Policy Champion

Nestlé

BICEP Most Valuable Partner

Business Forward

BICEP Internal Champion

Ciara O’Dea and Erik Hansen of Workday

BICEP Transportation Policy Advocate of the Year

Ford Motor Company

BICEP Climate-Smart Agriculture Groundbreaker

Joseph Brinkley of Bonterra Organic Estates

Ryan Martel Capitol Hill Climb Award

Adrian Deveny of the office of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer

Congressional Climate Champion

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island

Congressional Climate & Environmental Justice Champion

Rep. Raúl Grijalva of Arizona

Administration Climate Champion

U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm

Read more about the BICEP Award winners [at the Ceres blog](#).

LEAD on a Clean Economy 2023

The Ceres BICEP Network was proud to bring more than 75 businesses, investors, and trade groups to Washington, D.C. last May. Over more than 60 meetings with White House officials and Congressional offices from both parties, we made the urgent business case to invest in America by further capitalizing on the clean energy opportunity.



LEAD on a Clean Economy 2024: Maximize Investment in America, the sixth annual LEAD event, will be held March 5-7 in Washington, D.C. Register at events.ceres.org/LEAD, and contact Anne Kelly (kelly@ceres.org) or Zach Friedman (zfriedman@ceres.org) for more information.

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