

# BICEP Network 2025 Policy Outlook







# Contents

- 3 A Letter from Anne L. Kelly
- 5 Introduction
- 6 Looking Back: What We Accomplished in 2024
- 10 Clean Power
- 13 Clean Transportation
- 16 Clean Buildings
- 19 Clean Industry
- 21 Climate and Environmental Justice
- 23 Climate-Smart Agriculture and Conservation
- 24 Responsible Business and Investing
- 26 Member Resources



## About Ceres

Ceres is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to accelerate the transition to a cleaner, more just, and sustainable world. United under a shared vision, our powerful networks of investors and companies are proving sustainability is the bottom line — changing markets and sectors from the inside out. For more information, visit [ceres.org](https://ceres.org).

# A Letter from Anne L. Kelly

## Dear friends,

For better or worse, American history is assessed in four-year increments—its Presidential terms. When you’ve lived through the nuance and the day-to-day of such a period, it’s amazing how quickly all that transpired can be boiled down to a few sentences or, as more time passes, even a few words.

But as we stand at the outset of the next four years, we should take a moment to recognize the Biden-Harris term for what it was: **the most impactful time in U.S. history for climate and clean energy policy.**

It was a period that saw the historic passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, as well as the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and CHIPS and Science Act, the finalization of the SEC’s groundbreaking climate disclosure legislation, new federal power plant and vehicle standards to drive innovation forward, and a vast array of policies in states across the country designed to harness the unstoppable clean energy momentum.

Suddenly, we’ve gone well beyond setting emission goals and entered a new generation of climate action: the actual, tangible, boots-on-ground work of building out the clean energy economy. Unleashed by federal and state policies, hundreds of billions of dollars in new private capital have been committed to manufacturing and deploying clean energy infrastructure right here in the U.S. And, just as the Ceres BICEP Network has always believed, these developments are delivering vast economic benefits across the U.S.; they’re creating jobs, providing energy security, and slashing costs for businesses and consumers.

**You — our members — deserve a tremendous amount of credit and gratitude for this progress.** Time and again, you showed your steadfast and reliable leadership by standing up and speaking out at both the federal and state levels. Your advocacy is thriving to this day and secured vital policy achievements throughout the last year (see *Looking Back: What We Accomplished in 2024* on page 5).

Corporate support has proven critical to building a strong public policy environment as the private sector transitions to a cleaner, more efficient, more sustainable way of doing business. To all who offered their voices to advocate for these game-changing policies, or lent their expertise to ensure their effective implementation, I can only say thank you and well done.

But now, as we embark on a new era in American history, we must rise to the challenge again. Despite the progress we’ve seen, the U.S. and the world are not on pace to meet crucial climate targets. And it is no secret that the Trump administration is much less interested in confronting climate change. We face challenges.

**And yet the Ceres BICEP Network was built for moments like these.** We know there are opportunities to move forward. We have already seen growing bipartisan support for the Inflation Reduction Act’s federal clean energy incentives and tax credits, precisely because they are delivering jobs and investments to red, blue, and purple communities across the country.

Let us grow that support, defend hard-earned federal climate policies, and ensure the investment continues to take hold.

Let us pursue the bipartisan solutions that we know are out there: carbon tariffs that hold imports to U.S. environmental standards, permitting reform that accelerates the much-needed deployment of transmission wires and renewable energy projects, and a Farm Bill that uplifts American farmers as stewards of conservation while building more resilient supply chains.

And let’s double down at the state level, where leaders are racing to capture new investment in clean energy manufacturing and deployment to support their workforces, meet rising energy demands, and protect communities from the effects of climate change.

No matter the political landscape, the voice of leading businesses has always been influential, credible, and effective in securing public policy that benefits the climate and the economy. You have the unique power and potential to depolarize climate and energy measures at a time when we cannot afford to let partisan politics impede progress. In 2025, members of the Ceres BICEP Network will once again be called upon to defend and build upon what we’ve won at both the federal and state levels, in nearly every sector of the economy.

As we begin to navigate this next round, our 2025 Policy Outlook provides the roadmap forward. We’re proud to share it, and to show where your voice will be most powerful in the months to come.

It’s time to get back to work—to maintain the momentum in clean energy investment and ensure the next chapter of American history continues to tell a story of swift, sound, and smart climate action.



Thank you, as always, for your steadfast leadership—

Anne L. Kelly

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Vice President of Government Relations, Ceres





# Introduction

We stand at a crossroads in confronting the climate crisis.

