

CLEAN GRID  
ALLIANCE



2021 Annual Report



# Executive Director Message

Dear Friends,

This year marks the start of CGA's 20th anniversary!

The theme for our year-long celebration is "Power Behind the Power," and that really is the truth. We are a powerful team that has been engaged in the nitty-gritty, "behind the light switch" work that actually does "make the world go round." And, we've been doing it for two decades.

As I reflected on our 20 years, one of the things that I believe makes life – and work – fulfilling is being engaged in it. It's about setting goals, making decisions and developing strategies to fulfill a mission. It's about being involved in the process of making good things happen. Our team at CGA is deep in the weeds in the technical work that enables renewables to access the electric grid where it can serve average, everyday people. To me, that makes our work very fulfilling.

Partnerships is another theme that emerged during our 20th year. CGA's membership structure is a purposeful collaboration of a variety of stakeholders who are united behind a common goal – to reduce carbon and develop a clean energy future. Building these strategic partnerships and bringing people together to gain consensus on issues is one of the most important ways we are engaged in the process. These partnerships set us apart from other organizations and help make us successful.

I'm proud to say that CGA has been deeply involved in the process of making good things happen for the renewable energy industry. And, my how we have grown! Our current membership stands at 55 organizations and companies; and our budget has grown to more than \$3 million, annually.

I'd like to thank our highly dedicated board and staff for working with me over the years to make all this happen. All of you, and the work we have accomplished together, have made this work enormously fulfilling, and I look forward to our next 20 years.



Beth Soholt  
Executive Director



## “Beth Soholt

*Reflecting on our 20 years, one of the things that makes life – and work – fulfilling is being engaged in it. It's about setting goals, making decisions and developing strategies to fulfill a mission. It's about being involved in the process of making good things happen. Our team at CGA is deep in the weeds in the technical work that enables renewables to access the electric grid where it can serve average, everyday people. To me, that makes our work very fulfilling.*

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CLEAN GRID  
ALLIANCE

## 2021 At-A-Glance



**16**

Legislative Wins



**163,992**

Twitter Impressions



**\$896.5K**

Grants Received



**115**

MISO/Regulatory Comments



**170**

MISO Calls/Mtgs.



**208**

Policy Calls/Mtgs.



**16,342**

Blog Pageviews



**215,020**

Google Ad Impressions



**9**

New Members



**6,827**

Fact Sheet Pageviews



**71,680**

Website Pageviews



**\$104,907**

Conference Profit



# 2021

## State Policy



CGA's policy team focused on many key industry issues during the year. Specifically, CGA focused on **taxes (real and personal), siting standards, permitting reform, vegetation management practices (particularly for solar facilities), state transmission policies, reliability / resiliency of the electric grid** and a variety of policies that would drive demand for utility-scale renewable resources through utilities **Integrated Resource Plans (IRP)**.

The multi-day blackouts that occurred in Texas during February brought grid resiliency to the forefront of state legislatures, with several looking to study the issue in depth for their respective states while others introduced legislation to address reliability. However, no major reliability / resiliency legislation passed in the 2021 session.



In Illinois, the legislature increased the Renewable Portfolio Standard to 40% by 2035, and the IPA is striving for a 50% goal by mid-2040. These targets will provide a stable development pipeline for Illinois. To aid this development, CGA succeeded in getting the Renewable Energy Access Plan ("REAP") included in the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (P.A. 102-0662). The REAP provides multiple benefits for the industry: (1) drive transmission capacity development to ensure reliable delivery of large-scale renewable resources' RECs and energy to meet Illinois' energy and REC needs out to 2050; (2) identifies policies the ICC should advocate for at PJM and MISO to support beneficial transmission development; and (3) establishes a process for continual refinement and update of transmission advocacy in PJM and MISO from 2025 and beyond.





