

BOLD IDEAS POWER THE WEST

The Story of
WRA's Climate Fix

Thank you

It's the support of people like you that drives
the progress you see in these pages.

TRANSFORMING THE BIG STUFF

Foreword by Hal Harvey

When I am asked how we are doing on climate change, I always turn to a handful of core questions:

- Is our electricity primarily carbon-free, with coal on a serious shutdown schedule and natural gas having peaked and is in decline?
- Are most vehicles sold now electric?
- Are our homes and buildings powered by clean heat sources?

If we cannot say that we are driving each of these sectors to zero-carbon emissions, then we are simply not in the game. **A low-carbon future must be**

measured in the transformation of the big stuff in the economy — power plants, buildings, and cars.

The good news is that there are low-cost, low-carbon replacements for most of the core technologies in the economy. We know how to build most of what a clean energy economy requires — and the magic of learning curves, wherein technologies get cheaper as more are produced, gives me confidence that most of the future technologies we need are in the wings.

Having a sharp strategy matters: In a world where new climate disasters seem to unfold daily, there is simply no time to dabble. Take heart in all that has been



Hal Harvey, a renowned strategist, environmentalist, and philanthropist, has dedicated his career over the last four decades to advocating for adequate funding to act fast and at scale to fight climate change. Most recently, Harvey served as the president of Climate Imperative. His expansive career includes founding and leading several national climate-focused organizations. He has served on energy panels appointed by Presidents Bush and Clinton, has published two books and dozens of articles on energy and national security issues, and speaks widely on energy topics.

accomplished, and then double, and double again, that great work. Speed and scale are the watchwords.

So, how does this relate to Western Resource Advocates? Enter the Climate Fix: The nonprofit's seven-year plan to

drastically reduce emissions from the largest utilities in the West. Success with WRA's plan has required dedication, grit, and stamina, along with razor-sharp execution. An effective advocate must know, with some precision, where big carbon decisions are made, and how to affect them. We have to think in billions of tons of carbon reductions.

The decision makers who can get this done are public utilities commissions and state legislatures. I know that these regulatory proceedings can be so dull that they stop time, but they really matter. They determine our future.

To drive change, it's important to understand utility commissions' rules, preferences, and legislative

mandates. WRA staff work directly in these forums and within state legislatures, along with Western governors and their administrations, to pass policies that reduce climate-warming emissions and invest in clean energy.

the existing vast utility cash flow to solutions that scale. We all need to learn from their work. WRA staff members are experts, able to match and beat the skills of more recalcitrant officials. WRA succeeds because its team knows the venues, the utilities,

the commissions, the legislative forums, and how to get a deal done. It is impressive. And it works, at scale.

This approach requires energy, expertise, and deep policy and political wherewithal, along with the ability to stick to an issue, meeting after meeting, until it is won, and the endurance

and commitment to keep it going.

There are carbon reduction opportunities, in the money, that now exceed 100 billion tons annually.

Focus, expertise, strategy, and drive can deliver at scale. And that is just what WRA does.

Advocates must find the intervention point, taking into account both the magnitude of what's at stake and whether a change-strategy can carry the day. They must understand the timing and nature of the utility and sector decisions. They must build an analytical case for reform and match it with a political strategy. Then drive, drive, drive it to victory.

WRA's formidable game plan works. It moves decision makers in target states and compels them to allocate

A low-carbon future has to be measured in the transformation of the big stuff in the economy — power plants, buildings, and cars.

BY 2030, ANNUAL CO₂ REDUCED 91.5 MILLION TONS

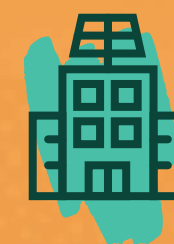
from 2016 levels.



85.8 M
Power Sector



3.3 M
Transportation Sector



2.5 M
Building Sector



THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR BOLD ACTION

The American West is at a tipping point. The impacts of the climate crisis have already touched every corner of the region, from our cities to our seas of sagebrush, winding rivers, expansive aspen groves, and towering saguaros. Our communities are grappling with deadly heat, historic droughts, and catastrophic wildfires. Extreme weather events have become the new reality, and they are reshaping the daily lives of communities from the Rockies to the desert Southwest.

Pollution from power plants, gas-powered vehicles, buildings, and homes does not just drive climate change, it threatens our health and the livelihoods of our communities. **For the future of our planet and the landscapes we love, we must stop burning fossil fuels. We do not have time to wait.**

Within this crisis lies an opportunity to reimagine our future and redefine what is possible when courageous action meets unwavering commitment. Western Resource Advocates' Climate Fix isn't just a set of policies or initiatives; it is a roadmap driven by the knowledge that strategic, state-level action can transform our energy future. It is a proven approach that demonstrates how we can cut carbon emissions, build resilient communities, and secure a healthier, more sustainable world for generations to come.

Seven years ago, the Climate Fix began as an idea based on one question: How do we take aggressive and effective action on climate change that leads to large-scale carbon reductions, and how do we do it as quickly as science demands?

When he joined WRA in 2014, President Jon Goldin-Dubois saw both the success of our clean energy advocacy and the untapped potential it contained. Together, he and the organization's experts began reimagining how the West is powered, creating a blueprint that would take our proven strategies and scale them into a regional plan for transformative climate action.

The strategies were straightforward:

- > Retire coal plants and replace their capacity with wind, solar, and geothermal power.
- > Modernize the electric grid to accommodate the influx of renewables and enhance battery storage.
- > Implement energy efficiency approaches to keep electricity demand growth as flat as possible.

WRA was confident we could achieve the level of emissions reductions that scientists say is needed,

because we had already seen success with one utility — Xcel Energy in Colorado.

At the center of this story is how we transformed our relationship with a major utility from a largely adversarial stance to a partnership where our objectives and the company's interests became much more aligned. It didn't happen overnight. In 2004, when Xcel was building a new coal plant, 68% of its electricity came from coal, while only 3% came from renewables. The company was openly hostile to clean energy.

WRA catalyzed a transformation that shifted Xcel's corporate strategy. By 2016, the share of coal in Xcel's energy mix had fallen to 46%, while renewables had grown to 29%. Today, the utility is on track to reduce climate-warming emissions 89% from its 2005 levels by 2030.

While several external factors contributed to this dramatic shift, such as low methane gas prices relative to coal, cheaper and better-performing

renewables, and increasing political support, the critical driver was a set of policies developed and enacted by WRA in partnership with key stakeholders. These policies created a business environment in which Xcel recognized that pursuing clean energy presented far greater opportunities than continuing its reliance on fossil fuels. We helped the utility realize that a corporate strategy centered on clean energy

This story is proof that big ideas, when rooted in community, science, and policy, can lead to extraordinary outcomes.

was not only beneficial for the company's bottom line, but also better for its customers.

But an innovative idea requires more than a high-level strategy and theory of change. It demands a detailed plan of action, a clear map of the resources needed to drive policy progress, and an unwavering belief in

the power to create change. In those early days, our team recognized that traditional funding streams would not be enough; WRA had to tap into a broader community of donors passionate about climate action to scale this important work. That moment — one of both vision and pragmatism — was the genesis of the Climate Fix.

The goal was clear: accelerate the transition to clean energy across the West, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and set a national example for effective climate action. Today, the Climate Fix has become a beacon of progress — a testament to what is possible when ambition is matched with strategic advocacy and relentless determination.

