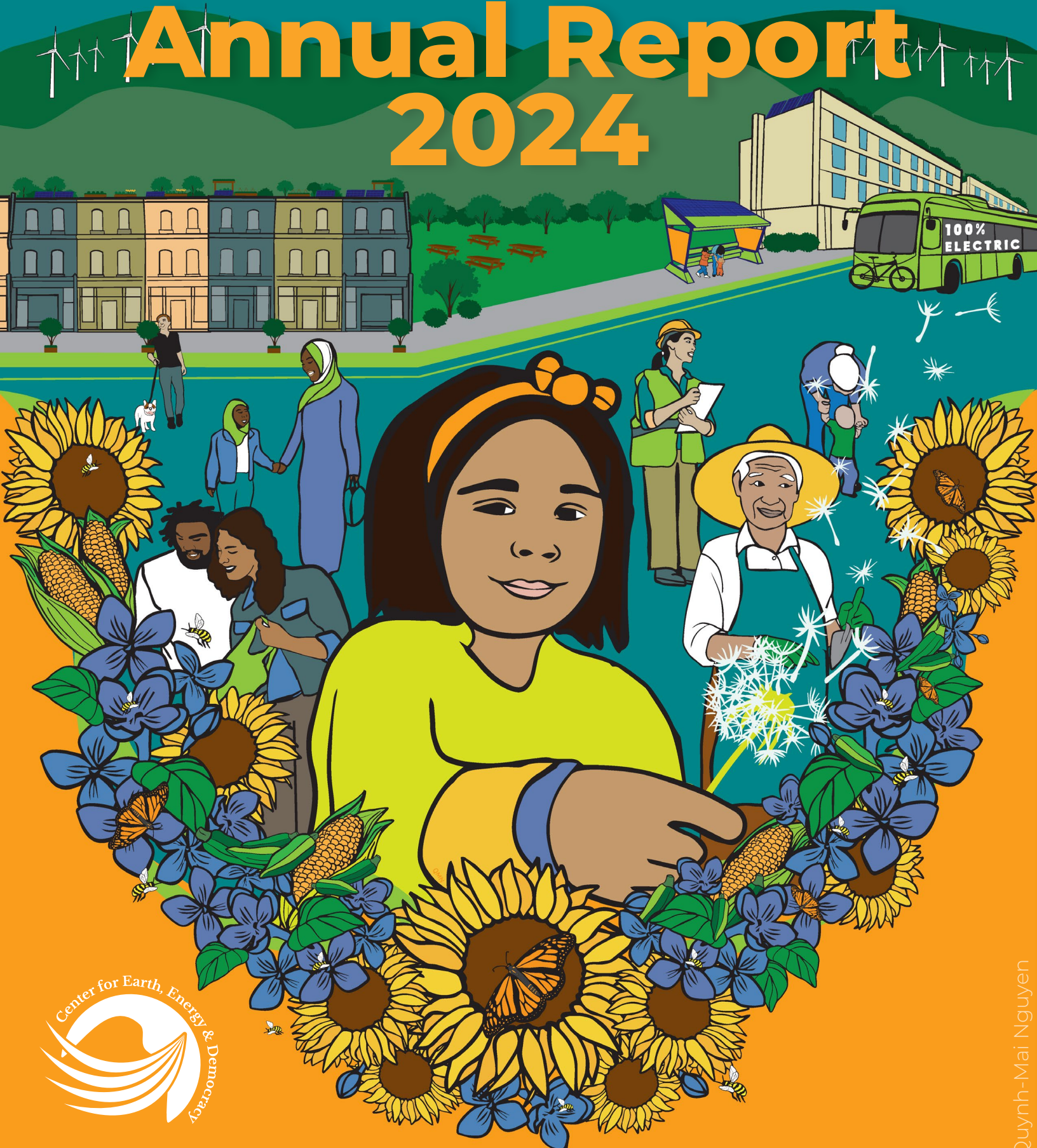


EQUITABLE & JUST
NATIONAL CLIMATE PLATFORM

Annual Report 2024



Letter from CEED's Executive Director



Dear Coalition Partners,

On behalf of the entire team at the Center for Earth, Energy & Democracy (CEED), I want to thank you all for your unwavering commitment to advancing the Equitable & Just National Climate Platform (EJNCP). Our team is grateful for your support as we grew our team and built our capacity so we could take on a bigger role in convening and anchoring the coalition.