In Indiana, CGA led a coalition that was able to get property tax reform for solar facilities passed into law. This legislation provides more certainty for solar developers by providing a stable cap on property taxes. CGA also worked with members to move a wind and solar siting bill through both houses of the Indiana General Assembly. The bill fell just one vote short in the Senate after overwhelmingly passing the Indiana House.



In Minnesota, several provisions of CGA-developed permitting reform that would eliminate the certificate of need requirement and simplify the generation tie-line process were included in the Omnibus Commerce Budget & Policy Bill (SF 972). These provisions made it through the House of Representatives but did not make it out of the conference committee.



In coordination with the Wind Industry of North Dakota (WIND), CGA was able to push back and defeat several potentially damaging proposals including a requirement for renewable developers to acquire firm "capacity" from fossil fuel facilities and a bill that would have levied a significant tax (50% of the federal PTC) on wind power production. We also proactively passed a bill that provides more flexibility for the installation of turbine light mitigation technology.

CGA defeated a number of other bills that would have been detrimental to renewables development.

State	Defeated Bills
<b>MN   IA</b>	Restrictive setbacks
<b>IA</b>	Decommissioning requirements for wind turbines
<b>MI</b>	Alternative specific personal property taxes rate for solar that would have been the highest in the Midwest.
<b>IN</b>	Vegetation practices that would narrowly prescribe the use of pollinator plantings on a large scale solar resources site instead of optimizing it for the landowner's long-term use of the property.

# Integrated Resource Plans & Procurement Planning

One way CGA works to encourage the development of renewable energy is to engage in state or utility resource planning. In 2021, CGA worked on four Integrated Resource Plans (IRP) in three states, including: Missouri, Michigan, and Minnesota; and the Long Term Renewable Resource procurement Plan (LTRRPP) for Illinois. While these are labor-intensive processes, the results are worth the effort.

In Ameren Missouri's 2020 IRP, CGA improved the likelihood the utility will include Grain Belt Express as a supply-side resource, and secured an agreement from them to work with CGA to improve the modeling of stand-alone and hybrid battery storage facilities for its next full IRP in 2023.

In Illinois' 2022 LTRRPP, CGA secured positive changes to the Illinois Power Authority's Indexed REC contracts and its implementation of a Minimum Equity Standard. The changes limited a seller's potential punishment for defaulting on the contract and its risk in the Indexed REC contract. CGA also increased the transparency of available Equity Eligible Persons and Contractors, reduced the risk of complying with Minimum Equity Standards, and improved transparency and stability of the process used to comply with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion goals in P.A. 102-0-662.



**4**

**IRP & LTRRPPs in 3 states**

**+6-7  
GW**

**Renewable energy, storage and hybrid projects by 2030**



**Eliminated 800 MW of combined cycle gas from Xcel Energy IRP**



# 2021

## IRP & LTRRPP

### Summary

Throughout 2021, CGA's Western Policy Team began to wrap up what would become two years of work on the Xcel Energy IRP. The utility's original plan incorporated 800 MW of new natural gas to replace the retiring Sherco Combined Cycle plant, which CGA advised strongly against. With CGA intervention, Sherco CC will still be retired, but without new natural gas, a decision in which CGA was instrumental. The 2021 revised plan also included 6,000 MW of renewables and intended to establish 800 MW of firm dispatchable resources in the future, after the end of the IRP. The 1,000 MW of solar and 250 MW of energy storage recommended by CGA were not included, though efforts will be made by Xcel to research batteries as an emerging technology.

Through skillful negotiation, CGA's advocacy resulted in the addition of 6,700 - 7,100 MW of renewable energy, storage and hybrid projects by 2030 across the footprint, and eliminated 800 MW of combined cycle gas from Xcel Energy's plan.

UTILITY	Proposed addition of renewable resources by 2030 (nameplate MW)	Nameplate Capacity Increase that CGA Secured Beyond the IRP Proposed Additions
Ameren MO	3,100 MW of wind and solar	+1,300 MW of renewables
Consumers Energy, MI	2,760 MW of solar and battery storage	+ 400 to +800 MW of renewables and battery storage
Illinois Power Authority Long-term Procurement Plan	9,500 MW of renewables	CGA secured positive changes to IPA's Indexed REC contracts and IPA's implementation of Minimum Equity Standard.