This report looks back on the past seven years of work. It is also a celebration of hard-won victories, a recognition of the challenges ahead, and a call to action for all who believe in the power of transformative change. Our story is proof that big ideas, when rooted in community, science, and policy, can lead to extraordinary outcomes.

The West has always been a place where big ideas take root, where resilience and innovation thrive amidst beautiful, sometimes harsh and inhospitable

landscapes. The Climate Fix is no exception. While we have made remarkable progress, the work is far from over. Now is the time to double down, expand our

reach, and accelerate the pace of change. The future of the West — and the planet — depends on it.



A person embraces a small child in Canyonlands National Park, Utah.

REDUCTIONS BY UTILITY

Projected emissions reductions from 2016 to 2030, measured in millions of tons of CO₂.

Zeroing in on fossil-fuel electricity generation by utility gives us a clear target and a direct path to success. Identified here are the greenhouse gas emissions reductions WRA has secured from the eight largest utilities in our region since 2016, as well as the remaining tons needed to reach our goal. Consistent with science, we must reduce climate-warming emissions at least 80% by 2030 as compared to the 2005 baseline. In the Interior West, our major utilities are at varying degrees of progress in meeting this goal.



Bigger Utilities Can Catalyze Broader Transformation

When we launched the Climate Fix, we decided to focus on the largest eight electric utilities in our region. Our calculated strategy was that focusing on these largest utilities could catalyze a larger transformation that would drive emissions reductions from other, smaller utilities. This strategy proved successful, especially in Colorado.

In 2018, we collaborated with Xcel Energy to secure a commitment to reduce its emissions at least 80% below 2005 levels by 2030. Then, we secured passage of Colorado legislation codifying that commitment and advocated for strong rules at the regulatory bodies to effectively implement the legislation. This work culminated in Xcel's Clean Energy Plan, finally approved in 2024, that directs Xcel to invest over \$10 billion in clean energy, retire Colorado's last coal unit no later than 2030, and reduce its emissions 89% by 2030.

Our success with Xcel is a critical part of achieving WRA's regionwide climate goals. But we were also able to use it as a foundation to secure emissions reductions from the other smaller utilities in Colorado. Specifically, in 2021, we secured legislation requiring Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Black Hills Energy, Colorado Springs Utilities, and other Colorado utilities to develop similar plans to achieve at least an 80% reduction in emissions by 2030. We now have plans in place for all Colorado electric utilities to achieve the same emissions reductions.



A technician communicates below a transmission tower.



A VISION FOR TRANSFORMATION

WRA launched the Climate Fix to create a roadmap for a systemic clean energy transformation that would reduce carbon emissions in the Interior West 40% below 2016 levels by 2030, roughly 80 million tons per year. After initial success in Colorado proved that our emissions reductions target was obtainable, we set our sights even higher, increasing our goal of reducing climate-warming emissions across the regional economy by 120 million tons across the power, transportation, and building sectors per year.

This bold vision — driving deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through a rapid clean energy transition — was designed to show that economic growth and environmental sustainability can go hand in hand. By incentivizing utilities to reduce emissions and by working in the state-level forums where key energy decisions are made, like public utility commissions, we have built scalable, durable policy solutions to reshape the energy system — while delivering economic, public health, and environmental benefits throughout the West.

Zeroing in on fossil-fuel electricity generation gave

us a clear target and path to success. Not only is electricity generation the single largest source of carbon pollution in the Interior West, but cleaning up the power sector also provides a pathway for decarbonizing more difficult sectors of the economy, like transportation and home heating.

This bold vision — driving deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through a rapid clean energy transition — was designed to show that economic growth and environmental sustainability can go hand in hand. 

To succeed in these efforts, we knew we needed strong partners. Sometimes we work directly in partnership with the utilities, although at times we have to drive change independently and find ways to hold them accountable. We intentionally sought out partners in the business community, environmental justice advocates, and low-income consumer champions to develop mutually beneficial policy solutions and coordinated closely with them along the way. We also built broad support from a wide range of stakeholders to generate additional political pressure that leads to a stronger negotiating hand.

What We Have Accomplished So Far

Seven years in, the impacts are undeniable. The Climate Fix has driven results, proving that bold climate action delivers benefits beyond emissions reductions. Coal plants that once dominated the

energy landscape are being shuttered and many are being replaced with renewable energy sources like wind and solar. States across the region, from Colorado to Nevada to New Mexico, have enacted forward-looking clean energy legislation, setting ambitious targets for carbon reductions and

renewable energy adoption. These victories didn't happen by accident; they were the result of years of persistent advocacy, coalition building, and strategic policy work.

The Climate Fix's impact extends beyond policy — it is delivering real economic and social benefits. New clean energy projects have strengthened state economies. In Colorado, for example, as coal plants have shut down in Pueblo, new solar and battery storage projects have been built in the community. Wind turbine manufacturing plants and wind farms now dot the eastern Plains, generating new income streams for counties and clean energy for homes and businesses. As utilities transition to cheaper renewable sources, communities enjoy improved air quality that supports the health and well-being of families.

Even amid federal challenges, WRA has driven commitments for significant reductions in climate-warming emissions. Through direct advocacy, regulatory engagement, and coalition building, we have secured commitments to retire fossil fuel infrastructure and invest in clean energy, paving the way for a sustainable future across the West.

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Megawatt (MW)

A unit of measurement that is equal to 1 million watts or 1,000 kilowatts. It's used to measure the amount of power a wind turbine, solar panel, or fossil-fuel plant can deliver. A megawatt-hour (MWh) measures the amount of energy generated by a power plant. The average Western household uses 10 MWh in a year, and a 500-MW wind farm can meet the needs of approximately 175,000 households.

Turbines spin at Colorado's largest wind energy plant near Limon.

“What we love about WRA is its ability to see the bigger picture and provide a clear roadmap for transformative climate action.”

Red rock formations reflect on the Colorado River.

Climate Champions

We've always been committed to philanthropy, but our family's love for the outdoors is what truly motivates us to protect the West. We enjoy exploring Colorado's breathtaking landscapes with our kids and want to ensure that future generations enjoy these natural wonders as much as we do.

WRA doesn't just focus on personal actions; it drives policy change at the state level — the very arena where the battles for our energy future, our vibrant rivers, and our vast, open lands are won. We were inspired by the early wins in Colorado, including the retirement of two aging coal plants in 2018 and the establishment of bold greenhouse gas reduction targets in 2019. These successes showed us that even when up against daunting challenges, determined, well-planned policy can deliver results that benefit our communities.

We will continue to support the Climate Fix because we trust WRA to pursue big ideas that truly drive climate progress. Its work isn't just protecting our environment today — it's about laying the foundation for a sustainable, vibrant future for our region.