Since our coalition's inception, we have won unprecedented progress for environmental justice communities on the federal stage. Through the work of many environmental justice advocates and organizations from around the country, we've secured once-in-a-generation funding for states and cities to address decades of harm. The historic Justice40 Initiative, which our coalition supported, worked to ensure that those closest to these harms get to design what a more just climate future looks like.

The work is not over. With a new administration taking over and threatening to revoke historic investments in our communities, we must not lose sight of our mission to ensure no community is left behind. Looking ahead to 2025, our partnership is more important than ever as we join forces to protect, defend and build. We may face difficult days ahead but we will face them together.

We will not lose sight — nor lose hope — for the just climate future our communities deserve.

In solidarity,

Byron Gudiel, Executive Director
Center for Earth, Energy & Democracy (CEED)

The EJNCP Story and Vision

The Equitable & Just National Climate Platform (EJNCP) is a coalition that was launched in 2019 to address the historic exclusion of environmental justice (EJ) groups from the national climate change policy discourse. The EJNCP works to advance the priorities outlined in its Platform, which articulates a vision for bold economic, racial, climate, and environmental justice, and serves as a roadmap for the collaborative work and shared commitment to ending the environmental racism that has left economically disadvantaged communities, Indigenous communities, Black communities, and communities of color exposed to disproportionate levels of toxic pollution and bearing the brunt of the climate crisis.

This groundbreaking coalition, which also strives to build trust and collaboration among EJ groups and national environmental organizations, is uniquely positioned as the only one of its kind working to drive change by addressing environmental racism and injustice through the following:

- Developing inclusive and equitable national climate policies;
- Fostering joint support and alignment on bold national climate policy agendas between EJ groups and national environmental groups;
- Advancing economic, racial, climate, and environmental justice to enhance public health and community well-being.



“As coalition members of the Equitable & Just National Climate Platform, we will link arms to push back against Big Oil and other big polluters’ extremist agenda — and we will stay focused on advancing our vision of a just climate future, which transcends any one administration.”

– Press Release, November 2024

EJNCP convenes national environmental groups, EJ groups, and other partners in co-creating equitable national policy ideas and frameworks that build an inclusive, just, and pollution-free energy economy. EJNCP is the only national mechanism for leaders across the movement to have an inclusive table to foster solutions-driven conversations, determine areas of alignment, and create a path toward meaningful change. The coalition has developed a structure and culture of transparency, collaboration and embrace of constructive conflict to achieve shared accountability within the movement and advance prioritized policies.

Today, the work of the EJNCP is led by 18 coalition members and anchored by CEED, which plays a key role as the coalition convener and project manager.

Environmental Justice Organizations:

- Center for Earth, Energy & Democracy (CEED)
- Center for the Urban Environment at the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University
- Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ)
- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ)
- Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform (EJHA)
- Green Door Initiative
- Harambee House - Citizens for Environmental Justice
- Los Jardines Institute
- New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA)
- ReGenesis Institute
- Tishman Environmental and Design Center at The New School
- WE ACT for Environmental Justice

National Environmental Organizations:

- Center for American Progress (CAP)
- Earthjustice
- League of Conservation Voters (LCV)
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Sierra Club
- Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)



Photo credit: Eli Turner

Reflecting on Our Impact: Five Years of Progress

Investing in EJ Communities



Championed historic federal investments and programs to advance EJ:

- **\$60B** in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding
- Helped shape the **Justice40** initiative
- **\$20B** in federal funding for emissions reduction, clean up, resiliency, and other EJ projects