This moment of surging clean energy investment, jobs, and innovation across the U.S. is also one in which global temperatures—and the extreme weather and other climate risks they cause—continue to rise, threatening infrastructure, supply chains, workforces, and the economy. Climate ambition has never been higher, yet our goals risk falling out of reach. And while leading companies and investors are moving to address this risk, special interests and their political allies are working hard to slow—if not ban—private-sector climate action.

And, of course, the outcome of the 2024 election signals that the U.S. will slow down its efforts to confront this challenge.

But this is not a time that can afford any backsliding.

Ceres' 2025 Policy Outlook previews the opportunities for advocacy before us in a newly challenging environment but at a still-promising time. We highlight the actions we can take at both the federal and state levels to build a clean economy, exploring the areas of **clean energy, clean transportation, clean buildings, clean industry, environmental and climate justice, climate-smart agriculture and conservation, and responsible business and investing**.

The companies in the BICEP Network have long recognized that they can't achieve their business goals without taking climate action. And they can't take climate action without strong climate policy to support it. In recent years, we have built a robust foundation of policy support. If we're going to take the action that our economy and our climate demand, we can't let up now.

## Investing in America

Since the Inflation Reduction Act passed into law in August of 2022, its clean energy incentives have spurred more than **\$422 billion** in private investment into more than **750 clean energy projects** across **48 states**, creating more than **406,000 jobs**.

Source: Climate Power



# Looking Back What We Accomplished in 2024

In recent years America has moved from ambition to action, with climate policy increasingly focused on the nuts and bolts of building the clean energy economy that will carry the future. Before we dive into the year ahead, let's reflect on just some of our remarkable activity in 2024.



## Federal

**SEC climate disclosure rule** Nearly two decades of effort from leading investors and companies culminated when the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission finalized its mandatory climate-related financial disclosure rule.

**Clean vehicle standards** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized new light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicle emission standards to cut pollution and reduce costs by growing access to clean vehicles.

**IRA implementation** States acted to maximize investment from the Inflation Reduction Act's grant programs, including its new home energy efficiency and electrification rebate programs.

**FERC rule** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved a new regional transmission planning rule to help get new clean energy online, improving reliability and affordability.

**Bipartisan tax credit support** Eighteen House Republicans came out in support of maintaining federal clean energy tax credits, signaling growing bipartisan support to defend the nation's largest-ever climate and clean energy investment.

**“These diverse energy tax code provisions have underpinned historic levels of private sector investment in domestically produced clean energy projects across every corner of America.”**

— Gil Jenkins, vice president of corporate affairs, HASI





## California

**Disclosure funding** California fully funded its first-in-the-nation climate disclosure laws.

**“Finding solutions requires transparency and consistent, reliable data.”**

— Ryan Gellert, CEO, Patagonia



## Colorado

**Grid modernization** Lawmakers took action to modernize grid planning, direct necessary infrastructure investment, promote a strong workforce, and ensure the state’s largest utility is properly planning to support transportation and building electrification.



## Maryland

**Energy efficiency** Maryland lawmakers reformed the EmPOWER energy efficiency program to better align its home rebates with the state’s ambitious climate goals.

**“This has been a great program for energy efficiency in Maryland, with economic benefits to match. It can be an even greater climate action program — with even greater benefits.”**

— Joshua C. Greene, vice president of government, regulatory, and industry affairs, A.O. Smith



## Massachusetts

**Clean-tech investment** Massachusetts went all-in on building a new iconic industry, with a \$1 billion investment designed to establish the Commonwealth as a global clean technology hub.



**“The idea is to harness the state’s capacity for innovation and its strong workforce to build upon an already burgeoning clean-tech ecosystem.”**

— Mindy Lubber, CEO, Ceres



## Minnesota

**Permitting reform** A new Minnesota law promises to cut down on the duration of permitting and siting processes for clean energy by 50%, enabling the state to meet its climate and energy goals without undermining public input.

**“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



## California, Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Rhode Island

**Clean buildings agreement** Governors across the country committed to collaborate on effective policies to decarbonize buildings.