Melony and Adam Lewis

Colorado | WRA supporters since 2017

Our achievements include:

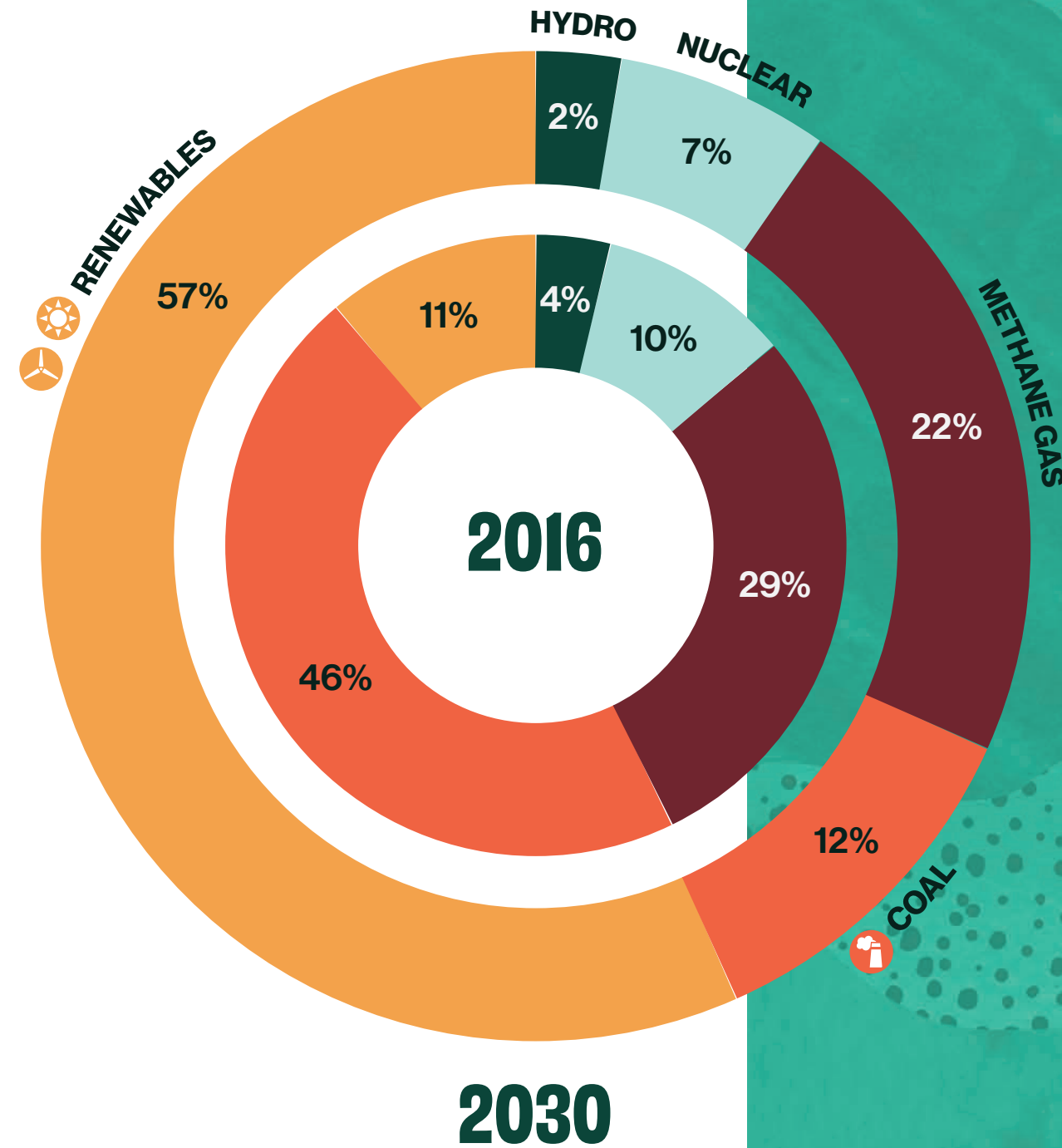
- Locking in commitments to retire coal plants and avoid new investments in methane gas, cutting annual power sector emissions by 85.8 million tons, surpassing our original goal;
- Leveraging state-level action to drive tens of billions of dollars in clean energy investments across the region; and
- Securing new policies to catalyze the transition to zero-emission vehicles and transportation, and efficient, electric space- and water-heating — avoiding over 5.8 million tons in 2030.

These achievements demonstrate that state-led action delivers tangible results even in the face of federal inaction. They prove that effective climate solutions can be implemented, expanded, and replicated across the region and beyond.

Why This Model Works, and Why the Work Isn't Over

Key to the Climate Fix's success is WRA's focus on state-level advocacy. While federal climate policy has often been far too little, too slow, and often

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ENERGY IN THE WEST IS CHANGING



In 2016, almost half of the electricity in WRA's six-state region was generated at coal-fired power plants. By 2030, the eight Climate Fix utilities project that over half of their electricity will come from renewables. The map mirrors this shift — across our landscape, coal plants have been replaced with clean wind, solar, and geothermal power.

KICKING COAL

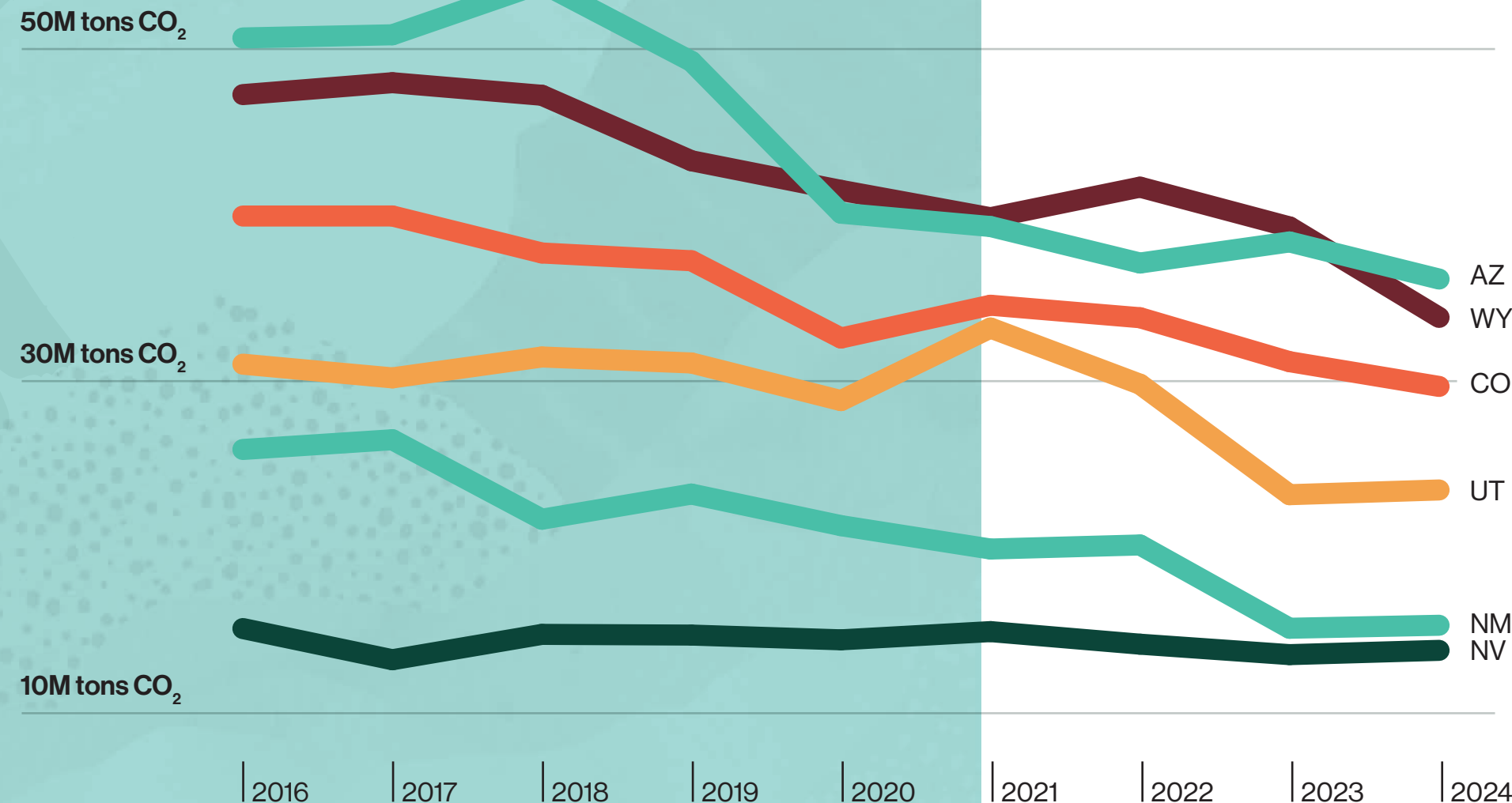
Between 2016 and 2024, over 8,000 MW of coal plants were retired in our region, representing almost 46 million tons of emissions.