# 2021

# MISO Highlights

CGA's subject matter experts are problem-solvers. In 2021, our advocacy and influence at the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) covered a multitude of problems affecting the ability of developers to interconnect more renewable energy into the grid. The major issues tackled this year included:

**overcoming cost barriers, improving overall flexibility on the system, streamlining processes to be more efficient and reduce time, loosen restrictions, and alleviate congestion.** Below are a few significant achievements from the year.



## JTIQ Study

CGA actively engaged and supported the MISO and SPP Joint Targeted Interconnection Queue Study that identified a set of transmission upgrades that would address all the seams constraints resulting from new resources in both the MISO and SPP models.



## RIIA

CGA engaged in the stakeholder process to influence MISO's Renewable Integration Impact Assessment study. The final report is the culmination of several years of work that highlighted the need for more transmission and more flexible resources on the system. These results drove the Long Range Transmission Planning, and Markets of the Future discussions.



## LRTP

CGA initiated and influenced this Long Range Transmission Planning effort in the stakeholder process that resulted in MISO's final proposal of 18 new backbone transmission projects with **no charge to generators**. The lines were approved by the MISO Board of Directors in July 2022.



## Solar Dispatch

MISO adopted a new solar dispatch in planning studies for solar generation that was more accurate and eliminated huge financial barriers from unnecessary network upgrades that had been previously facing solar.



## QOL

In a huge win for CGA members, CGA helped secure changes to Quarterly Operating Limit studies that would reduce lost revenue for developers due to transmission constraints that were unrelated to their projects.



## Order 841

CGA filed jointly with others and successfully protested MISO's third proposed delay of its Order 841 compliance. FERC rejected MISO's request, which would have resulted in over 2 additional years of delay for storage resources to have full participation in the MISO markets.



# 2021

# Land & Liberty Coalition

CGA hired a Communications Associate to support the strategic objective of softening the ground for renewable energy, a concept that was identified as an important gap in the overall L&LC communications strategy. Regional positive communications through press releases, letters to the editor, and fact sheets were key components of CGA's work. In addition, CGA conducted opposition tracking of ordinances and moratoria across the footprint. Our research revealed that 38% of counties in the MISO queue have restrictive solar ordinances or moratoria in place, and 49% of counties have ordinances that are restrictive to wind projects. We use this information to guide our communications activities and outreach.



## Industry Partners



## Funds Raised



## Wind Counties



## Solar Counties



## Fact Sheets



## Earned Media





# 2021

# Building Partnerships Builds Power

On November 4, 2021, CGA held its first-ever regional conference. A hybrid of a small in-studio audience as well as a virtual audience, the conference featured FERC Commissioner Allison Clements as the keynote speaker. The theme, “Building Partnerships Builds Power” was selected because we recognize the importance of building partnerships with a variety of interested parties in order to successfully implement the carbon reduction and clean electricity goals established by states, utilities, corporate and industrial purchasers and consumer demand.

This conference brought people together and encouraged collaboration around the common goals that environmental NGOs and industry share. The panels dug into key topics that must be tackled to successfully deploy large amounts of renewable energy that are needed to deliver a clean energy economy.