## Touring the Clean Energy Boom

Throughout 2024, Ceres Vice President of Government Affairs Anne Kelly highlighted clean energy projects that have taken hold across the U.S. since the Inflation Reduction Act passed into law in 2022. Her “Tour of the Clean Energy Boom” series on LinkedIn showcased the ways that public policy and private sector ambition complement one another, with examples from BICEP Network companies including [Siemens](#), [Lucid Motors](#), [Holcim](#), [Hackensack Meridian Health](#), [Unilever](#), [Trane Technologies](#), and more.

To read the entire series, check out Anne’s LinkedIn page or contact Helen Booth-Tobin at [booth-tobin@ceres.org](mailto:booth-tobin@ceres.org).



## LEAD on a Clean Economy 2024

The Ceres BICEP Network was proud to bring more than 60 businesses, investors, and trade groups to Washington, D.C. last March for LEAD on a Clean Economy 2024. In 60 meetings with Congressional offices from both parties, as well as Biden administration officials, we made the urgent business case to build upon the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy incentives and worked to grow bipartisan support for the nation's largest-ever climate legislation.



### Help Us Maintain the Momentum at LEAD 2025

Our seventh annual LEAD event will be held March 4–6, 2025, in Washington, D.C. Register at [events.ceres.org/lead](https://events.ceres.org/lead), and contact Zach Friedman at [zfriedman@ceres.org](mailto:zfriedman@ceres.org) for more information.


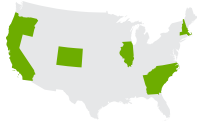



# Clean Power

U.S. power usage is on the rise, making the quest to achieve abundant, reliable, affordable energy especially urgent. Meanwhile, clean energy is the lowest-cost solution, and federal incentives make it even more affordable. To meet the nation’s growing energy needs without increasing costs or the risks of climate change, federal and state officials must continue to support clean energy investment and grid expansion. With many leading states establishing 100% clean electricity targets, new federal standards for power plants, and the Inflation Reduction Act underpinning billions of dollars’ worth of clean power projects, we have a real chance to succeed—if we can keep those policies in place.

While we work to defend and expand upon the state and federal policies driving clean energy investment, the next wave of public policy must focus on ensuring all this clean power can be deployed and delivered to homes and businesses across the U.S. To succeed, we must upgrade transmission lines and build new ones, and that will require responsible reforms to state and federal permitting processes to get reliable, affordable, American-made clean power onto the grid.

## Clean Power Policy Priorities


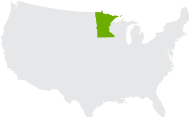






Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<p><b>Federal</b></p> 	<p>Defend the Inflation Reduction Act’s 45Y and 48E clean energy, technology-neutral tax credits.</p> <p>Advocate for FERC interregional transmission planning rulemaking.</p> <p>Support responsible permitting and siting reform to accelerate the build-out of clean energy infrastructure, including transmission.</p> <p>Defend the Environmental Protection Agency’s power plant emissions standards.</p>
<p><b>Multi-State</b></p> 	<p>Support state deployment of advanced transmission technologies, including through legislative directives to utilities and public utility commissions.</p> <p>Support well-designed policy for energy infrastructure permitting reform.</p> <p>[Includes CA, CO, GA, IL, MA, NH, NC, OR, SC]</p>
<p><b>Multi-State</b></p> 	<p>Urge reforms to the PJM planning and permitting processes to increase affordability and interconnection of clean energy resources.</p> <p>[Includes MD, NJ, OH, PA]</p>



## Clean Power Policy Priorities, continued

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>Southeast Region</b> 	<p>Support continued growth and investment in clean technology solutions, from clean energy resources to efficiency measures, across the region.</p> <p>[Includes GA, NC, SC]</p>
<b>Western Region</b> 	<p>Support the establishment of a well-designed regional organized wholesale market — particularly a regional transmission organization in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.</p>
<b>Arizona</b> 	<p>Defend renewable energy and energy efficiency standards.</p>
<b>California</b> 	<p>Support reauthorization of the state’s carbon cap-and-trade program.</p>
<b>Georgia</b> 	<p>Support the adoption of expanded clean energy and energy storage projects at residential and utility-scale levels within the Georgia Power integrated resource planning process and via legislation.</p> <p>Support legislation that establishes a framework for electricity consumer protections and responsible utility regulation.</p>
<b>Illinois</b> 	<p>Support the passage of the Clean and Reliable Grid Act to strengthen energy efficiency and demand response policies and enable adequate transmission upgrades and expansion.</p>
<b>Maryland</b> 	<p>Accelerate the build-out of offshore wind generation and transmission.</p>
<b>Massachusetts</b> 	<p>Support grid modernization and transmission upgrades.</p> <p>Support implementation of new energy infrastructure permitting and siting law.</p> <p>Support development of offshore wind, especially by increasing affordability and interconnection.</p>