13,700 MW

of coal plant capacity will be retired by 2030.

Looking Ahead

Between 2025 and 2030, we expect to see an additional 5,700 MW of coal capacity shuttered, representing almost 33 million tons of emissions. WRA played a key role in virtually all of these decisions.



Power Sector Emissions by State

The Interior West saw a combined 27% reduction in CO₂ emissions in 2024 as compared to 2016 levels.

inconsistent, state decision-making forums are where most decisions about energy are made and can be ripe for action. By targeting state legislatures, regulatory agencies, and public utilities, WRA has driven progress where it matters most — on the ground, in communities, and in policies that shape how we produce and consume energy.

Another critical element of the Climate Fix's success is its emphasis on the economic benefits of clean energy. Electric utilities are highly regulated and operate under complex financial incentives that can be counterintuitive, but WRA's deep industry expertise enables us to craft durable solutions that navigate these incentives, harness the economic benefits of clean energy, and reduce dependence on costly and unreliable fossil fuels. Effective climate action must reduce emissions, but it can also create good jobs that pay well, lower energy costs, and build more resilient economies.

Ambitious, science-based goals, specific and actionable state-by-state plans, policies tailored to meet the needs of each utility and state, and expert execution have led to the retirement of over 8,000 megawatts of coal plants in our region. This represented almost 46 million tons of emissions, while also assuring \$70 billion in clean energy investments,

and passing zero-emission vehicle standards in Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada.

The Climate Fix provided a roadmap for achieving meaningful, scalable climate action. But the work is far from over. The next phase requires us to refine our strategies and strengthen our advocacy in two areas.

First, we must develop new policies to overcome the technological hurdles for a zero-carbon economy in a way that maintains a reliable electric grid and keeps electricity affordable.

Second, we must address political challenges in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah — three states in our region that are hindering climate progress. The past seven years laid a solid foundation — now, we must build on it with even greater ambition and urgency.



THE POWER OF STATES: WHY VIGILANCE MATTERS

Climate change is no longer a distant threat — it is here, reshaping communities across the West. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, destructive wildfires, and extreme weather events have become the new normal. While the crisis is global, some of the most effective solutions are being forged at the state and local levels.

Why? Because states control key levers of climate and energy policy. States regulate utilities, set renewable energy standards, oversee transportation systems, and manage natural resources, and they are where innovative ideas can be tested, refined, and scaled. When faced with harmful policies and political deadlock in Washington, D.C., states offer the best forum to enact groundbreaking climate policies that go beyond what is possible at the federal level. WRA recognized this early on, and the Climate Fix was designed with this strategic insight at its core.

From Colorado's aggressive emissions reductions goals to New Mexico's 100% clean energy mandate, state-level action has driven some of the most significant climate victories in recent years.

Policy victories are critical, but they are just the first step on the path to decarbonization. The real work happens in the months and years that follow — turning law into action, defending against

backsliding, and holding utilities accountable to their promises.

Vigilance takes many forms, which is why WRA plays the long game. We join countless regulatory filings, review every spreadsheet, and attend negotiations. It also means fighting legal battles to ensure a landmark law delivers on its commitments. Increasingly, it means helping utilities navigate the mounting pressures of climate change itself.

Securing and Defending Progress

One lesson stands out: Progress is fragile. Without constant attention, it can stall — or worse, unravel.

Take Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, for example. Tri-State provides wholesale electricity to its members in Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Wyoming. During the Climate Fix, Tri-State underwent a significant transformation of its energy system, and WRA was there nearly every step of the way. After years of an informal resource planning process, WRA was instrumental in passing the 2019 legislation in Colorado that established a formal, regulated resource planning framework applicable to the utility. WRA also shaped the rules for Tri-State's resource planning.

With every plan filed, our attorneys, technical experts, and staff spent hundreds of hours analyzing utility data, crafting legal filings, and negotiating settlements. This sustained, meticulous engagement paid off: Each new plan resulted in declining projected emissions, with incremental improvements compounding into significant progress over time.

Sometimes, serving as a watchdog means defending a victory after the celebratory headlines fade. Our work in New Mexico with the Energy Transition Act (ETA) serves as a powerful reminder of this reality. Passed in 2019, the ETA was a landmark policy designed to shutter the coal-fired San Juan Generating Station, increase renewable energy requirements, and fund community and worker transition efforts.

When Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) delayed key parts of the law's implementation — stalling ratepayer cost reductions and support for affected communities — WRA and our partners stepped in. After years of legal proceedings, the New Mexico Supreme Court ultimately ruled in our favor, unlocking millions of dollars in benefits for customers and ensuring that transition funding reached those in need.



A murmuration of birds takes flight at sunset in Bosque del Apache, New Mexico.

At other times, WRA works to ensure utilities don't backtrack on their commitments. PacifiCorp's recent actions serve as a cautionary tale. In 2023, PacifiCorp's Integrated Resource Plan laid out a promising pathway, committing to 78% emissions reductions by 2030. Yet, only a year later, the utility revised its plan, slashing renewable investments and weakening its emissions target to 63%.

