

**CERES 2021 POLICY OUTLOOK
BUSINESS FOR INNOVATIVE CLIMATE
AND ENERGY POLICY NETWORK**



“The opportunities to act on climate change right now fill me with incredible optimism, with hope, with energy, and excitement. We not only have the responsibility to meet this moment together—we have the capacity to meet this moment together.”

—*Gina McCarthy, White House National Climate Advisor*

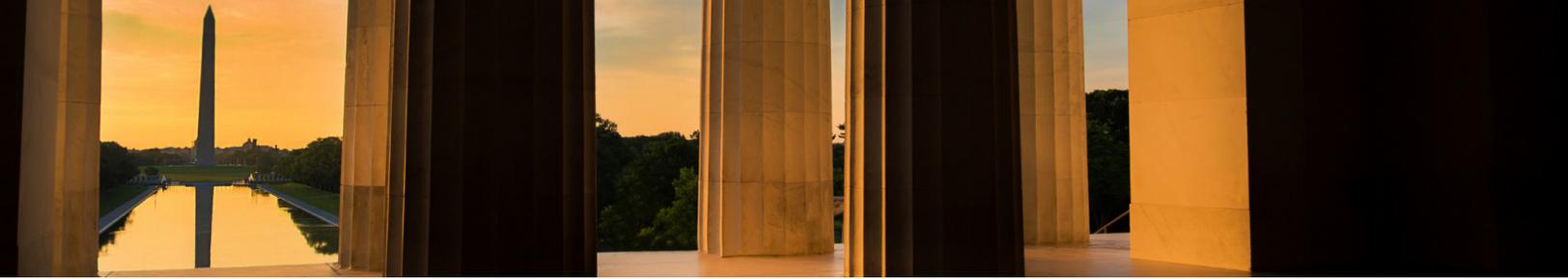
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ABOUT CERES

Ceres is a sustainability nonprofit organization working with the most influential investors and companies to build leadership and drive solutions throughout the economy. Through powerful networks and advocacy, Ceres tackles the world’s biggest sustainability challenges, including climate change, water scarcity and pollution, deforestation and inequitable workplaces.

For more information, visit www.ceres.org.



Dear Friends,

In 2020, the climate crisis continued to have devastating effects around the world. In the U.S., record wildfires ripped through millions of acres of forests on the West Coast, burning homes and trees to the ground. Storms pummeled the Gulf Coast at such a rate that we ran through the English alphabet and resorted to using Greek names. At the same time, we faced an increasingly devastating COVID-19 pandemic, a vital, ongoing reckoning on racial injustice and a struggling economy. Yet, despite these challenges, climate action continued gaining momentum.

Let's take stock of what we accomplished together in 2020:

In May 2020, Ceres brought together 330 representatives and CEOs from companies large and small for [LEAD on Climate 2020](#), the largest business-led advocacy day for climate action in U.S. history. We sent a clear message to the U.S. Congress that business leaders had not lost sight of the climate crisis—even as they struggled with the impacts of COVID-19. An example of [digital democracy in action](#), leaders from nearly every sector in the U.S. economy, including retailers, manufacturers, healthcare services groups and technology providers, logged on for 85 virtual meetings to tell lawmakers on both sides of the aisle that the U.S. must build back better from the ravages of [COVID-19](#). The participating companies represented more than \$1 trillion in revenue, a combined market valuation of nearly \$11.5 trillion and more than 3 million U.S. employees.

At the state level, Ceres' BICEP Network members were vital to tangible wins.

Highlights include:

- [Governors from 15 states pledged to work collectively to decarbonize commercial vehicles](#), the largest ever multistate collaboration.
- The Arizona Corporation Commission voted to establish [a carbon-free electricity standard](#) to reduce carbon emissions by 100% by 2050, becoming the first state in the country where Republicans led an initiative like this.
- Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker issued an [executive order](#) establishing a net-zero emissions goal for the Commonwealth, and the Massachusetts Legislature incorporated those goals as well as key environmental justice provisions into its [ambitious Next Generation Climate Roadmap](#).
- Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf stood strong in his effort to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) by [vetoing a bill that would have blocked the state from taking part in the program](#).
- East Coast governors from three states and the mayor of the District of Columbia [finalized a policy agreement for the Transportation and Climate Initiative](#) to build a more modern and equitable regional transportation system.
- Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer stepped up with [a much anticipated climate executive order to achieve statewide carbon neutrality by 2050](#).
- Virginia joined RGGI and became the [first state in the Southeast to commit to 100% carbon-free electricity](#).
- California Governor Gavin Newsom announced [an executive order](#) requiring that sales of all new passenger vehicles be zero-emission by 2035 and all operations of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles be zero emission by 2045, the first such commitment in the U.S.

These victories only happened because of your perseverance, leadership and loyalty.

Best of all, your leadership inspired other companies to step up and join the Network. We were thrilled to welcome new friends including **Akamai Technologies, Ball Corporation, Biogen Inc., Burt's Bees, DSM, Danone North America, Mass General Brigham, McDonald's, Novartis, PayPal, REI, Tiffany & Co. and Workday**—all leaders in their sectors—into the Ceres BICEP Network this year.