The majority of the coalition's budget is regranted to support EJ partners

Strengthening EJ Partner Capacity

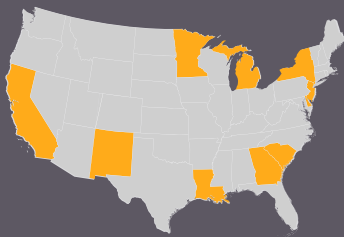


Expanded access to resources to over **300 Platform co-signers**



Organized **13 trainings** for coalition members

EJNCP supported EJ partners in 10 states



Building Collective Power



Held **more than 20** coalition leadership convenings to hold space for collaboration



Developed **8 factsheets** and held **3 informational webinars** to strengthen EJ community education



Shaped **5 resources** to support EJ-informed federal work

Advancing EJNCP's Efforts

Partner Success Stories



Championing Food Justice in Albuquerque

Los Jardines Institute (The Gardens Institute), one of EJNCP's partners since its inception, has been a leader in the EJ movement in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for decades. Part of their community work includes partnering with the Latino-led La Cosecha/Agri-Cultura Network farmers'

cooperative to plant fruit trees in schools and neighborhoods, tackling food injustice, creating nurturing green spaces where there are none, and reducing extreme heat risks. In [this video](#), Richard Moore, an EJ pioneer for nearly 60 years, shares how historic federal investments have supported this transformative work.



Transforming Detroit from the Motor City to the Solar City

Detroit, Michigan, is known for putting the world on wheels. **Green Door Initiative**, an EJNCP member since 2022, is helping to redefine the city's future legacy by pushing forth its Motor City to Solar City initiative. The project aims to revitalize forgotten neighborhoods block-by-block into innovative community engagement hubs, all powered by renewable energy and eco-friendly manufacturing. It includes developing community solar projects and supporting local community members, particularly those most impacted by underemployment, with training and preparation for employment in the growing "green collar" sector. Once completed, the project will create over 100 jobs, power over 500 homes, reduce energy costs for thousands of residents, and lay the foundation for the future of the Solar City.

Unified Actions to Advance EJ-Centered Solutions



Navigating Conversations Around Emerging Technologies

As a coalition, we convened four times over two years to discuss hydrogen, carbon capture sequestration (CCS), and carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) – emerging technologies being considered in the clean energy sector. The meetings included information sharing on the technologies from various experts, conversations around possibilities for joint advocacy, and building processes to develop transparency among coalition organizations. While the coalition’s members may not all share the same views, these conversations were essential to understanding each organization’s diverse perspectives and how these technologies might impact EJ communities.



Elevating the Mandatory Emissions Reductions Framework

In 2024, EJNCP hosted a dynamic webinar focused on EJ strategies for climate mitigation policy, spotlighting the concept of Mandatory Emissions Reductions (MER). Developed by a group of leaders within the EJ grassroots movement, MER advocates for climate policies that not only address climate change but also mandate reductions in the pollution burdens and cumulative environmental impacts that disproportionately affect EJ communities. By centering equity, we can ensure that climate change policies reduce the health and environmental risks faced by communities already bearing the brunt of pollution and climate-related challenges. This approach is crucial for creating a more just and sustainable future.



Collaborating to Support EJ Policy

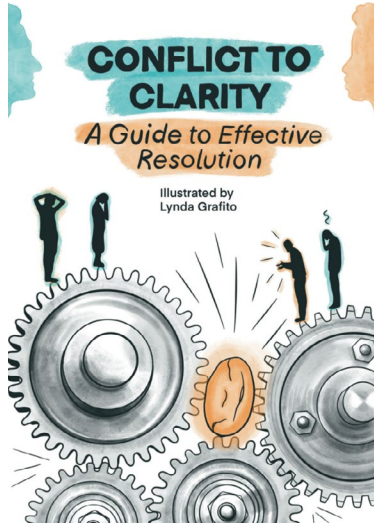
Driven by the core belief that everyone deserves access to clean water, breathable air, and freedom from the harmful impact of toxic chemicals, the A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice For All Act (EJ for All Act) stands as a powerful example of how federal policy can—and must—advance environmental justice, health equity, and climate justice for underserved communities. Over the past few years, EJNCP members have united to champion this historic legislation through impactful educational campaigns and coalition trainings. As we move forward, we remain committed to upholding EJ for All Act as a model for transformative change.