## Clean Power Policy Priorities, continued

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>Michigan</b> 	Defend against possible efforts to repeal or obstruct 2023 renewable energy permitting reforms.
<b>Minnesota</b> 	Defend against possible efforts to repeal or obstruct 2024 renewable energy permitting reforms.
<b>New Hampshire</b> 	Support the work of the Offshore Wind Commission.
<b>North Carolina</b> 	Defend against legislative attempts to delay statutorily mandated clean energy procurement and carbon reduction goals. Support passage of legislation to direct consideration and deployment of advanced transmission technologies.
<b>Ohio</b> 	Support policies that invest in new energy infrastructure, in-state renewable energy generation, and energy optimization technologies.
<b>Pennsylvania</b> 	Strengthen the advanced energy portfolio standard to adopt a goal of 35% clean energy by 2035.
<b>South Carolina</b> 	Support the passage of comprehensive energy legislation that expands customer choice, encourages grid modernization and regional planning, and requires competitive utility procurement for new generation.
<b>Virginia</b> 	Support the adoption of expanded solar, wind, and storage projects across the Commonwealth at residential and utility-scale levels within the Dominion integrated resource planning process and via legislation.


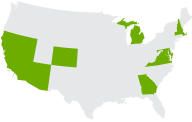


# Clean Transportation

Amid some stops and starts, America’s steady adoption of clean vehicles continues to cruise along—with a growing number of cars and trucks built and assembled here in the U.S. While this growth is driven by the undeniable benefits of electric vehicles for both businesses and consumers, it is supported by federal and state policies such as tax credits and vehicle standards. Businesses must continue to support these policies to increase affordability and access, and to ensure a globally competitive U.S. auto manufacturing industry. As more electric vehicles get on the road, the BICEP Network will also support efforts to install chargers on major routes across the U.S. while encouraging state governments to adopt legislation to better prepare the grid for the needs of the growing electric fleet.

Along with clean vehicle growth, strong climate and sustainability policy also requires a reduction in overall driving. Businesses are acutely aware of the harm of traffic congestion on commutes and deliveries, putting them in a strong position to advocate for transportation and land use policies designed to offer alternatives to driving, such as investing in public transit and facilitating more housing.

## Clean Transportation Policy Priorities

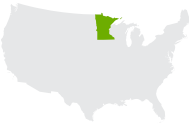
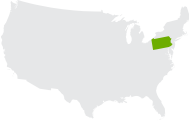

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>Federal</b> 	<p>Defend the Inflation Reduction Act’s clean vehicle, manufacturing, and charging incentives.</p> <p>Defend the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards.</p> <p>Support the build-out of a national charging network through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program and other programs.</p> <p>Defend EPA’s multi-pollutant standards for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles.</p> <p>Defend the federal approvals for the Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks rules to support implementation in adopting states.</p>
<b>Multi-State</b> 	<p>Support implementation of state charging infrastructure plans, including through deploying National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Charging and Fueling Infrastructure program funds.</p> <p>Support well-designed utility transportation electrification plans.</p> <p>[Includes AZ, CA, CO, GA, MA, MD, MI, MN, NH, NV, VA]</p>

## Clean Transportation Policy Priorities, continued

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<p><b>Arizona</b></p> 	<p>Build political support for consumer EV access and state infrastructure investments.</p>
<p><b>California</b></p> 	<p>Support increased funding for medium- and heavy-duty clean vehicle purchase incentives during carbon cap-and-trade program reauthorization.</p>
<p><b>Colorado</b></p> 	<p>Defend and implement the Advanced Clean Trucks rule.</p>
<p><b>Illinois</b></p> 	<p>Support the passage of the Clean and Equitable Transportation Act to fund transit-oriented development, advance clean vehicles, and expand transportation options.</p> <p>Support adoption of the Advanced Clean Trucks Rule.</p> <p>Support the passage of Powering Up legislation to better prepare the electric grid for electric vehicle growth.</p>
<p><b>Maryland</b></p> 	<p>Defend and implement the Advanced Clean Trucks and Advanced Clean Cars II rules.</p> <p>Support the passage of the Transportation and Climate Alignment Act to create reliable alternatives to driving.</p> <p>Support the passage of Powering Up legislation to better prepare the electric grid for electric vehicle growth.</p>
<p><b>Massachusetts</b></p> 	<p>Support and implement the Advanced Clean Trucks and Advanced Clean Cars II rules.</p>
<p><b>Michigan</b></p> 	<p>Support passage of equitable transportation electrification planning legislation and advocate for transportation decarbonization dollars in the state budget.</p>