We also launched two new working groups:

The **Ceres Energy Optimization Work Group** (with Schlegel & Associates) is a coalition of two dozen businesses committed to advancing energy optimization policies—including policies that support greater investment in energy efficiency, demand response and building electrification, such as energy benchmarking, integrated resource planning, building energy codes and energy efficiency resource standards—among other policy priorities.

The **Corporate Electric Vehicle Alliance** (CEVA) is a collaborative group of companies focused on accelerating the transition to electric vehicles (EVs). CEVA supports companies in making and achieving bold commitments to fleet electrification. The Alliance also loosely aggregates corporate demand for EVs to expand the business case for production of a more diverse array of EV models. The Alliance released a [series of principles](#) at the end of 2020 to help accelerate commercial fleet electrification.

We also formed a partnership with the **Climate Collaborative**, a powerful organization that brings together concerned businesses from the natural foods industry to work collaboratively to catalyze bold action, amplify the voice of business and promote sound policy to address climate change.

Finally, with the events of this past summer and the national reckoning around systemic racism and injustices faced by BIPOC individuals, the Ceres policy team formed an internal environmental justice and equity policy task force. The goal of the task force is to examine climate policies and ensure that no harm is done to those often overburdened by environmental injustices. In 2021, we will release a revised set of BICEP Network Principles that incorporates our increased portfolio of policy expertise but recognizes our intention of advocating for policies that are just and inclusive.

The 2021 Ceres Policy Outlook offers a guide to the climate, energy and clean transportation measures we will pursue in the coming year. I hope it inspires you to stay on board and on ***the right side of history***, making the business case for a net-zero emissions economy in the U.S.

We look forward to continued collaboration with all of you in 2021 as we work to build back better to advance a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

Thank you for your consistent leadership.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Kelly".

Anne L. Kelly
Vice President, Government Relations,
Ceres



2021 GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Now that the U.S. has rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, the BICEP Network and our partners in the We Mean Business coalition have an essential role to play. As business leaders with strong individual climate goals, we will encourage the highest level of ambition on the part of the U.S. government as it establishes a new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and acts in full compliance with all aspects of the Agreement. The BICEP Network will collaborate with key multinational partners at COP26 and other global forums to ensure robust, credible and consistent climate leadership on the part of the U.S.

2021 FEDERAL POLICY LANDSCAPE

Executive

President Biden's executive actions on climate change in his first week in office show that he is hitting the ground running when it comes to climate policy. He has already taken steps to recommit the U.S. to the Paris Agreement, revoke the Keystone XL pipeline permit, elevate climate change to a national security priority, create several new positions within the government focused on environmental justice, explore a potential ban on new oil and gas leasing on federal land, and expand conservation of federal land and water.

In his inaugural address, President Biden said "A cry for survival comes from the planet itself, a cry that could not be any more desperate or any more clear." Never before has an incoming administration offered such a thoughtful, comprehensive, science-based plan to address climate change. The BICEP Network stands ready to support the president in his efforts to put the U.S. on a path toward a just and equitable clean energy economy.

The following are some stated priorities of the Biden administration that we expect to support throughout 2021:

1. The Restoration of Environmental Regulations

Background

The Trump administration rolled back more than 125 environmental rules and regulations. Many of these included standards that the Obama-Biden administration put in place that drew significant support from the private sector. President Biden has committed to restoring rules to curb methane emissions and to reducing emissions from coal and gas-fired power plants. We can also expect new standards for consumer appliance efficiency and fuel efficiency standards for passenger cars and heavy duty trucks.

BICEP Network Position

- Support the Biden administrations' efforts to restore critical protections designed to reduce GHG emissions.
- Engage during public comment periods to allow business members to help shape as well as support new environmental rules and regulations.

2. Executive Orders

Background

Former President Trump used executive orders to leave the Paris Agreement and bolster his administration's efforts at weakening national environmental standards and policies. On day one of his term, President Biden signed executive orders to rejoin the Paris Agreement, rescind the Keystone XL pipeline permit and pause oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He also directed his agencies

to review a Trump-era freeze on vehicle emissions and mileage standards and to consider the impact on disadvantaged communities and future generations from regulatory actions on emissions standards.

BICEP Network Position

- Support a strong, increased 2030 NDC for the U.S.
- Support the new administration as it strengthens regulations that directly or indirectly address climate change.
- When appropriate, suggest economically sound executive orders the Biden administration could pursue to reach its stated climate and clean energy goals.

3. Clean Energy Standard

Background

As part of his efforts to bring the U.S. back in line with the Paris Agreement, President Biden promised to work to make utilities carbon neutral by 2035. The power sector has already made some progress by cutting its emissions 25% in response to consumer, investor and policymaker demands. However, more needs to be done to cap carbon emissions and push utilities to continue transitioning from fossil fuels to 100% clean energy.

BICEP Network Position

- Support efforts to establish a federal Clean Energy Standard (CES), or to set regulations requiring states to implement their own CES that meets federal minimum standards.

