



2021 Federal Policy Priorities

February 11, 2021



Theory of Change

Our mission is to build community-powered solutions to advance economic and environmental justice through renewable energy.

We envision a rapid, equitable transition to a world powered by renewable energy that benefits **everyone**.

VALUES:

SAFETY

We take care of ourselves and the people we work with, providing the tools and skills to keep everyone physically and emotionally safe everywhere we work. Safety is our top priority, always.

EQUITY

We advance environmental, racial and economic justice, addressing systemic inequities through renewable energy. We create workplaces where all feel they belong.

COLLABORATIVE ACTION

We bring together partners and community members to create solutions to environmental and economic challenges. We roll up our sleeves and get the work done.

INTEGRITY

We do high-quality work, use resources responsibly, hold ourselves accountable, and constantly strive to improve.

Theory of Change



Federal Policy Overview

Policy Principles

- Equity
- Economic Justice
- Environmental Justice
- Consumer Protection
- Community Driven Solutions
- Comprehensive Solutions

*go to <https://gridalternatives.org/what-we-do/policy-leadership>

2016-2020: Supporting legislation

- ITC extension: extend ITC, eliminate stepdowns, and allow a refundable tax credit or direct pay option
- S. 2462, the Low Income Solar Energy Act
- S. 1974, Federal renewable energy standard (RES)
- H.R. 2041/S. 983, Weatherization Enhancement Act
- Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator (Climate Bank)
- Utility shut-off moratorium and other pandemic responses

2016-2020: Other Federal Advocacy

- Participating in DOE research on equitable access to clean energy
 - National Community Solar Partnership
 - Solar Futures Study Technical Review Panel
- Working with SEIA to oppose solar tariffs
- Working with Vote Solar to fight a threat to net metering at FERC
- Submitting comments to Sen. Merkley on ideas for energy democracy legislation
- GRID Policy Director testified at Congressional hearing on clean energy equity

2021-2024: A promising start...

Clean Energy supported in recent Stimulus package

- Solar ITC will remain at 26% in 2021 & 2022.
- Financial Assistance for WAP Enhancement and Innovation; grant program to leverage WAP funds for renewable energy and outreach.
- \$300 million/year for 5 years for solar R&D, includes prioritization for disadvantaged communities and workforce development.
- Two \$15 million/year microgrid grant programs.
- Hundreds of millions for clean mobility research/commercialization.
- Authorizes the Office of Indian Energy at \$30 million/year and allows reduction of cost share to 10%.

Federal Energy Policy & The Inland Empire

Federal Policy Recommendations

- **Clusters:**

- Expanding access to solar and energy storage to create resilient communities (**microgrids, battery storage,**)
- Creating cohesive federal climate policy through equitable and inclusive processes (ensure frontline communities are at the table)
- Driving community ownership of distributed energy and economic benefit (**co-operatives**)
- Supporting workforce development in solar and renewable energy (**justice involved individuals**)
- Expanding access to EV infrastructure and clean mobility options (EV chargers, credits for EV purchases)

Recommendations for Biden's 100 Days Priorities & Other Executive Actions

- Recommendations for President Biden's transition teams
- Worked directly with 6 Agency Review Teams: DOE, EPA, DOT, Education, Interior, HUD
- Governmentwide, inter-agency recommendations
 - Climate and equity screen on all rules and significant actions
 - Environmental and climate justice in every agency's mission
 - Enhanced processes for inclusive input and accountability
 - Stronger inter-agency coordination on EJ (led by NEJAC/EJ IWG)

Federal Legislative Prospects

- House and Senate both with very slim Democratic majorities
 - Democratic control of the Senate, including committees, gives bipartisan legislation much higher chances of being voted on and becoming law
 - Some bills can be included in “budget reconciliation” for straight majority vote in Senate, with Vice President Harris as tie-breaker
 - Most other legislation likely to require 60 Senate votes (filibuster)
- Infrastructure and economic recovery will be priorities
- Most likely measures are those included in legislation that has already passed the House, and/or in House and Senate Climate Committee reports- both of which include equitable clean energy

Federal Legislative Recommendations

- Green stimulus/recovery, ban on utility shutoffs, ITC extension w/ direct pay
- H.R. 4291/S. 2492, the Low-Income Solar Energy Act (McEachin, Duckworth)
- H.R. 5968, the Community Solar Consumer Choice Act (Lujan)
- Increase funding and solar flexibility for LIHEAP/WAP, State Energy Program, Block Grants, Office of Indian Energy, SolarCorps, Jobs Plus, etc.
- Federal renewable energy standard (RES) such as S. 1974 (Udall)
- National Climate Bank/Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator
- Climate and Environmental Equity Office to serve Congress (Harris)
- Clean Cars for America Program (Schumer)
- And many, many other possibilities



Thank You!