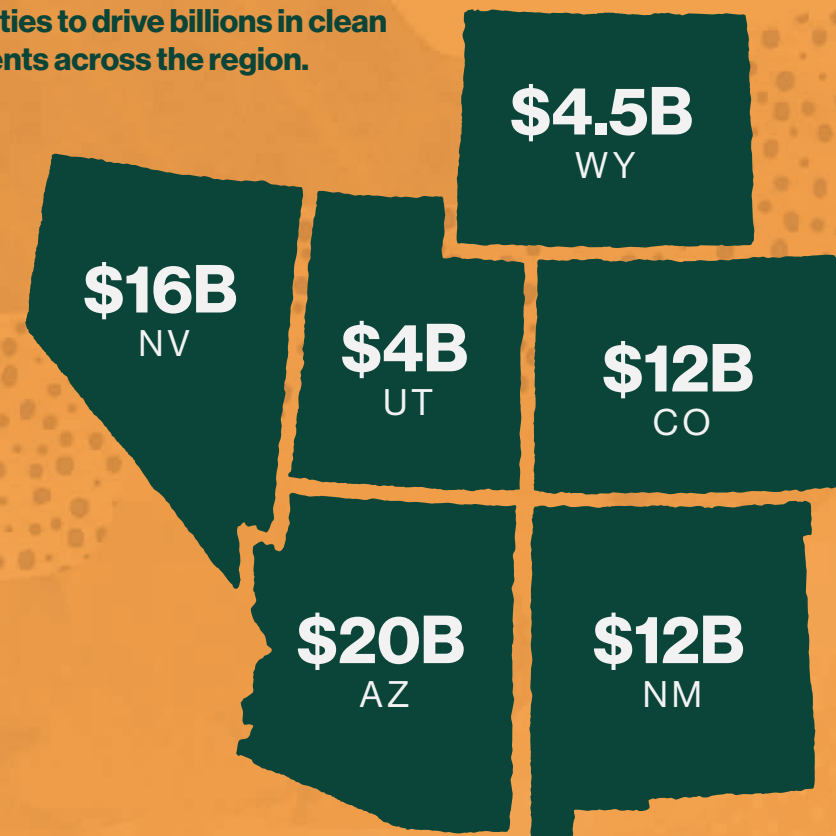
Federal policy shifts, such as weakened EPA pollution controls, combined with state-level coal-friendly legislation in Utah and the rising financial burden of climate-driven wildfires in Oregon, contributed to this setback. This abrupt reversal underscores a hard truth: Commitments are only as strong as the pressure behind them and the policies that enforce them. Even after securing ambitious pledges, WRA's continued advocacy is essential to ensure utilities meet their commitments to reduce emissions and advance clean energy. Our efforts to hold PacifiCorp to higher commitments continue.

Progress Can Sometimes Be Elusive

In November 2020, we were on the cusp of securing transformational policy reforms that would have catalyzed the clean energy transition in Arizona. After four years of extensive stakeholder engagement and rulemaking proceedings, the Arizona Corporation

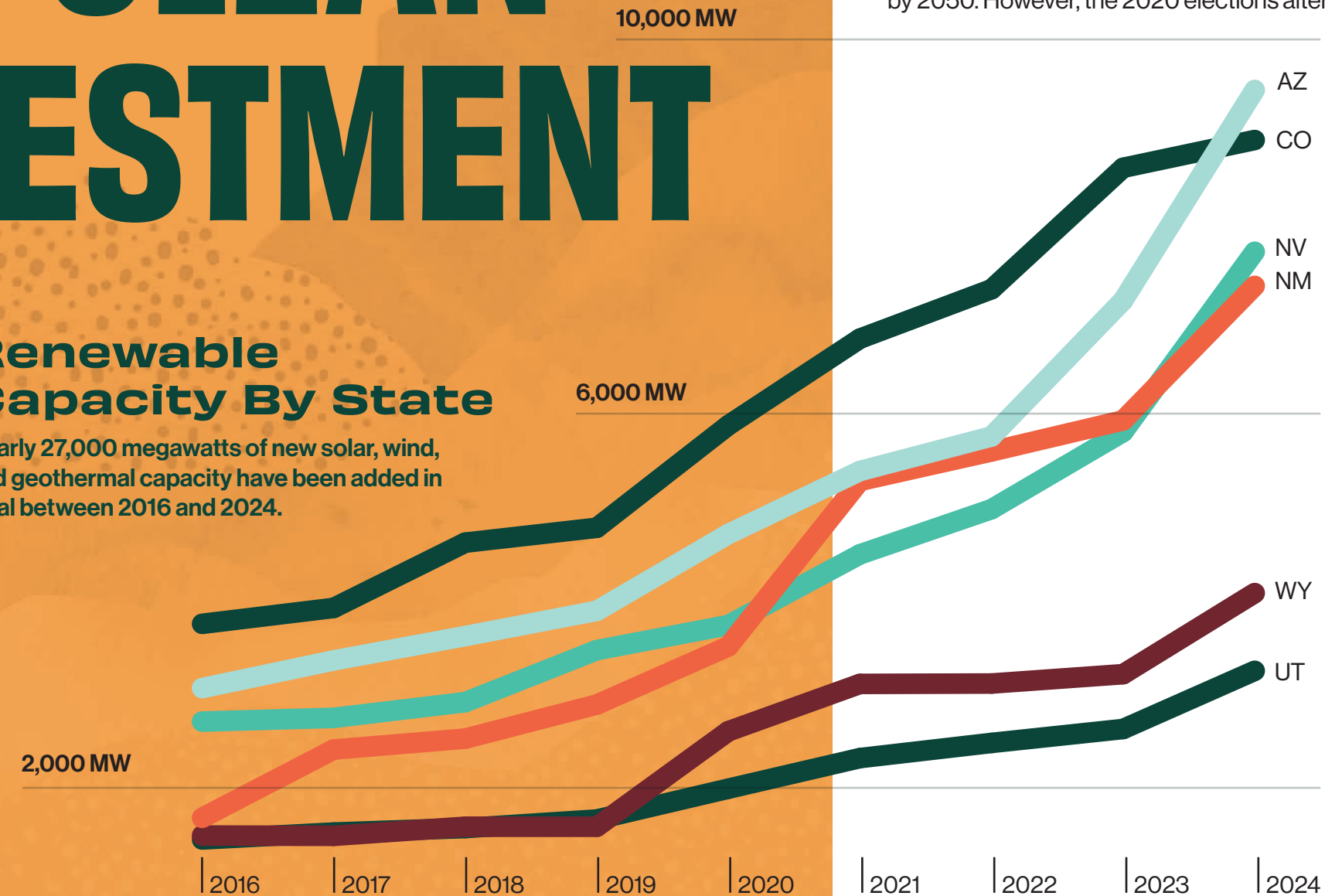
\$69 BILLION CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT

We leveraged state-level action and worked directly with utilities to drive billions in clean energy investments across the region.



Renewable Capacity By State

Nearly 27,000 megawatts of new solar, wind, and geothermal capacity have been added in total between 2016 and 2024.



Commission voted to strengthen energy rules that would have improved utility resource planning, increased energy efficiency savings, and mandated rapid emissions reductions to reach zero emissions by 2050. However, the 2020 elections altered the

Commission's makeup, and within six months, the new Commission weakened the proposed rules and ultimately voted against them. Now, nearly four years later, the Commission is even considering repealing the existing rules altogether.

In response to these shifting dynamics, we recognized the need for a much stronger, broader power base to secure progress in Arizona. Throughout the Climate Fix, we have expanded our capacity in the state by enhancing our clean energy, communications, and government affairs teams. Arizona is critical to achieving our goal of reducing the harms of climate change, and we remain steadfast in our efforts to drive transformative policy.

External Forces: Climate Pressure and Increasing Demand

As climate change accelerates, utilities are facing increasingly complex challenges. They are not navigating the clean energy transition in a vacuum — the climate crisis is reshaping the energy landscape, complicating decisions, and increasing costs.

Across the West, utilities like Arizona Public Service, PacifiCorp, and NV Energy are under strain. Record heat waves are boosting cooling demand, and utilities

have sought to justify new methane gas plants, while climate-driven wildfires saddle them with enormous liabilities that hinder clean energy investments. Meanwhile, drought threatens hydropower output and extreme heat pushes grid infrastructure to its limits, reducing efficiency and increasing outage risks.