4. Clean Energy Jobs and Deployment

Background

There are substantial opportunities to reduce emissions, spur job growth, drive new markets and innovation and boost manufacturing and infrastructure through effective and well-designed tax incentives.

BICEP Network Position

- Support tax incentives for the deployment of renewable electricity, electric vehicles, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, energy storage and energy efficiency.
- Support refundability, a direct pay option and extended time frames in order to bolster the effectiveness and stability of tax incentives.
- Continue to advocate for new clean infrastructure spending and clean energy tax credit extenders.

5. Clean Transportation

Background

To meet the Paris Agreement goals, the U.S. needs to increase vehicle fuel efficiency in the near term, and move to electrify the sector as quickly as possible. Trucks in particular raise equity concerns because they are the largest single source of air pollution from vehicles and disproportionately impact low-income communities. In addition to moving to cleaner vehicles, we also need to promote clean fuels as well as increased freight efficiency and cleaner transportation modes for people and goods. Aviation is a quickly growing source of emissions that needs to be addressed through strong regulation as well.

BICEP Network Position

- Support strong federal vehicle (cars and trucks) standards that increase vehicle efficiency in the short term and spur vehicle electrification as quickly as possible. Also support strong GHG standards for aviation.
- Support shifting federal transportation and stimulus funding from highway expansion to approaches that reduce dependence on automobiles, such as public transit and cycling, walking and micro-mobility infrastructure.
- Support the adoption of a national low-carbon fuels standard for vehicle and airplane fuels, as well as strong policies and R&D funding for zero-emission technologies for marine shipping and aviation.

6. Sustainable Infrastructure

Background

The U.S. energy, transportation and building sectors are the bedrock of the economy. However, the American Society of Civil Engineers has given the U.S. a [D+ grade](#) for its infrastructure and pegs the funding gap over the next decade between infrastructure needs and expected spending by all levels of government at \$2 trillion. This already weakened national infrastructure is increasingly susceptible to the effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, flooding and more frequent and severe storms and fires. Sustainable infrastructure offers not just an environmental advantage, but an economic one.

BICEP Network Position

- Back the Biden administration in taking bold action to rebuild our nation's infrastructure and to revitalize our economy.
- Support policies and funding requests for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, zero-emission bus grants and increased funding for public transit.
- Support a new rule that would require any new infrastructure project to include strategies to mitigate climate impact.
- Support inclusion of cumulative and indirect emissions in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental impact reviews.

7. Energy Efficiency

Background

The energy use of our homes and buildings contributes about one-third of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. The least expensive solution to reduce building emissions is to use energy more efficiently. Ceres recently joined 26 other organizations in a [letter to the Biden administration](#) outlining key strategies that it should implement to create jobs, reduce consumers' utility bills and mitigate climate change by reducing energy waste.

BICEP Network Position

Federal agencies with jurisdiction should use their authority under existing laws to:

- Ensure new federally assisted housing is energy efficient.
- Set a strong energy efficiency standard for manufactured homes.
- Issue an executive order to improve the efficiency of federal buildings.
- Revive appliance efficiency standards.
- Strengthen agency work to drive energy efficiency.

8. Sustainable Agriculture

Background

Achieving net-zero emissions and limiting global warming to 1.5°C will not be possible without eliminating deforestation globally and rapidly transforming agricultural systems within the U.S. and abroad. If our food systems do not quickly adapt, the emissions from these sources alone will most likely [push global warming to exceed the 1.5°C limit](#) within a few decades. As noted in the [Ceres Investor Guide to Climate Change and Deforestation](#), commodity-driven tropical deforestation is responsible for approximately 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and greenhouse gas emissions from land use comprise 23% of the global total. Additionally, the warming climate has already begun to impede the ability of forests and land to effectively store carbon.

BICEP Network Position

- Urge the federal government to acknowledge and provide support for the important role of farmers and foresters in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by offering appropriate incentives and policies to encourage them to expand innovative practices to sequester carbon and reduce existing on-farm emissions.
- Support regulations and policies to minimize on-farm greenhouse gas emissions.

Legislative

The BICEP Network supports ambitious legislation to address climate change and is eager to support durable, bipartisan solutions where appropriate. For example, in December 2020, Congress passed an unprecedented bipartisan package that included, among other things, an agreement to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Last summer, in Congress, the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and the Senate Democrats Special Committee on the Climate Crisis both released comprehensive climate plans that warrant serious consideration. The details of these plans may differ in places, but the main message across both is the same: As the second-largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world, the U.S. must cut emissions nearly in half by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 at the latest.

President Biden has indicated that he is ready to work with Congress to pass a major infrastructure package in the first 100 days of his administration. That may serve as a vehicle for several climate, clean energy and clean transportation priorities, including federal investment in job retraining for workers in the fossil fuel industries.

Finally, our LEAD Climate 2020 event was the largest business-led lawmaker education and advocacy day on climate action. For LEAD on Climate 2021 (May 11-12), we are once again planning a round of key congressional meetings with lawmakers and staff to discuss the urgent need for strong climate and clean energy legislation. Our goal will be to amplify leading business voices that have both the experience and the credibility to make a compelling case for action.