Innovating Together to Achieve Stronger Pollution Regulations

In 2024, staff from various EJNCP organizations gathered to discuss pathways to how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) might include cumulative impacts in future rulemaking. The workshop, which brought in 24 participants from across the country, resulted in robust conversations around setting greenhouse gas standards that include other co-pollutants, considering state-based approaches to implementation, and understanding the risks associated with emissions trading. The group agreed to hold working sessions in the coming months to collaborate on joint recommendations and guidance for the agency.

Engaging Our Coalition for Greater Impact

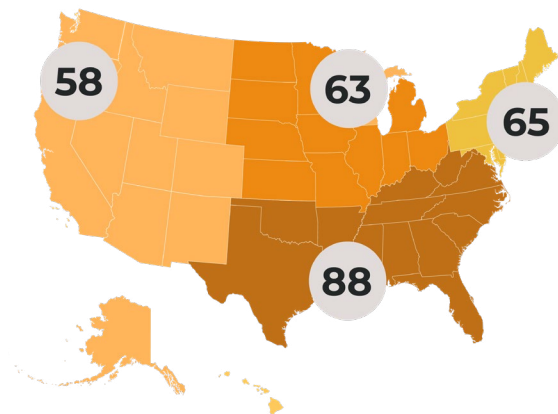


Creating Resources for Conflict Resolution

Conflict is natural in any coalition, but working to resolve it constructively is vital to our coalition’s success. In 2023, EJNCP’s Organizational Commitments Workgroup developed internal protocols for conflict resolution. In 2024, we also held four training sessions led by mediator **Helen Chen**, equipping members with tools for navigating tough conversations in a healthy and constructive way. These tools were creatively transformed into a **Zine**, co-created by CEED staff and illustrated by artist **Lynda Grafito**, serving as a practical guide to fostering healthy resolution within our coalition.

Strengthening Participation Among Platform Co-signers

In early 2024, CEED welcomed an additional staff member to drive forward the work of engaging with the Platform’s 300+ co-signers. Since then, a comprehensive landscape analysis of the co-signers has been completed, providing valuable insights into the EJNCP network. This analysis led to the creation of a co-signer database, a findings report and an interactive map, which will inform our future engagement strategy. Additionally, CEED has had over 25 targeted outreach efforts with current and potential co-signers, including two webinars and numerous one-on-one conversations.



* Map depicts number of co-signers in each region:

- Northeast: 65 organizations
- Midwest: 63 organizations
- South: 88 organizations
- West Coast: 58 organizations

Building Coalition Communications & Narrative Power

Digital Engagement

EJNCP launched a monthly email newsletter in March 2024 to strengthen digital communications and amplify statements, media toolkits, events, stories and resources. Our email list was small but highly engaged with a 44.5% open rate and 6.6% click-through rate and grew by 13% to 450 subscribers this year.

This year, we created **four press statements** and seven social media toolkits to provide messaging guidance and sample social media posts during key moments for our coalition, such as Post-Election Talking Points, EJNCP's 5th Anniversary, EPA Community Change grants, and more. These toolkits allow EJNCP's message to reach beyond our relatively small but growing social media presence through amplification by national partners with a larger reach.

Narrative Strategy

EJNCP's Communications Workgroup launched our narrative framework with a post-election webinar titled *Our Stories are Powerful: Building a Peoples' Climate Justice Narrative*. During the webinar, presenters shared two new video stories by CEED and Center for American Progress highlighting how Justice40 and other federal environmental justice investments are helping Los Jardines Institute build toward a just climate future for New Mexico. We also engaged in a conversation with coalition members and co-signers about how our story needs to change given the shifting political climate.

