

# HOW WE WON TRANSFORMATIVE FEDERAL CLIMATE LEGISLATION

## SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO SUCCESS

**2010**

American Clean Energy and Security Act fails to pass the U.S. Senate.

**2012**

LCV Victory Fund helps elect six new pro-climate U.S. senators and defeat 11 of 12 of the worst anti-environment candidates.

**2014**

LCV deepens and expands our grassroots organizing at the state level to demand climate action and increase public pressure.

**2015**

President Obama's veto of congressional legislation to force approval of the Keystone XL pipeline shows the growing power of the environmental movement.

**2017**

Donald Trump is sworn in as president and immediately begins to dismantle environmental progress.

## LONG-TERM INVESTMENT IN POWER BUILDING

In 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the most important action Congress has ever taken to address climate change. This monumental achievement did not happen on its own.

With the sustained support of our donors, LCV worked for more than a decade to press elected leaders to take bold action on the existential crisis of climate change. Prior to 2022, we made robust attempts to pass federal climate legislation but ultimately fell short, including in 2010, when the imperfect but viable American Clean Energy and Security Act (also known as the “Waxman-Markey bill”) failed to pass the U.S. Senate.



**2009:** American Clean Energy and Security Act rally



**2022:** Inflation Reduction Act press event to celebrate victory

After this devastating loss in 2010, LCV took stock of our approach to passing legislation. We learned that **we had to build political power for the environmental movement** if we wanted to overcome the dominating influence of fossil fuel interests and successfully persuade Congress to take the climate crisis seriously.



**“ Without LCV’s outside mobilization, we would not have been this successful” in passing the Inflation Reduction Act.**

– Speaker Nancy Pelosi, August 2022

## SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO SUCCESS

2018

LCV and state affiliates launch the Clean Energy for All campaign, driving state and local action to shift the U.S. to an equitable clean energy future.

2019

State legislative sessions are the most productive to date for clean energy and climate action, building public support and placing upward pressure on federal lawmakers to act.

2020

LCV Victory Fund's independent campaigns help secure a pro-climate trifecta of leadership in the U.S. House, Senate, and the White House.

2021

In partnership with state affiliates, labor, and environmental justice partners, LCV launches an 18-month nationwide advocacy and organizing campaign — unmatched in our 50-year history — to pass climate action in Congress.

2022

The IRA passes Congress and is signed into law by President Biden.

## LONG-TERM INVESTMENT IN POWER BUILDING

Over the 12 years that followed, LCV built political power inside Washington, D.C. and in communities across the country, with a special focus on districts and states represented by members of Congress whose support we needed to pass bold climate action. We did this by:

- ✓ Building our base of **grassroots** volunteers and activists who consistently showed up at events, rallies, and town halls quickly and in force to express support for pro-climate legislation or opposition to anti-environment policies.
- ✓ Developing deep relationships with elected officials and their staffs so that our **advocacy** efforts — lobbying and providing education and expertise — could effectively influence decision-makers.
- ✓ Educating the public about how elected officials were supporting — or opposing — strong environmental policies via **accountability** tools such the *National Environmental Scorecard*, our Congressional Champions program, and paid and earned media to praise or admonish elected officials for their votes.
- ✓ Supporting our **state and local** partners across the Conservation Voters Movement to help pass strong policies at the state and local levels, which put upward pressure on federal lawmakers to act and provided a blueprint for the most effective policies.
- ✓ Electing **pro-climate, pro-democracy candidates** to all levels of government — through LCV Victory Fund, LCV Action Fund, and our state affiliated entities — so that policy decisions and legislation were being made by more leaders who truly represent their communities.

**LCV is like no other organization.** We have the political power, the breadth of programs, and the scale and geographical reach to engage in a layered, comprehensive set of strategies that get results. Every day, LCV and our state affiliates in the Conservation Voters Movement secure even more climate and clean energy progress, protect and strengthen our nation's democracy, conserve public lands, and foster healthy communities with clean air and clean water.

“You guys made it impossible for us to leave climate on the cutting room floor.”

