

20
20



ANNUAL REPORT
Clean Grid Alliance





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Well, 2020 was a quite a year! Clean Grid Alliance had embarked on our legislative policy work in various states at the beginning of the year and we were literally in the middle of our March board meeting when things began closing down. The pandemic arrived and changed our lives overnight in ways we never dreamed possible. Economic recession, civil unrest, nationwide natural disasters, and an historic election added to the upheaval. The word “pivot” became commonplace in our vocabulary.

Yet, the Clean Grid Alliance family persevered. The rise of the Zoom culture made it possible for most of society to keep working. We spent the early weeks of the COVID 19 pandemic engaged with renewable industry partners trying to understand what developers needed to keep projects moving forward on the ground and how Clean Grid Alliance could help. Virtual meetings and events enabled us to stay fully staffed and engaged in our state legislative sessions, regulatory proceedings, and MISO work. We powered through the shutdowns and shortages. We held our usual working and lobby group calls, convened quarterly board and member meetings, held webinars, and even conducted our annual benefit breakfast using a local production company!

Now, as I look back with “2020 vision,” I see a different picture of “the year that was.” I see (and am extremely grateful for and inspired by) your resilience and adaptability in the face of unprecedented circumstances. Our work is important and necessary for the clean energy future we are working to deliver and time is of the essence. I am proud of our Board, CGA staff, and all the Clean Grid Alliance members who forged ahead with unwavering determination in pursuit of our mission to advance renewable energy in the Midwest.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.



Beth Soholt
Executive Director

2020 At-A-Glance



14

Legislative Wins



170,800

Twitter Impressions



\$1.51MM

Grants Received



115

MISO/Regulatory Comments



209

MISO Calls/Mtgs.



194

Regional Policy Calls



10,441

Blog Pageviews



170,080

Google Ad Impressions



6

New Members



7,084

Fact Sheet Pageviews



57,499

Website Pageviews



\$91,365

Breakfast Revenue



STATE POLICY

CGA is driving the Midwest toward a clean energy future by working at state capitols across party lines to deliver real progress. Below are a few of our 2020 wins:

Indiana

- Three of four CGA comments to Indiana's 21st Century Energy Development Task Force became recommendations for legislation in 2021. These recommendations will help provide certainty and stability for utility-scale solar, support transmission development, and explore energy storage and hybrid resources. All would be positive policies for CGA members.

Minnesota:

- Successfully brokered a deal with Minnesota's mining companies, getting them comfortable with the CGA-sponsored Clean Energy First Bill. They had been the largest and most vocal opponent of the legislation, making this a big win.
- Coordinated a hearing in the Legislative Energy Commission that focused exclusively on transmission constraints across the region. This hearing elevated the importance and need for building more transmission to achieve Minnesota's clean energy goals.
- Facilitated two meetings with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission staff to streamline the regulatory process, and identify efficiencies and opportunities to shorten permitting timelines.

North Dakota:

- Commissioned North Dakota State University to conduct a Wind Economic Impact Analysis to support wind development in the state.
- Retained former FERC Commissioner as a consultant to assist WIND in legislative and regulatory issues.
- Convened a meeting with Sen. John Hoven to build relationships and discuss issues facing wind development in the state.

- Convened a meeting with PSC, Department of Defense, and 20th Air Force to discuss siting renewables around Intercontinental Ballistic Missile facilities.

South Dakota:

- Successfully passed a bill that simplified and streamlined the permitting

process.

- Defeated a bill in committee that would have retroactively required turbine light mitigation technology.

Iowa:

- Facilitated a campaign responding to draft rules developed by the Iowa Utilities Board that would shift renewable energy facility permitting from the counties to the IUB.
- Defeated a bill in committee that would have established statewide siting standards for all renewable energy facilities.



194
Legislator Calls/Meetings

TRANSMISSION

Transforming the electricity system for clean, cost-effective renewable energy requires transmission. CGA advocates for transmission projects that deliver our Midwest renewable energy to load centers across the nation. Key priorities from 2020 include:

Rules & Law:

Cardinal-Hickory Creek

- The Iowa Utility Board (IUB) approved the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line on May 27, 2020. They relied heavily on CGA witness testimony and the argument that wind generation in Iowa is nearly double the amount MISO expected when it designed the MVP Portfolio in 2010; and the growth of wind generation is expected to continue.
- CGA provided expert testimony on the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line case.
- Continued our support for the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's approval of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line. We have been a party to and opposing the state appeal throughout 2020.

Grain Belt Express

- CGA engaged in email and letter writing campaigns to Missouri legislators to diffuse opposition to the Grain Belt Express transmission line. Anti-Grain Belt legislators attempted to insert a project-killing provision into as many as 6 bills that received late session discussion. All anti-GBX bills were defeated by the end of session.
- CGA staff met with commissioners and staff from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to highlight the need for a more robust transmission grid to support new renewable resources and to urge their support for improvements in transmission planning and cost allocation.