We will update Ceres' BICEP Network members on opportunities to engage with Congress throughout the year. Below is a list of our top legislative priorities at this time:

1. Build Bipartisan Congressional Support for Climate Action

Background

Climate and clean energy legislation is unlikely to pass without either full or tacit support from Republicans. Our strategy of building high-level conceptual support for climate and clean energy policies enables us to engage with lawmakers on specific issues as they arise.

BICEP Network Position

- Leverage our network to make the business case for climate action and a just transition to a clean energy economy.
- Work with moderate members of Congress in both chambers to craft and pass durable climate legislation.

2. Sustainable Infrastructure - Building Back Better

Background

Approximately **500,000** U.S. clean energy workers remain jobless due to the coronavirus pandemic. We strongly support the Biden administration's focus on investing in clean energy and sustainable infrastructure to put people back to work. Investments in sustainable infrastructure, clean energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture and transportation electrification will help rebuild the economy, create stable jobs and ensure a more resilient future.

BICEP Network Position

- Urge policymakers to make sure that the bills they consider to put people back to work and reopen our communities and economy do not inadvertently exacerbate the climate crisis.
- Ensure that any spending directed at revitalizing the economy takes account of the climate crisis.

3. Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Phasedown

Background

In December, 2020 Congress moved to phase out the use of HFC's, chemicals used in air conditioners and refrigerators that are hundreds of times worse for the climate than carbon dioxide. The provisions of this new law will enable the U.S. to be in compliance with the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol.

BICEP Network Position

- Support ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

4. Carbon Pricing

Background

Economists agree that putting a price on carbon is the most direct and cost-effective way to reduce carbon pollution at the scale needed to meet global climate goals. In May 2019, Ceres brought together 75 companies with operations across all 50 states, 1.2 million U.S. employees and \$2.5 trillion in revenue on Capitol Hill to meet with lawmakers in support of a national price on carbon. A well-designed price on carbon can protect low- and middle-income households from increased energy costs, be used to invest in communities hardest hit by climate change and support workers and communities impacted by the transition to net zero-carbon economy.

BICEP Network Position

- Support and help to design an effective, economy-wide price on carbon that sets a binding target of net-zero emissions by 2050 for the entire U.S. economy.
- Ensure that climate equity and justice are central to the design of any carbon pricing system.

5. Electric Vehicles

Background

Strong federal standards will be key to electrifying the vehicle sector. In addition, the federal tax credits remain critical to the EV market growth. The current program helps defray the cost of an electric vehicle by up to \$7,500 per consumer, but limits the number of eligible cars for each manufacturer. As more automakers reach these caps, we expect to see a vigorous effort to extend and expand them. Supporting EV charging infrastructure, while taking equity concerns into account, is also a critical tactic.

BICEP Network Position

- Support stringent federal vehicle emission standards.
- Support the expansion of federal tax credits, inclusive of equity considerations.
- Support the expansion of EV charging infrastructure, inclusive of equity considerations.

6. The Appropriations Process

Background

The federal government is a significant source of funding for climate and clean energy research.

BICEP Network Position

- Advocate for expanded funding for climate, clean energy, climate-smart agriculture and clean transportation research programs.

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2021 STATE POLICY LANDSCAPE

“As we continue our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate action must play a key role in rebuilding a stronger, more climate-friendly and equitable economy for Nevada. Put simply, we must build back stronger.”

—*Governor Steve Sisolak (NV), December 2020*

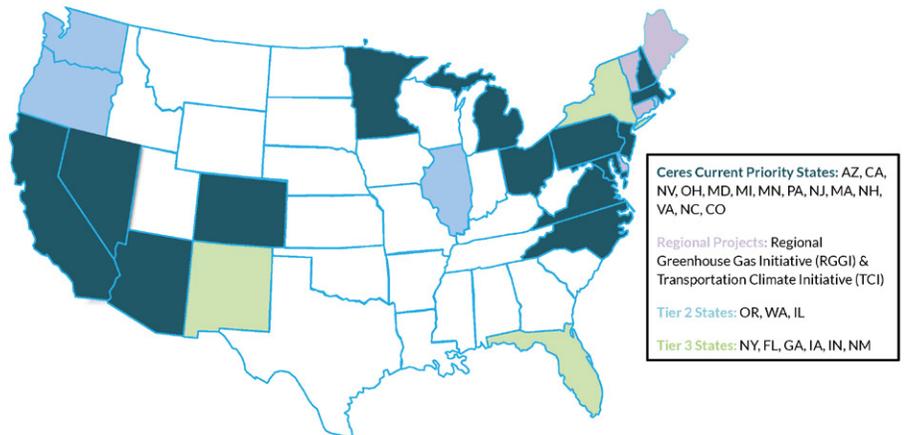
“We are at a pivotal moment to secure an affordable, clean energy future in Virginia. . . [The Virginia Clean Economy Act will] put the Commonwealth in position to meet the urgency of the climate crisis, and lead the transition to renewable energy in a way that captures the economic, environmental, and health benefits for all Virginians.”