– Anita Dunn, senior adviser to President Biden

POLITICO

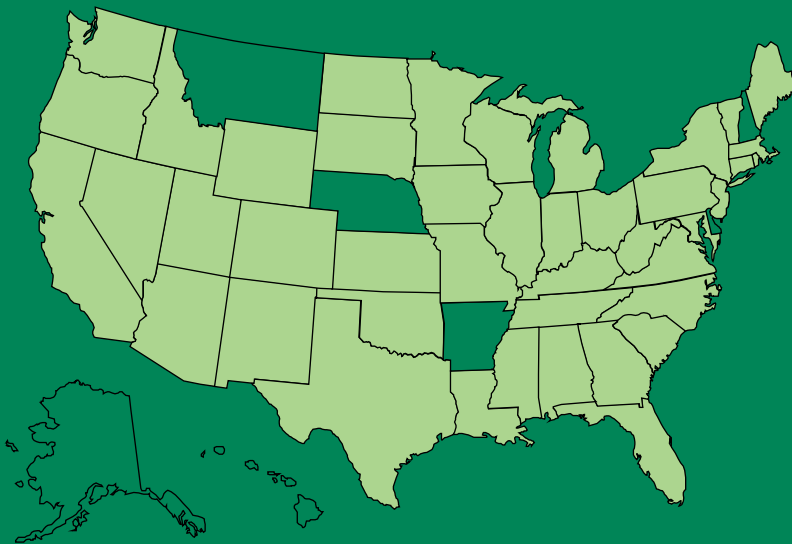
## IMPACT OF THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

The clean energy investments unleashed by the IRA and other federal legislation will help transition the U.S. to power our homes, cars and trucks, and buildings with affordable and reliable renewable energy. They will help make our nation a leader in clean energy manufacturing while investing in low-wealth communities and communities of color too often left behind.

According to a July 2023 Rhodium Group report, the IRA has put the U.S. on track to cut climate pollution by up to 42% by 2030. Paired with additional federal rules and state actions, the U.S. can achieve its commitment of a 50% reduction.

Rh<sup>g</sup>

Rhodium  
Group



**170,000+**  
CLEAN ENERGY JOBS  
ACROSS 44 STATES

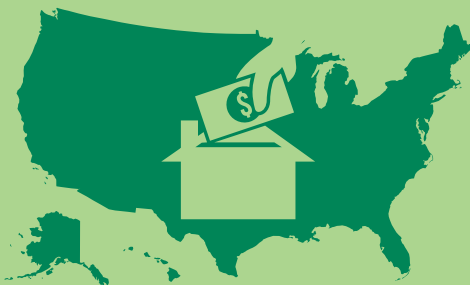
**270+**  
NEW CLEAN  
ENERGY PROJECTS

*Figures as of summer 2023 via "One Year of Our Clean Energy Boom," July 25, 2023*

Forbes

“The United States’ clean energy industry is hiring, faster than the overall national economy, and it’s paying above-average wages.”

– June 29, 2022



The average household will save

**\$1,800**

PER YEAR ON ENERGY BILLS

*via "The Electric Explainer: The Inflation Reduction Act," July 28, 2022*

# LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS REQUIRE EXTRAORDINARY INVESTMENT

If winning and maintaining transformative policy progress were quick and easy, our fight against the climate crisis might already be won. But bringing about **significant change takes sustained effort over time.**

To secure ambitious, just, and equitable policies for the long term, **LCV invests in multi-year efforts** to:



Raise public awareness.



Fight back against fossil fuel interests who seek to undermine clean energy progress.



Expand and maintain a nationwide grassroots movement that puts pressure on elected officials to advance climate progress.



Hold elected officials publicly accountable through our *National Environmental Scorecard* and other tools.

One of the most effective ways you can help address the climate crisis is to support LCV's ability to continue our work year after year.

**If you're considering a gift to support our work, a multi-year gift can ensure that we have the resources to realize our goals and build on them in the future.**

## ABOUT LCV

For more than 50 years, LCV has remained dedicated to our mission of building political power to protect people and the planet.

In that time, we have built a powerful national movement, with over 30 state affiliates and grassroots organizing programs across the country. We engage millions of people in the policymaking process to push elected leaders to tackle the climate crisis, confront environmental injustices, and build an equitable democracy.

**We're in this for the long haul because our Earth is worth fighting for. Join us.**



For more information or to get involved, visit [lcv.org](https://lcv.org)



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