Adding to these challenges is the rapidly growing energy demand from data centers powering things like artificial intelligence systems. Recent reports indicate that data centers are dramatically increasing states' energy demand after decades of virtually flat load growth. This surge from tech companies building these power-hungry facilities further stresses the grid, complicating the shift away from fossil fuels and deepening the emissions crisis if unmet by clean alternatives.

But AI's emergence also offers an opportunity. The vast financial resources behind the boom can drive unprecedented private sector investment in clean power. WRA is focused on ensuring this capital surge is harnessed to accelerate the clean energy transition. Aligned properly, these investments could help build the grid of the future — one that meets growing electricity demand without sacrificing climate progress. **This dynamic moment presents not just challenges, but a chance to forge a cleaner, smarter grid — if we act boldly now.**



THE PATH FORWARD: SCALING SUCCESS

The Challenge Ahead: Navigating Federal Uncertainty

Federal climate policy is not providing the large-scale solutions that the climate crisis desperately needs. This makes state-level action more important than ever.

WRA is ready to lead in this fight — we have built the expertise, infrastructure, and relationships necessary to continue driving meaningful progress on climate action — regardless of federal setbacks.

Our reputation as policy and analytical experts across the Interior West empowers us to advance climate solutions, where they truly matter. Given the current state of affairs in Washington, D.C., it is critical that we continue to leverage the power of states to drive progress.

State governments wield significant authority over transportation and electricity sectors, while cities and counties set building codes, implement zoning ordinances, and determine land use. A December 2024 analysis from the University of Maryland shows that with strong leadership by non-federal

actors — states, cities, Tribes, counties, businesses, and universities — the United States could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 54% to 62% compared to 2005 levels by 2035, putting us nearly on path to reduce emissions consistent with the scientific consensus.

It's time to take the next step — to replicate our successes, refine and sharpen our strategies, and ensure that the West remains a leader in the fight against climate change.

Scaling What Works: Expanding Our Impact

The path forward is clear: We must scale proven solutions, deepen our commitments, and push for even more vigorous climate action. The successes of the Climate Fix are not isolated achievements; they serve as building blocks for a broader movement that can reshape the future of the West.

We have learned that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Every state and utility operates within its

own political, economic, and regulatory landscape. Scaling the Climate Fix requires tailored policy solutions that address the unique dynamics and regulatory frameworks of each state.

Our commitment to meet this challenge compels WRA to build our organizational capacity to effectively

develop and implement customized approaches, even in the varied and sometimes difficult political climates of our Western region. It requires expanding our focus to include critical sectors like transportation and buildings, while continuously innovating to adapt our strategies to the evolving climate crisis and shifting political landscapes.

Overcoming Political Barriers and Strengthening Advocacy

By building on state-level successes, we can create a ripple effect that influences national policy and accelerates global progress. But achieving this vision

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A hiker stands underneath the Jacob Hamblin Arch in Escalante, Utah.

“The Climate Fix initiative proved that you don’t have to wait for national consensus to drive real change.”



Autumn colors sweep across an alpine landscape in Ridgway, Colorado.

Change Agent

I have a profound love for the Western United States. From the mountains of Colorado to the canyons and arches of Utah, this region offers some of the most spectacular natural beauty in the world. When I first learned about WRA, I was impressed by its expertise and the effort it put into protecting these landscapes — it felt like WRA was truly fighting for what I hold dear.

I quickly learned that WRA deeply understands this region and is committed to protecting it. Its focus on local- and state-level action is a lifeline in a world where federal policies can change overnight.

WRA has been relentless in pursuing greenhouse gas emissions reductions, setting an ambitious goal from the outset — one that many of us thought was impossible at the time. Yet today, five of the largest utilities have committed to achieving it, and even those still on the path are making substantial progress. This remarkable progress is the result of unwavering focus, dedication, and persistence.

I’ve come to understand that an effort this bold — to protect our planet and the places we love — demands hard work and enduring commitment. WRA tackles tough challenges head-on and is highly effective in the areas it operates in. I’ve seen firsthand how its work makes a difference where it matters most, and I am proud to continue working with WRA. You can’t be strong everywhere, but you can be strong where it counts.

Eric Laufer, New York City

WRA supporter since 2018 | WRA Board Member since 2019

HUMAN POWERED


Staffing up to meet the challenge.