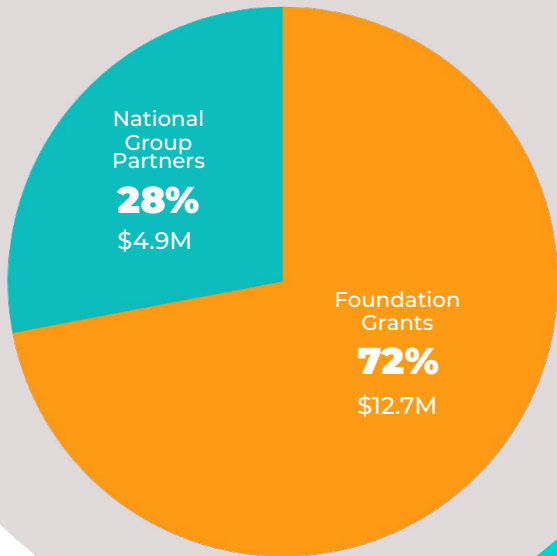


A screenshot of Richard Moore, Co-coordinator of Los Jardines Institute, from CEED's short video on Justice40 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

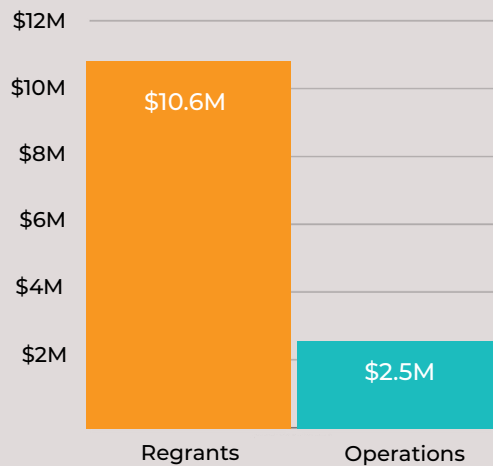
Summary of EJNCP Financials

Our financials reflect a strong commitment to centering EJ voices in the fight for a just climate future. Strategic resource management ensures that every dollar is maximized to advance the coalition’s mission. Thanks to this commitment and the support of our funders and national environmental group partners, we maintain a healthy financial position, enabling us to continue our impactful work.

Revenue



Expenses



Graphs depict financials for EJNCP from inception through August 31, 2024

Join us in Making an Impact

Become a Co-Signer

Add your organization to our list of co-signers via our website at ajustclimate.org or reach out to Charlie Espedido, National EJ Coordinator (cespedido@ceed.org).

Stay in Touch

Visit our website at ajustclimate.org to sign up for our newsletter and follow us on our social media channels.

Invest in Our Work

Join us in working towards a just climate future by connecting with Jennifer Rogers-Pettit, Development Director (jrogers-pettitt@ceed.org).

“Our organization is a member of the Equitable & Just National Platform because we believe and know that there is a lot of work to be done at the federal level. A lot of impacts in our communities are felt through federal policies and the formation of the Platform came together through the hard work of a lot of undersung, grassroots frontline groups and we want to be able to do what we can to contribute for our communities in southern California.”

– Taylor Thomas, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Thanking Our Partners

We are grateful to our generous funders for their unwavering support. Your commitment allows us to continue the coalition’s vital work. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey and helping us make a lasting impact.

Anonymous

Barbara Brunckhorst Foundation

Breakthrough Energy Foundation

Center for American Progress*

ClimateWorks Foundation

Earthjustice*

Energy Foundation

Heising-Simons Foundation

The Joyce Foundation

The Kresge Foundation

League of Conservation Voters*

McKnight Foundation

Natural Resources Defense Council*

Sierra Club*

Skyline Foundation

Union of Concerned Scientists*

Wallace Global Fund

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

*National environmental group partners