—*Governor Ralph Northam (VA), August 2020*

States are pursuing ambitious strategies for tackling climate change and building toward a net-zero emissions economy—and 2021 offers ample opportunity for that trend to continue. It is imperative that states keep enacting bold new proposals to help us meet the urgency of the climate challenge. From 100% clean energy proposals and more ambitious energy efficiency standards to expansion of the Advanced Clean Cars program and EV incentives, we have many opportunities to raise ambition in key states across the country. We will also have to push back on efforts to roll back renewable energy proposals and work to block anti-EV measures. In 2021, we will continue to scale our reach and impact in almost 20 states across the country.

Below (organized by region) is a suite of state policy initiatives that we expect to be active on this year. This is a high-level snapshot of the state policy priorities we will be tracking to amplify the voices of companies and investors in the climate debate. Lawmaker education on corporate commitments to sustainability and the resulting need for policy action will be fundamental in all states and on all issues.

Beyond our current priority states, we invite you to contact us about other states we should consider and additional policy topics that would be helpful in achieving your sustainability goals. We look forward to continuing to scale our efforts with your support.





Multi-State/Regional Efforts

Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emissions Vehicle MOU

In July 2020, 15 states across the country announced a [new initiative to accelerate the deployment of zero-emission trucks and buses](#). The effort, adopted by state governors through a memorandum of understanding (MOU), commits states to work collectively to decarbonize the medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sector—a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions as well as smog-forming pollution and other pollutants harmful to public health. In 2021, the states will work together to develop a framework to support a market transition to zero-emission trucks and buses to reach their goal of having 100% of all new medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sales be zero emission by 2050, with an interim target of 30% zero-emission vehicle sales by 2030. Ceres will work to encourage additional states to join the MOU and will support the development of the action plan to ensure that states pursue a suite of programs and policies to achieve these ambitious goals.

Transportation and Climate Initiative

In December 2020, three states and the District of Columbia formally signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) creating a multistate cap-and-invest program to reduce transportation emissions. This landmark achievement was the culmination of years of policy development by the Transportation and Climate Initiative, a working group of a dozen states and the District of Columbia, and robust advocacy by the business community. While this MOU was an immense achievement, the participating jurisdictions will each need to adopt the program according to their own state requirements and make key decisions on how the program revenue will be invested. Ceres will work with the states to ensure implementation that achieves key climate goals and meets the needs of underserved and overburdened communities. We also expect additional states to join the MOU on timeframes that align with their interest. We will continue to engage with those states to expand TCI ahead of the first allowance auctions in 2022.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

States in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic continue to demonstrate the success of regional carbon markets through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI, a cap-and-invest program designed to reduce electricity sector carbon emissions, has been in operation since 2009 and is ripe for state expansion. In 2020, Virginia passed legislation to become the 11th state to join RGGI. In 2021, Pennsylvania will seek to finalize its own regulation to participate in RGGI, while other states, such as North Carolina, are likely to seriously consider joining the initiative. RGGI participants also plan to initiate another triennial review in early 2021 to assess the effectiveness of the program and consider any potential changes. This program review is expected to emphasize equity and environmental justice considerations that can and should be incorporated into the RGGI Model Rule.

Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions continue to be major drivers of clean energy innovation and deployment. Having successfully implemented the first and only regional cap-and-trade system for power sector greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. (RGGI), states are now working together to apply the lessons learned to the development of a carbon pricing program for the transportation sector (TCI). Beyond transportation, the most viable opportunities for leadership in the Northeast are around advancing state level commitments to net-zero carbon emissions goals, increasing energy efficiency in the built sector, accelerating the development of offshore wind facilities and investing in electric vehicles and public transit infrastructure.

State	Priorities
<p>MARYLAND</p>  <p>Session Dates January 13 – April 12, 2021</p> <p>Staff Contact(s) Brianna Esteves esteves@ceres.org</p> <p>Dave Robba drobba@ceres.org</p>	<p>Participate in TCI; create processes for ensuring smart, clean and equitable use of TCI proceeds</p> <p>Deploy a robust and equity-focused suite of policies to accelerate the adoption of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles</p> <p>Increase Maryland's GHG goals to 40-60% reductions by 2030 and net zero by 2045</p> <p>Support legislation to increase the ambition of the state's energy efficiency programs for low-income and struggling customers</p> <p>Require the Maryland Public Service Commission to take into account the greater effects of climate change in decision-making processes</p> <p>Build relationships with Maryland lawmakers and business leaders to lay the groundwork for engagement and increased policy ambition</p>
<p>MASSACHUSETTS</p>  <p>Session Dates January 2021 - July 2022</p> <p>Staff Contact(s) John Carlson jcarlson@ceres.org</p> <p>Dave Robba drobba@ceres.org</p>	<p>Support policies that increase the ambition of Massachusetts climate commitments, including carbon pricing, 100% renewable energy and increased offshore wind development</p> <p>Provide support as the Commonwealth establishes environmental justice advisory bodies and support the passage of cumulative impact provisions for overburdened and underserved communities</p> <p>Ensure equitable access to clean energy and energy efficiency programs for all Massachusetts communities</p> <p>Promote EV policies and incentives that encourage EV ownership and infrastructure investment, including in overburdened and underserved communities, that support the state's goal of 100% EV sales by 2035</p> <p>Ensure implementation of TCI achieves reductions in climate emissions and co-pollutants</p> <p>Support commercial vehicle fleet electrification</p> <p>Reduce total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through congestion pricing, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and effective public transit</p>