**Prior to
Climate Fix**



**Added to
Scale Our Work**

 **Leadership**

 Legal

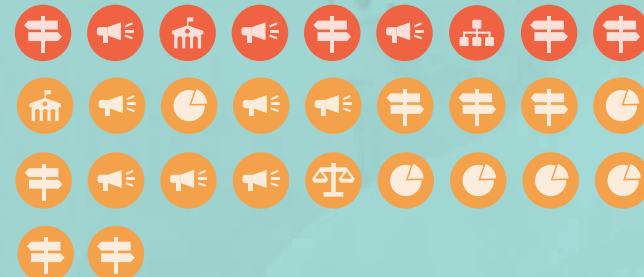
 **Government Affairs**


Policy

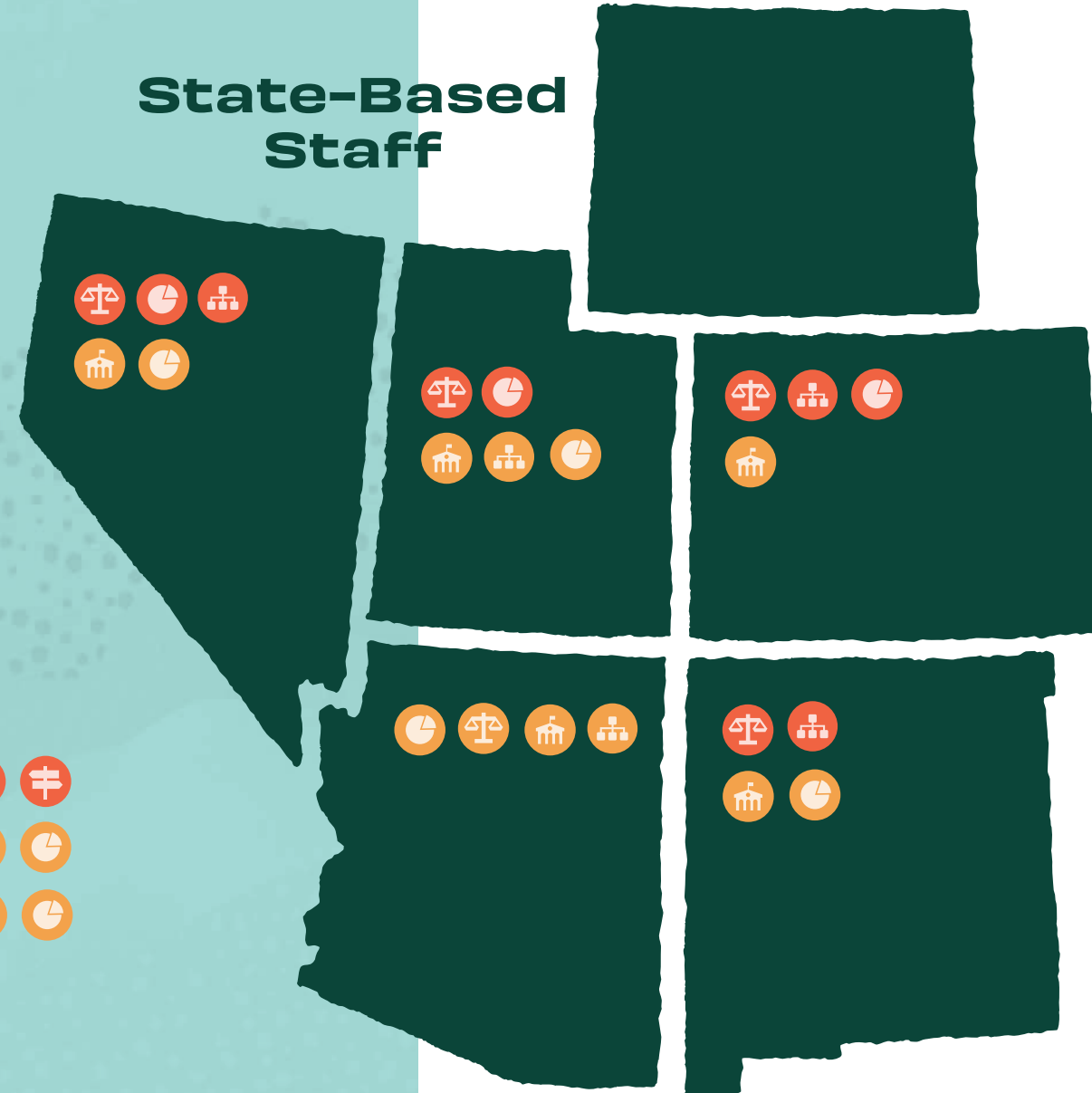
Support

 **Marketing & Communications**

Regional Staff



State-Based Staff



requires more than good policy, powerful coalitions, political acumen, strong partners, and detailed plans. It also requires overcoming entrenched political barriers in states where climate action has traditionally faced resistance.

In politically challenging states like Utah and Arizona, meaningful emissions reductions will depend on solutions firmly grounded in their economic benefits — solutions that bridge ideological divides. The more benefits we can attach to every ton of carbon reduced — such as job creation, energy cost savings, and economic resilience — the more effective and durable these policies will be.

WRA is actively strengthening its political capacity across our seven-state region to meet this challenge. We work tirelessly in statehouses across the West to ensure that climate policies not only achieve the necessary emissions reductions, but also that those policies are politically viable and that they will endure over time, despite shifting political winds.

The Role of Donors: Powering the Climate Fix

The next phase of the Climate Fix demands more than strategy and execution — it requires the continued support of those who believe in this work.

WRA is doubling down, working harder than ever to secure emissions reductions at the state level, even as the federal government goes back on climate commitments. The work is challenging, demanding expertise, long-term commitment, and persistent

"The process of policy development requires an extraordinary and rare skill set. With WRA, you have a group of people who have that unique, valuable skill set, and they've chosen to use it for the benefit of our climate. But this work is detailed, it's complex, and it can't happen unless people invest in it."

– Erin Overturf, WRA's Clean Energy Director

advocacy from every member of our community. Thanks to the generosity of WRA supporters, who have contributed over \$45 million to support our clean energy work, the Climate Fix has already delivered substantial impact and emissions reductions. The commitment of these pioneering donors enabled policies that retired fossil fuel plants, expanded clean energy investments, and paved the way for clean

energy transformation across the West. Yet, we cannot rest on these achievements. By scaling our success, building power, bridging political divides in key states, and driving policies that lock in further emissions reductions, we can

cement the Interior West's reputation as a model for climate action. Such progress requires continued and increased investment in our work. Your support ensures that our team of experts and advocates can build on our foundational work, scale our progress, and deliver transformative results for our communities and the environment.



PROTECTING THE WEST'S FUTURE

The West has always been a land of opportunity — a place where bold ideas thrive, resilience is a way of life, and communities unite to overcome challenges. WRA's dedicated work to advance the Climate Fix embodies this spirit and stands as a testament to what can be achieved when determination, vision, and action converge.

This work is not just about emissions reductions or regulatory victories. It's about the shared spirit of the West — one of resolve, collaboration, and stewardship. A spirit that has defined this landscape for generations, from the Tribes who have existed on this land and cared for it from time immemorial to those who fight today to protect its future.

This is a region where people don't wait for permission to act, where communities lift each other up, and where problem-solving and perseverance are essential for survival. That same spirit drives the Climate Fix — it fuels WRA's staff, board members, partners, and donors, reflecting our unwavering belief that the West can and must lead the way on climate action.

At WRA, we're applying the lessons we learned from the Climate Fix and building on the momentum we have created to close every remaining coal plant in

the Western U.S. But we are also committed to bigger, bolder action to protect Western lands and rivers.

We plan to:

- Protect 20 million acres of Western lands, safeguarding habitat that is home to countless species and includes some of the most beautiful places on the planet.
- Protect 1,500 miles of rivers, ensuring that the great rivers of the West — the Colorado and Rio Grande — can continue to support communities and ecosystems alike.

These are ambitious goals. Yet, the last seven years of success in advancing the Climate Fix have shown us that big ideas backed by science — and paired with targeted policies, strategic advocacy, and the right partners — can yield transformative results.

The West's story has always been one of hope, resilience, and possibility. The Climate Fix is now an integral part of that story. The next chapter is ours to write.

Join us to ensure the story continues — for our communities, for our planet, and for future generations.

A Call to Action: The Road Ahead

As we look to the future, we must acknowledge that the work ahead will be more challenging than ever. For leading utilities in our region, we are approaching the final stretch of decarbonization — the last 10% to 15% of emissions reductions — which presents complex technical and financial hurdles. For utilities that have lagged, the urgency to cut emissions has accelerated, making delays more costly and difficult. For these utilities, particularly in Arizona and Utah, the political environment makes progress toward climate goals even more challenging.

Beyond the power sector, the next phase of emissions reductions requires tackling harder-to-decarbonize areas like transportation and buildings. Success in these sectors will demand creativity, innovation, increased organizational capacity, and the same persistence that has driven our progress in the electricity sector to date.

The stakes are high, but so is our resolve. The Climate Fix has provided a game plan for what is possible, and now it's time to take the next step — to replicate our successes, refine and sharpen our strategies, and ensure that the West remains a leader in the fight against climate change. WRA is prepared to

THE POWER SHIFT

See our **Climate Fix** story unfold. This timeline offers a snapshot of the coal retirements, policy wins, and clean energy investments that collectively removed 91.5 million tons of carbon across the Interior West.



Climate Milestones



Retire Coal



Replace with Renewables



Grid Modernization

meet this next phase of this critical work with the same strategic, determined approach that has driven progress to date with the experience and knowledge from the past seven years.

Let's build our future together.

2017



Utah Smart EV Charging Pilot

Utah's Public Service Commission approves a WRA-supported pilot for smart EV charging, offering financial incentives for nighttime charging to leverage cleaner energy sources and reduce the need for new fossil-fuel power during peak demand.



2018



NV Energy Coal Retirement and Solar Acquisition

NV Energy retires 250 MW Reid Gardner 4 coal plant after WRA-led advocacy, while coalition partners secured the acquisition of the 100-MW Techren Solar PV Project to boost clean energy in Nevada.



International Climate Warning

UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report warns that we have only 12 years to avert catastrophic climate change.



Xcel's Carbon-Free Commitment

Xcel becomes the first major utility in the region to commit to a carbon-free future by 2050, marking a historic shift toward sustainable, renewable energy practices.