## Clean Transportation Policy Priorities, continued

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>Minnesota</b> 	Build support for vehicle electrification policy changes through aligned legislative, regulatory, and executive strategies.
<b>Pennsylvania</b> 	Support adoption of the Advanced Clean Trucks Rule.
<b>Virginia</b> 	Defend Advanced Clean Cars legislation from repeal attempts. Support implementation of the Advanced Clean Cars II rule.

**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 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 Brandon Jones, Ceres manager for climate and energy – electric vehicles, at [bjones@ceres.org](mailto:bjones@ceres.org) for more information.


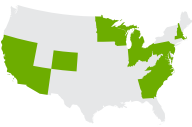
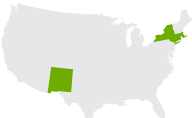


# Clean Buildings

Perhaps no policy has showcased the partnership between federal and state governments in implementing the Inflation Reduction Act as the law’s HOMES and HEAR home energy rebate programs. With strong support from private-sector leaders in the BICEP Network and the Ceres Energy Optimization Working Group, state governments have been hard at work designing federally funded rebate programs to encourage residents to modernize their homes with efficient, clean appliances, as well as electrical and weatherproofing upgrades, that will pay dividends for American households and the climate for decades. As these programs roll out across the states, we will continue to support the implementation and uptake of these technologies.

Businesses know firsthand the financial benefits of operating cleaner and more efficient buildings and how policy can play a key role in achieving them. In 2025, we will push for states to further their ambition in this area, including through clean heat standards, clean lighting programs, improved building codes to transition away from gas infrastructure, and additional energy efficiency programs.

## Clean Buildings Policy Priorities



Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<p><b>Federal</b></p> 	<p>Defend the Inflation Reduction Act’s home energy efficiency tax credits and home energy rebate programs.</p>
<p><b>Multi-State</b></p> 	<p>Support states as they design and launch HOMES and HEAR rebate programs and defend funding allocation for states that have not already received or applied for program funding.</p> <p>[Includes AZ, CA, CO, GA, IL, MA, MD, MI, MN, NC, NH, NJ, NV, OH, PA, SC, VA, WI]</p>
<p><b>Multi-State</b></p> 	<p>Support clean-lighting legislation to phase out the use of mercury-based lighting products.</p> <p>[Includes CT, DC, MA, NM, NY]</p>



## Clean Buildings Policy Priorities, continued

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>Multi-State</b> 	<p>Support clean heat and gas transition planning processes and heat pump adoption to accelerate overall building decarbonization.</p> <p>[Includes IL, MA, MD, MI, MN, NJ]</p>
<b>Multi-State</b> 	<p>Support improvements to state building codes.</p> <p>[Includes NC, NV]</p>
<b>Illinois</b> 	<p>Support the passage of the Clean and Healthy Buildings Act to establish a clean heat standard, align gas planning with decarbonization goals, and set electrification requirements for new construction.</p> <p>Support implementation of the state’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, including efforts to accelerate clean and efficient buildings.</p>
<b>Maryland</b> 	<p>Support gas transition planning at the Public Service Commission.</p> <p>Inform and support implementation of a Building Energy Performance Standard.</p>
<b>Massachusetts</b> 	<p>Support implementation of the 2024 climate bill’s clean building policies, including its clean heat plan and lighting and building performance standards.</p>
<b>Michigan</b> 	<p>Support adoption of a clean heat standard.</p>
<b>Minnesota</b> 	<p>Support legislation to enact a building performance standard for large commercial and residential buildings.</p> <p>Support gas transition planning at the Public Utilities Commission.</p>
<b>New Hampshire</b> 	<p>Support the launch of the state’s HEAR program and its application for HOMES funding.</p>

## Clean Buildings Policy Priorities, continued

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>North Carolina</b> 	Support improvements to state building codes.
<b>Ohio</b> 	Support legislation to enable voluntary utility efficiency and demand response 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 at [rwilhelm@ceres.org](mailto:rwilhelm@ceres.org) for more information.