<p>NEW HAMPSHIRE</p>  <p>Session Dates January -June 2021</p> <p>Staff Contact Dave Robba drobba@ceres.org</p>	Defend and maintain participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
	Defend and maintain renewable portfolio standard requirements
	Educate on the importance of emissions reduction targets and the development of a NH-specific GHG reduction goal
	Increase New Hampshire's energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) and support energy efficiency upgrades and retrofits
	Advance new emissions reductions and clean energy policies where possible (energy storage target, net-metering, offshore wind development, etc.)
	Promote the development of a robust EV market and commercial vehicle fleet electrification policies and programs
<p>NEW JERSEY</p>  <p>Session Dates January 2021 - January 2022</p> <p>Staff contact John Carlson jcarlson@ceres.org</p>	Reduce total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and support participation in regional transportation policy process
	Promote the implementation of energy efficiency programs and encourage support for the sector
	Support effective allocation of RGGI and clean energy funds, including through Green Bank
	Ensure the robust implementation of the state's Energy Master Plan
	Support the growth of offshore wind energy sources and equitable expansion of the industry
	Promote clean transportation and smart mobility policies that encourage EV ownership and equitable infrastructure investment and continued funding for ambitious EV legislation passed in FY20
	Join TCI and advance adoption of complementary policies
Promote the decarbonization of NJ Transit	
<p>PENNSYLVANIA</p>  <p>Session Dates January – December 2021</p> <p>Staff contact Brianna Esteves esteves@ceres.org</p>	Work with NJEDA and NJDEP to accelerate adoption of ZEV medium and heavy-duty vehicles
	Promote adoption of RGGI and smart and equitable use of RGGI proceeds
	Advance increased access to renewable energy and energy efficiency, including the adoption of a community solar program and defense of existing energy efficiency policies against possible erosion
	Incentivize the deployment of electric vehicles and clean transit, including efforts to scale up EV charging infrastructure, secure funding for clean transportation and prevent unfair EV fees
	Deploy a robust and equity-focused suite of policies to accelerate adoption of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles
Finalize robust methane standards for oil and gas operations	
Lay the groundwork for adoption of a clean energy standard (CES) and a stronger Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS)	

Southeast

The Southeast is beginning to make important strides in transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy, but much work remains. While much of the region is warming up to renewable energy deployment, access to cost-effective clean energy solutions still remains a barrier for many electricity users in a region dominated by monopoly utilities. Opportunities abound to scale up energy efficiency, promote market competition, expand access to renewable energy resources and build out offshore wind resources. With the transportation sector continuing to be a growing source of greenhouse gas emissions, states such as Virginia and North Carolina have a significant opportunity in 2021 to address transportation sector emissions and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon transportation system.

State	Priorities
VIRGINIA  Session Dates January 13 – February 2021 Staff Contact Brianna Esteves esteves@ceres.org	Adopt the Advanced Clean Cars program (LEV and ZEV standards) through legislation
	Announce participation in TCI in 2021; lay groundwork for legislative TCI adoption in 2022
	Join the multi-state medium- and heavy-duty vehicle MOU
	Promote successful, equitable and cost-effective implementation of RGGI and the Clean Economy Act
	Increase customer access to renewable energy
NORTH CAROLINA  Session Dates January – June/July 2021 Staff Contact Brianna Esteves esteves@ceres.org	Implement recommendations from the NC Clean Energy Plan
	Lift barriers to corporate renewable energy procurement; increase clean energy competition and access, including through wholesale markets
	Prioritize energy efficiency and the deployment of cost-effective clean energy solutions, including through potential legislative action
	Deploy a robust and equity-focused suite of policies to accelerate the adoption of zero-emission vehicles (light-, medium- and heavy-duty), such as through participation in TCI and the adoption of clean vehicle standards
	Encourage energy efficiency and cost-effective deployment of smart clean energy technologies through Duke's Integrated Resource Plan

Midwest

The Midwest has a highly energy-intensive economy driven largely by coal, natural gas and nuclear energy and continues to produce more greenhouse gas emissions per capita than the national average. However, renewables are becoming a bigger piece of the energy mix and investors and companies are increasingly demanding access to renewables and ambitious energy efficiency programs. In Minnesota, renewables accounted for 25% of the [state's energy supply](#) in 2019 and 84% of all capacity added in the last decade. While we continued to deal with the damage wrought by House Bill 6 in Ohio and the cascading impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak, 2020 also brought new opportunities and progress driven by gubernatorial leadership on ambitious climate commitments—particularly in [Michigan](#) and [Illinois](#). We expect more to come from Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as Chair of the Midwestern Governors Association for the coming year. As we look to 2021, we will work to step up ambition and advance more forward-thinking climate policy across the region.