*FERC Commissioner Allison Clements*



**181 Attendees**



**27 Speakers**



**6 Moderators**

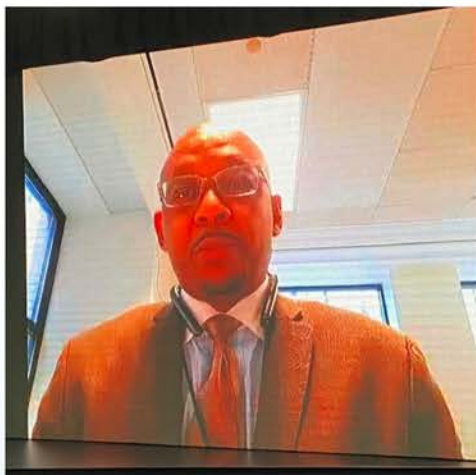




*Beth preps between sessions*



*Senator Melisa Lopez-Franzen (D-MN)*



*Representative Will Davis (D-IL)*



*L-R: Tristan Grimbert, CEO, EDF Renewables, Candi Janssen, Business Development Mgr., Blattner Energy, Ken Young, COO, Apex Clean Energy*

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*“Beth and your organization provided a model for how to do the stuff that you characterize as the ‘unsexy work’ that has to get done. It’s the implementation part. It’s the part when the state passes a law or a utility makes a commitment or even the federal government takes action. That’s not the finish line. That’s the starting line for the work that has to get done, equitably and affordably – reliably, to facilitate the energy transition; and Clean Grid Alliance has provided a model for other groups around the country to do this work for some time.”*

*-- FERC Commissioner Clements*

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# 2021

# Financial Statements

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021, Audited*

Revenue	Amount	Percent
Foundations and Grants	\$ 896,500	27.97%
Member Contributions	\$2,113,989	65.94%
Fees for Service	\$ 180,041	5.62%
Investment Revenue	\$ <u>15,167</u>	0.47%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,205,697</b>	



Expenses	Amount	Percent
Technical	\$ 371,507	12.71%
Regulatory	\$ 439,854	15.05%
Education and Outreach	\$1,471,772	50.36%
Administration/Fundraising	\$ <u>639,503</u>	21.88%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,922,636</b>	

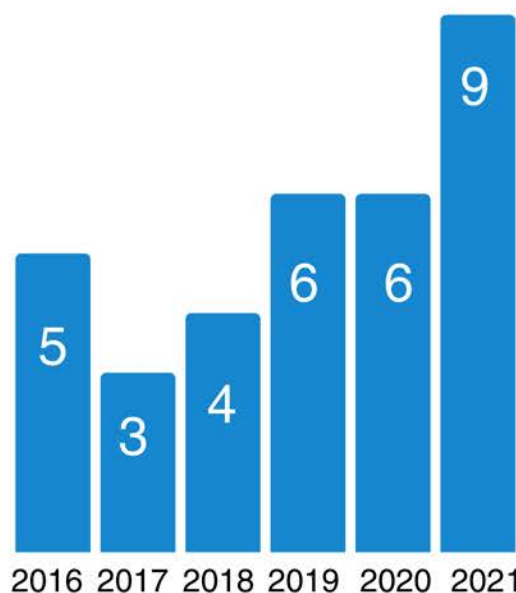


**Change in Net Assets: \$283,061**

## New Member Acquisitions Up 50%

In 2021, CGA saw a record of 9 new members, plus one returning member.

At year-end, CGA had 55 members, an all-time high.



# 2021

# Our Team

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Committee

#### Chairman of the Board

Adam Sokolski  
Avangrid Renewables

#### Immediate Past Chair

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

Will Eberle  
RWE

Kerri Johannsen  
Iowa Environmental Council

Chris Kunkle  
Apex Clean Energy

Brian Lammers  
Advanced Generation Development

Nicole Luckey  
Invenergy

David Mindham  
EDP Renewables

John Moore  
Sustainable FERC Project, NRDC

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

Tina Brown  
Project Consultant

Holly Fritz  
Communications/Policy Associate

Tom Lockhart  
Accountant

Natalie McIntire  
Technical/Policy Consultant

Peder Mewis  
Regional Policy Manager - West

Rhonda Peters  
Technical Consultant

Madelyn Smerillo  
Communications Associate - Siting

Kelley Welf  
Communications Manager



# 2021 Members





[www.cleangridalliance.org](http://www.cleangridalliance.org)