Photo: Molly Miles, McKnight Foundation



- ▶ Throughout 2024, Ceres connected appliance manufacturers and energy efficiency companies with policymakers at the state, federal, and local levels for important discussions about the HOMES and HEAR rebate programs, including at roundtable events in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

# Clean Industry

Guided by key federal legislation and procurement policies, the U.S. is taking a leading role on cleaning up its industrial processes and products as it re-establishes its manufacturing base. As demand for cleaner materials surges across the world, American industry has a critical economic opportunity to drive innovation while cutting climate pollution from some of the more challenging to decarbonize sectors. State governments can play an important role by establishing procurement strategies throughout their supply chains that prioritize clean materials, and by investing in projects and policies that reduce pollution from manufacturing.

The U.S. is well-positioned to leverage trade policy to cut greenhouse gas emissions around the world by establishing a tariff on imports that fall short of U.S. environmental standards. As the balance of power shifts in Washington, D.C., this is a policy proposal with strong potential for bipartisan support, because it would strengthen U.S. manufacturing and national security interests while encouraging manufacturers at home and abroad to adopt clean industrial processes. There is no reason U.S. manufacturers should be penalized in the global market for reducing pollution, and we look forward to building support for this principle on Capitol Hill this year.

## Clean Industry Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>Federal</b> 	<p>Support passage of a foreign pollution fee or carbon border adjustment mechanism on carbon-intensive imports.</p> <p>Pass the PROVE IT Act to direct the Department of Energy to conduct a study on the average emissions intensity of carbon-intensive products by country.</p> <p>Support the Concrete and Asphalt Innovation Act to accelerate innovation and commercialization of low-emission cement, concrete, and asphalt.</p> <p>Defend advanced manufacturing incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act.</p> <p>Defend federal procurement rules that support purchasing low-emission materials.</p>
<b>Multi-State</b> 	<p>Support adoption of state workforce development programs and other investments in the workforce.</p> <p>[Includes AZ, CA, CO, IL, MA, MD, MI, MN, NC, NJ, PA]</p>



## Clean Industry Policy Priorities, continued


Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>California</b> 	Support passage of pending California Made package, including its incentives for building projects and their components in California.
<b>Ohio</b> 	Lay groundwork to support industry transition to green steelmaking practices.
<b>Pennsylvania</b> 	Support implementation of the Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions (RISE PA) program.



Photo: HolcimUS

- Ceres was proud to join business leaders and policymakers, including now-U.S. Sen. John Curtis, at BICEP Network member HolcimUS’s Devil’s Slide cement plant in Utah in 2024.


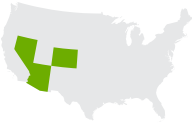


# Climate and Environmental Justice

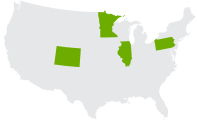




Even as—*especially* as—we work to accelerate the clean energy transition by reforming the permitting process, modernizing the grid, and building a domestic supply chain for critical minerals, it remains paramount to economically empower marginalized and environmentally overburdened communities. We must work to defend federal environmental justice commitments and community benefit planning processes, while advancing state policies that ensure all communities experience the economic and environmental benefits brought about by the ongoing surge in clean energy investment.

In 2025, we will also launch a timely conversation about circular economy principles to reduce waste and increase recycling with our partners in the transportation, industrial, and outdoor sectors. There is an urgent need for a balanced approach to critical minerals, land use, and environmental and indigenous protections across supply and value chains, and BICEP Network members can play an important role in achieving it. Our membership in the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance and support of responsible mineral procurement will be a central pillar of our approach to environmental justice. As we build further connections with leading environmental justice organizations, our work will help demonstrate the enormous value businesses can bring as partners in building a just, fair, prosperous, and sustainable economy.