State	Priorities
<p>ILLINOIS</p>  <p>Session Dates January 13 – May 31, 2021</p> <p>Staff Contact Deana Dennis ddennis@ceres.org</p>	<p>Support the state's transition to a zero-carbon future and advance the governor's energy principles through legislative action, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% clean energy standard • Increased energy efficiency standard for electric utilities and a target for gas utilities • Equity building within the clean energy workforce, especially within low-income and disadvantaged communities • Equitable access to clean energy products and services across the state, including enhanced building codes, funding for low-income energy efficiency programs and transition planning for communities
	<p>Back policies that encourage voluntary investment in renewable energy</p>
	<p>Support the deployment of electric vehicles and policy incentives that support equitable infrastructure investment and other smart mobility policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the multi-state medium and heavy-duty vehicle MOU • Adoption of the Advanced Clean Cars (ACC) Program
<p>MICHIGAN</p>  <p>Session Dates January 1 - December 31, 2021</p> <p>Staff Contact Deana Dennis ddennis@ceres.org</p>	<p>Promote incentives for electric vehicles and other smart mobility policies that encourage EV ownership and equitable infrastructure investment</p>
	<p>Support continued administrative action on climate change, including the implementation of Governor Whitmer's MI Healthy Climate Plan</p>
	<p>Promote equitable opportunities for clean energy deployment by lifting barriers to distributed generation and storage and by establishing a community solar program</p>
	<p>Strengthen the renewable energy and energy efficiency standards</p>
	<p>Lift barriers to corporate renewable energy procurement and energy choice</p>

MINNESOTA	Expand clean energy deployment through renewed support for Governor Walz’s One Minnesota proposal, which includes the Energy Conservation and Optimization act to expand energy efficiency programs, a carbon-free by 2050 goal that sets a 100% carbon-free standard and the Clean Energy First initiative that prioritizes clean energy above fossil fuel resources
	Adopt Clean Cars Minnesota and other smart mobility policies and incentives that encourage electric vehicle ownership and equitable infrastructure investment
Session Dates January 5 - May 5, 2021	Lift barriers to corporate renewable energy procurement and energy choice
Staff Contact Deana Dennis ddennis@ceres.org	Strengthen the community solar program
OHIO	Defend state renewable energy and energy efficiency programs and develop new paths to increase investment. Continue support for the repeal of House Bill 6 and the full restoration of Ohio’s clean energy energy standards
	Lower barriers to electric vehicle deployment, such as reducing burdensome annual registration fees
Session Dates January 15 – December 31, 2021	Promote incentives for electric vehicles and other smart mobility policies that encourage EV ownership and equitable infrastructure investment
Staff Contact Deana Dennis ddennis@ceres.org	Lift barriers to corporate renewable energy procurement and energy choice

“As we transition to rebuilding the economy, businesses and government must work together to shape a more resilient and equitable future. Addressing climate risk has the potential to advance public health, health equity, and our economy.”

—Sarah Fackler, Sustainability and Climate Program Manager, Mass General Brigham (formerly Partners HealthCare)

West

Western states continue to seize the opportunity to be national leaders on clean energy and climate. Following the passage of ambitious greenhouse reduction targets in Colorado and Nevada, both states developed frameworks to evaluate pathways and policy options for achieving their climate goals—setting the stage for action in 2021. While these states both made strides in increasing the amount of clean energy on the grid, there remains significant opportunity to pursue policies that will drive emission reductions in the transportation sector and built environment. Arizona is ripe for increasing the deployment of renewable energy and investments in clean transportation, which will help the local economy grow and attract companies seeking to meet their own sustainability goals. The Arizona Corporation Commission, the state’s utility regulatory agency, provides a unique opportunity for bipartisan progress on clean energy.

Despite the joint economic and health crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, California continues to act as a national—and global—leader on climate mitigation. Addressing emissions from the transportation sector is at the forefront of California’s climate agenda with first-of-its-kind policies. In 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order phasing out gasoline-powered cars by 2035 and the California Air Resources Board’s (CARB) adopted the Advanced Clean Truck rule, which will accelerate the electrification of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. In 2021, California policymakers will continue work on clean transportation, seek to make progress in the building sector through administrative rulemakings, evaluate the state’s landmark cap-and-trade program and pursue wildfire protection after a record-breaking fire season last year.

State	Priorities
<p>ARIZONA</p>  <p>Session Dates January 11 – May 7, 2021</p> <p>Staff Contact Emily Duff duff@ceres.org</p>	<p>Support adoption of a 35% by 2030 energy efficiency standard (EERS) and a 100% carbon-free electricity standard</p> <p>Defend against electric vehicle fees and expand deployment of electric vehicle infrastructure</p> <p>Support corporate renewable energy procurement</p> <p>Advance utility investments in beneficial electrification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support implementation of Salt River Project’s strategic electrification commitment to deliver 300,000 megawatt-hours of annual aggregate energy impact by 2035 • Support inclusion and approval of electrification measures in Arizona Public Service’s 2021 Demand Demand Side Management plan
<p>COLORADO</p>  <p>Session Dates January 13 – May 12, 2021</p> <p>Staff Contact Emily Duff duff@ceres.org</p>	<p>Promote equitable climate policies to implement Colorado’s Climate Action Plan and its goal to reduce GHG emissions 90% below 2005 levels by 2050</p> <p>Support electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure investment to achieve goals set out in Colorado’s Electric Vehicle Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 940,000 light-duty EVs by 2030 • Long-term target of 100% light-duty vehicles being electric • 100% of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles being zero emission <p>Implement medium-and-heavy duty zero emissions vehicle MOU and Colorado’s Clean Trucking Strategy</p> <p>Promote energy efficiency and decarbonization in commercial buildings, including benchmarking and beneficial electrification</p> <p>Support corporate renewable energy procurement (i.e. green tariff program)</p>