Photo courtesy of ITC Transmission Company



MISO

CGA's work at MISO has been our bread and butter for 20 years. We continue to push for more transmission as the Midwest electrifies its economy. A few highlights from 2020 follow:

MISO:

- Successfully advocated for higher levels of renewables in the future assumptions used in MTEP21 and beyond. These three futures include 40%, 60%, and 80% carbon reduction assumptions (based on 2005 levels) and a minimum of 50% renewables in the most aggressive future, plus significant increases in electric vehicle use and additional electrification.
- Initiated a successful effort to reduce solar dispatch in the Generator Interconnection Shoulder Studies from 50% to 0%. MISO's business practice manual reflects this change and it will be implemented with the 2019 study groups.
- Helped ensure that any cost allocation changes strike a reasonable balance of costs assigned to generators and to load. Specifically, we:
 - supported MISO's changes to the cost allocation methodology for Market Efficiency Projects (MEP), which lowers the voltage threshold from 345kV to 230kV and adds two new benefit metrics. This approach was approved by FERC.
 - encouraged the Organization of MISO States to initiate a Cost Allocation Principles Committee (CAPCom) to discuss cost allocation, identify a set of principles, and put forward proposals for new cost allocation.
- Joined an appeal filing to FERC to move MISO toward creating a market product that will allow independent power producer-owned storage to provide reliability services on the MISO system.



MISO Comments

FINANCIALS

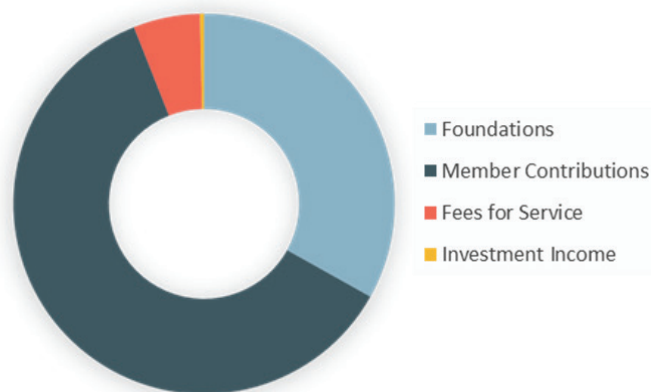
CGA's financial strength comes from a blend of member and philanthropic contributions. CGA secured 6 new members and more than \$1.5 million in grants to support our work.

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Revenue	Amount	Percent
Foundations & Grants	\$ 1,510,200	45.85%
Member Contributions*	\$ 1,592,707	48.35%
Fees for Service	\$ 172,296	5.23%
Investment Income	\$ 18,700	.57%
Total Revenue	\$3,293,903	

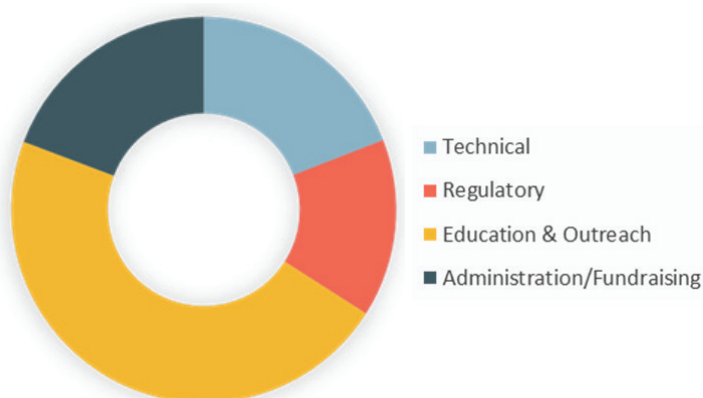
* Includes contributions for the siting project



Expenses	Amount	Percent
Technical	\$ 371,896	14.86%
Regulatory	\$ 359,342	14.36%
Education & Outreach	\$ 1,230,999	49.18%
Administration ⁺ /Fundraising	\$ 540,738	21.60%
Total Expenses	\$2,502,975	

Change in Net Assets \$ 790,928

⁺ Includes the cost of administering the siting project, which was new in 2019



point of view. **Leadership** [ˈli:d ability to lead. pe of a leader; guid to who lead

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Chairman of the Board

Julie Voeck
NextEra

Vice Chairman

Mike Bull
Center for Energy and Environment

Secretary/Treasurer

Sarah Johnson Phillips
Stoel Rives LLP

Board Members

Jon Chase
Vestas

Jeff Danielson
American Clean Power Association

Kerri Johannsen
Iowa Environmental Council

Scott Koziar
Apex Clean Energy

Brian Lammers
Advanced Generation Development

Nicole Luckey
Invenergy

John Moore
Sustainable FERC Project, NRDC

Adam Sokolski
Avangrid Renewables

Beth Soholt
Clean Grid Alliance

John Sterling
Leeward Renewable Energy

STAFF

Beth Soholt
Executive Director

Sean Brady
Regional Policy Manager - East

Linda Brewster
Office Manager

Holly Fritz
Communications/Policy Associate

Peder Mewis
Regional Policy Manager - West

Natalie McIntire
Technical/Policy Consultant

Rhonda Peters
Technical Consultant

Kelley Welf
Communications Manager



CLEAN GRID ALLIANCE

Delivering Midwest Renewable Energy

2020 Members





CLEAN GRID

ALLIANCE

ADVANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE MIDWEST

Leveraging technical expertise and building support to expand markets

570 Asbury Street, Suite 201 | St. Paul, MN 55104 | 651-644-3400

www.cleangridalliance.org