## Climate and Environmental Justice Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<p><b>Federal</b></p> 	<p>Support environmental review guardrails, community engagement, and protective mechanisms in clean energy permitting reform and new transmission deployment.</p> <p>Support responsible critical mineral procurement and development of circular economy infrastructure domestically and abroad.</p> <p>Advocate for an OSHA Heat Rule to protect workers and provide businesses with regulatory guidance as climate impacts accelerate.</p>
<p><b>Multi-State</b></p> 	<p>Advocate for responsible mineral procurement and ethical land use principles within transportation decarbonization planning.</p> <p>[Includes AZ, CO, NV]</p>

## Climate and Environmental Justice Policy Priorities, continued

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<p><b>Multi-State</b></p> 	<p>Advocate for the use of environmental justice principles in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund project financing and development.</p> <p>[Includes CO, IL, MN, PA]</p>
<p><b>California</b></p> 	<p>Support higher workforce standards, including a commitment to community benefits plans focused on individuals that reside in disadvantaged and underserved communities, in anticipated California Made legislation.</p>
<p><b>Massachusetts</b></p> 	<p>Support the development of cumulative impact and community benefit plan guidelines by the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity.</p> <p>Support the development of the Division of Public Participation by the Department of Public Utilities.</p>
<p><b>Michigan</b></p> 	<p>Support legislation to enhance grid reliability and prevent power outages.</p>
<p><b>Ohio</b></p> 	<p>Support community benefits planning around steel sector industrial decarbonization.</p>

**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 2025, 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 at [rjuang@ceres.org](mailto:rjuang@ceres.org) for more information.




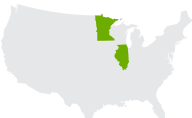
# Climate-Smart Agriculture and Conservation



The latest iteration of the Farm Bill has been long-delayed in Congress, but negotiations are expected to resume in 2025. Food, beverage, and apparel companies in the Ceres Climate-Smart Agriculture and Healthy Soils Working Group have for years been making the case for policies that strengthen their supply chains by protecting farmers from the effects of climate, water, and nature challenges while positioning them as stewards of conservation through innovative and forward-looking practices.

The Ceres BICEP Network remains committed to advocating for bipartisan legislation that invests in rural communities, bolsters agricultural resilience and food security, and helps food and apparel companies build lasting partnerships with farmers through smart agriculture programs and support. We will work throughout 2025 to advance these priorities in the Farm Bill.

## Climate-Smart Agriculture and Conservation Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>Federal</b> 	<p>Integrate climate-smart agriculture priorities into the next Farm Bill.</p> <p>Defend funding for climate-smart agriculture and conservation in the Inflation Reduction Act.</p> <p>Support the FOREST Act to prevent illegal deforestation in supply chains.</p>
<b>Multi-State</b> 	<p>Support implementation of federally funded Climate Pollution Reduction Grant programs that have a strong climate-smart agriculture and conservation focus.</p> <p>[Includes IL, MN]</p>

**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 sector, improve crop resilience, and protect water, soil health, and biodiversity. Contact Clausell Stokes III at [cstokes@ceres.org](mailto:cstokes@ceres.org) for more information.

# Responsible Business and Investing

The BICEP Network will continue to speak out in support of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s climate disclosure policy as it faces a likely repeal under the Trump administration. We will also maintain our focus on implementing California’s first-of-its-kind climate disclosure laws, which will become all the more important if the federal policy does not take effect. Leading businesses are already giving investors critical information about their climate risks, and they deserve the standardized, transparent, and economy-wide reporting landscape that disclosure policies provide.



Meanwhile, businesses and investors must remain steadfast in defending their right to operate responsibly and in alignment with their fiduciary duties. Business practices that account for climate and other sustainability concerns are a mainstream expectation of financial institutions, consumers, employees, and other stakeholders. Despite political pushback, businesses and investors continue to take these concerns seriously because they represent material financial issues that impact their bottom lines and portfolios. Leading companies must bring this view to federal and state policymakers in 2025 to counter the special interests seeking to discourage responsible business practices.

## Responsible Business and Investing Policy Priorities

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>Federal</b> 	Defend the implementation of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s Climate Risk Disclosure rule.  Defend against legislative and regulatory efforts to limit consideration of climate-related risks by businesses and investors.
<b>Multi-State</b> 	Defend against anti-responsible investing legislation and regulation.  [Includes AZ, GA, KS, MO, NC, NH, OH, SC, VA]
<b>Multi-State</b> 	Explore corporate climate disclosure legislation consistent with California regulations.  [Includes IL, NY, WA]



## Responsible Business and Investing Policy Priorities, continued

Jurisdiction	Policy Priority
<b>California</b> 	Support the timely implementation of the state's landmark climate disclosure legislation. Support well-designed regulations on the voluntary carbon market.
<b>Massachusetts</b> 	Support legislation to establish a broad-based climate bank.