<p>NEVADA</p>  <p>Session Dates February 1 – June 1, 2021</p> <p>Staff Contact Emily Duff duff@ceres.org</p>	Develop policies to achieve the statewide goal of zero emissions by 2050
	Promote the Advanced Clean Cars program and policies that drive electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure investment
	Join the multi-state medium-and-heavy duty zero emissions vehicle MOU
	Support electrification and decarbonization in buildings
<p>CALIFORNIA</p>  <p>Session Dates December 7 – September 17, 2021</p> <p>Staff Contact(s) Jennifer Helfrich helfrich@ceres.org</p> <p>Sarah Sachs ssachs@ceres.org</p>	Support policies that will help California achieve its goal to reduce GHG emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030
	Support cap-and-trade revenue allocation to fund the Air Resource Board's Low Carbon Transportation programs and other vital clean energy projects
	<p>Promote clean transportation policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote clean transportation policies, including: • Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) Rule • Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Rule • Advanced Clean Car (ACC) program • Multi-state zero emission medium- and heavy-duty MOU • Governor Newsom's executive order phasing out gas-powered passenger vehicles by 2035 • EV ownership and equitable infrastructure investment
	Promote building decarbonization policies, including an all-electric code as part of the California Energy Commission's Title 24 Building Standards Code update
	Implement Governor Newsom's natural and working lands executive order that set a first-in-the-nation goal to conserve 30% of the state's land and coastal water by 2030

“Today we have a health crisis, an economic crisis and a climate crisis all happening at once. The best solutions will tackle all three together. We have a distinct opportunity at this unique moment in history to define what we want our future to look like.”

—Patrick Flynn, Vice President, Sustainability, Salesforce

California Water

California faces a wide range of water challenges, including water scarcity and excess, critically depleted groundwater, a lack of access to safe drinking water and antiquated infrastructure. Ceres' Connect the Drops (CTD) campaign, founded in 2015 and now 35 companies strong, engages with policymakers and other stakeholders on the critical water issues challenging California. In 2020, signatories helped defend funding for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water, which provides access to safe drinking water for Californians who have been regularly exposed to contaminated water. They also advocated on behalf of the Healthy Soils Program, which supports conservation management practices that improve soil health, in turn promoting healthier water systems. In 2021, signatories will continue advocating for legislation and funding to ensure a water resilient future for the state, including multi-benefit strategies which deliver health and economic benefits to local communities. We will focus on the continued implementation of both the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, as well as supporting additional legislation on water conservation, efficiency and smart water management and long-term funding solutions for the implementation of these policies.

State	Priorities
CALIFORNIA Session December 7, 2020 – September 17, 2021 Staff contact Cindy Clark cclark@ceres.org	Implement Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Safe and Affordable Drinking Water and Healthy Soils programs
	Support agricultural policies that implement Governor Newsom's natural and working lands executive order, which sets a first-in-the-nation goal to conserve 30% of the state's land and coastal water by 2030
	Back alternative funding opportunities to implement new and existing resilient water policies

BUSINESS ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Businesses are poised like never before to play a key role in advancing the deployment of clean energy across federal and state levels. The Biden administration offers hope to not only reverse the recent federal retreat on clean energy and policies to cut emissions but also ample opportunities to make great advances at the federal level. At the same time, the opportunities at the state level are plentiful, giving states the chance once again to demonstrate leadership in enacting aggressive emissions reduction policies.

Corporate and investor voices have a unique role to play in advocating for climate policies that help expand economies, attract investments and foster job creation and innovation. By raising their voices in support of smart, just and equitable climate and water action and building strong relationships with lawmakers and regulators, businesses can help advance policies that promote better corporate access to renewable energy, strengthen state renewable portfolio standards and energy efficiency resource standards, reduce air pollution from transportation, grow the electric vehicle industry and more.

Throughout the year, we provide opportunities for our members to weigh in collectively under the Ceres BICEP Network banner or individually through in-person federal and state level lawmaker education days, sign-on letters directed at policy makers and robust media strategies, such as writing op-eds, blogs and participating in press conferences. We also offer numerous opportunities for "behind the scenes," confidential action to support our members' interests. Additionally, we offer platforms to showcase corporate leadership at national and international events, such as the Ceres Annual Conference and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties.

The Ceres Policy Team and the Ceres BICEP Network look forward to working with all of our corporate and investor partners on game-changing climate and energy advocacy in 2021.

BICEP NETWORK MEMBERS