Nevada's Renewable Portfolio Standard

WRA helps craft Nevada ballot question to mandate a Renewable Portfolio Standard of 50% renewable energy for NV Energy's system by 2030. Voters approve the measure.



Xcel's Colorado Energy Plan

WRA secures Xcel's Colorado Energy Plan, leading to the retirement of two aging coal-fired power plants in Pueblo and cutting carbon emissions by 4.5 million tons per year.



Sagamore Wind Farm in New Mexico

WRA secures regulatory approvals for New Mexico's 550-MW Sagamore wind farm, set to avert over 2 million tons of CO₂ annually and save consumers \$2.8 billion over 30 years through clean energy investments.



New Mexico Transportation Electrification Law

New Mexico's legislature requires investor-owned utilities to file transportation electrification implementation plans.



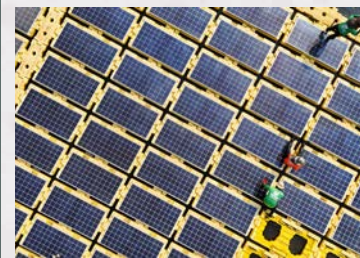
Nevada Renewable Legislation

Nevada passes legislation boosting its Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50% by 2030, with a long-term goal of 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2050, marking a major clean energy win.



New Mexico's Energy Transition Act

New Mexico passes the Energy Transition Act, requiring utilities to produce 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050 and enabling PNM to exit its last coal units at San Juan.





Arizona Utilities' GHG Commitments

WRA helps secure ambitious greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reductions commitments from Arizona utilities: TEP pledges to exit coal by 2032 and achieve 80% emissions cuts by 2035, while APS aims for full decarbonization by 2050.

2020



Innovative Rate Design in Colorado

WRA secures a nine-party settlement in Colorado that introduces time-of-use (TOU) rates for Xcel's residential customers, incentivizing reduced energy use during peak periods and lowering emissions.



NM Supreme Court and San Juan Retirement

New Mexico Supreme Court and Public Regulation Commission ensure the Energy Transition Act is enforced, mandating the retirement of the San Juan Generating Station and preserving \$40 million for economic transition.



2021



PacifiCorp Transition in Utah

Utah's Public Service Commission approves two settlement agreements negotiated by WRA, expediting the early retirement of PacifiCorp's coal plants and updating depreciation schedules to reflect accelerated clean energy transition.



Implementation of New Mexico's Energy Transition Act

New Mexico's Public Regulation Commission approves 650 MW of solar and 300 MW of battery storage to replace the retiring San Juan Generating Station, spurring over \$1 billion in clean energy investments and creating 1,200 jobs.



PacifiCorp's 2021 IRP

PacifiCorp's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), influenced by WRA advocacy, commits the utility to major renewable investments and emissions reductions — aiming for a 74% cut by 2030 and 98% by 2050, though later scaled back in 2024.



AZ Transportation Electrification Order

WRA secures an order directing APS and TEP to file Transportation Electrification Plans, advancing the state's transition to cleaner, electric transportation.

2022



Nevada Transmission Build-out

Nevada's Public Utilities Commission approves \$1.6 billion transmission build-out in 2021, enabling over 3,000 MW of new solar projects, and strengthening regional grid infrastructure to support renewable energy development.



Tri-State GHG Reduction Announcement

After years of advocacy, Tri-State announces plans to substantially reduce GHG emissions and potentially retire its polluting Craig 3 coal unit ahead of schedule, setting a new benchmark for utility accountability.



2023



Inflation Reduction Act

The Inflation Reduction Act provides critical federal incentives to accelerate renewable energy deployment and clean manufacturing, bolstering the region's transition to a low-carbon economy.



New Mexico San Juan Cost Savings

After 18 months of litigation, Public Service Company of New Mexico agrees to return \$115 million in cost savings to ratepayers following the abandonment of the San Juan coal plant, a major win for consumer protection.



2024



Xcel's Clean Heat Plan

WRA's advocacy secures approval from the Colorado PUC for Xcel's inaugural Clean Heat Plan with a \$440 million investment. This decision prioritizes electrification and efficiency in buildings for scalable, cost-effective emissions reductions.



EPA Funds for Utah's GHG Reduction

The Environmental Protection Agency allocates \$75 million to Utah to implement GHG reduction measures, including an income-qualified EV incentive program, outreach, education, and workforce training to drive cleaner transportation.



New Rules for Utility Entry in Colorado

Colorado adopts new rules in 2024 for utility entry into organized wholesale markets, a policy shift driven by WRA's advocacy that enhances market participation and supports decarbonization efforts.



Tri-State Settlement in Colorado

WRA negotiates a settlement with Tri-State that mandates the early retirement of the Craig 3 coal unit by Jan. 1, 2028, and the Springerville 3 coal unit by Sept. 15, 2031.

The work continues!

A young bighorn sheep walks across the landscape in Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada

OUR PARTNERS

We are committed to working with advocates in environmental justice, conservation, health, and business to make meaningful progress on reaching the Interior West's climate goals. In addition, we work closely with state and regional utilities, regulatory bodies, government agencies, and academic organizations. We thank these key partners and the many other organizations engaged in effective climate action for their partnership:

Advanced Energy United
American Lung Association
Arizona PIRG
Battle Born Progress
Bell Policy Center
Black Mesa Trust
BlueGreen Alliance
Caring, Helping, & Restoring Lives
Center for Civic Policy
Ceres
Chispa
Climate Advocates Voces Unidas
Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy
Colorado Climate Action Now
Colorado Community Action Association
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Colorado People's Alliance
Conservation Colorado

Conservation Voters New Mexico
CoPIRG
Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Electrification Coalition
Energy Outreach Colorado
Environmental Defense Fund
Faith Organizing Alliance
Grand Canyon Trust
GreenLatinos
GRID Alternatives
HEAL Utah
Healthier Air & Water Colorado
Healthy Climate New Mexico
Interwest Energy Alliance
Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute
League of Women Voters
Mi Familia Vota
Moms Clean Air Force
Naeva
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nevada Conservation League
New Mexico Environmental Law Center
NM CAFE
NM Clean Cars Clean Air
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light

OLÉ Education Fund
Park City
Plug In America
Policy Solutions Institute
Power 4 NM
ProgressNow New Mexico
Prosperity Works
Protect Our Winters
Rocky Mountain Institute
Rural Arizona Action
Salt Lake City
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Santa Fe Green Chamber

Sierra Club
Signal Tech Coalition
Solar United Neighbors
Somos Un Pueblo Unido
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
Southwest Native Cultures
Summit County
TE Activator
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Tó Nizhóni Ání
Union of Concerned Scientists
Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems
Utah Clean Energy

Utah Diné Bikéyah
Utah Foundation
Utah Municipal Power Agency
Vote Solar
Western Clean Energy Campaign
Western Grid Group
Wildfire Arizona
Womxn from the Mountain

“Enacting climate legislation to secure greenhouse gas reductions creates a framework that empowers utilities, governments, and businesses to implement effective strategies. Legally binding targets drive real action and accountability. WRA's experts are leaders in developing well-crafted policies and have helped put Colorado decisively on the path to decarbonization.”

– KC Becker, former U.S. EPA Administrator of Region 8 and former Colorado Speaker of the House of Representatives, Colorado General Assembly

Let's build our future together.



theclimatefix.org

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