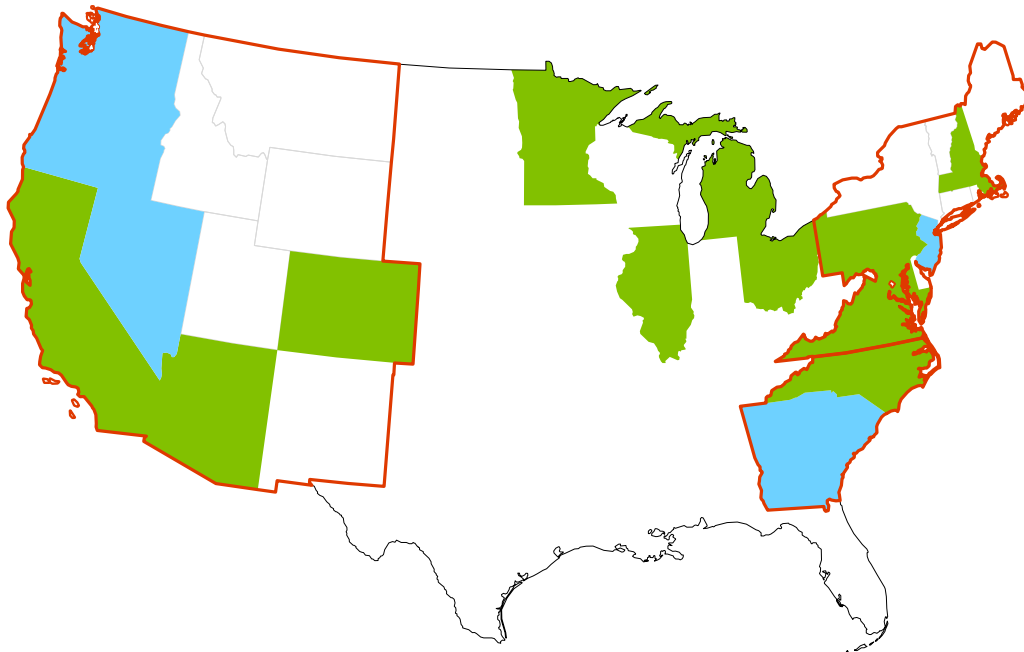
- Ceres recognized California state senators Scott Wiener and Harry Stern at Climate Week NYC 2024 for their leading work to establish the nation's first-ever climate disclosure legislation.



# Member Resources

## Where We Work

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



- Priority States**  
AZ, CA, CO, IL, MA, MD, MI, MN, NC, NH, OH, PA, VA  
(PA and VA are conditional participants)
- Tier 2 States**  
GA, NJ, NV, OR, SC, WA  
(States where we have more limited policy engagement)
- Regional projects**  
**Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI):**  
CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT  
**Western RTO:**  
AZ, CO, ID, NV, MT, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY  
**Southeast Market Reform:**  
GA, NC, SC

## BICEP Network in Numbers (data in 2024)



**5.49 million total employees worldwide**



**\$1.44 trillion total revenue**



**80+ total members**

## Key Legislative Dates

**Federal** [Senate schedule](#) · [House schedule](#)

**State** [List of state legislative schedules](#)

## Congratulations to Our 2024 BICEP Award Winners

### **BICEP Crown**

Brianne Miller of Microsoft

### **BICEP Federal Policy Champion**

Gil Jenkins of HASI

### **BICEP State Policy Champions**

Mike Mattera of Akamai Technologies

Tom Bugert of REI

### **BICEP Most Valuable Partner**

National Ski Area Association

### **BICEP Transportation Policy Advocate of the Year**

Siemens

### **BICEP Climate-Smart Agriculture Groundbreaker**

Meg Villareal of Nestlé

### **BICEP Building Decarbonization Policy Advocate of the Year**

Trane Technologies

### **BICEP Industrial Decarbonization Award**

Holcim

### **BICEP Environmental and Climate Justice Champion**

GreenLatinos

### **Ryan Martel Capitol Hill Climb Award**

Aaron Groce from the office of U.S. Representative Sean Casten

Kyle Bligen from the office of U.S. Representative Juan Vargas

### **Congressional Climate Champion**

Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana

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

## Ceres Policy Team Staff Contacts

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# Who We Are (as of January 2025)

The Ceres Policy Network works with hundreds of businesses, and our members—some of the most well-known brands in the U.S.—have emerged as leading advocates for climate and clean energy policies.

