



# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

## You Made This Possible

Supporters like you are the lifeblood of LCV Education Fund (LCVEF). Because of you, LCVEF and our 30+ state affiliates continue making great gains — protecting and expanding democratic participation, cultivating local leaders, advancing climate action, conserving sacred and pristine lands and waters, and safeguarding human health.

The pages that follow provide examples of all that we accomplished last year in collaboration with our partner organizations, thanks to your support. Please join us in celebrating our 2024 successes.

**436K**

Voters registered by LCVEF and partner organizations

**2.5M**

GOTV contact attempts, yielding 750K conversations and 3.6M text messages reminding friends to vote

**44K**

Climate Action volunteers and activists engaged to date — 40% of whom are young people

**1M**

Doors knocked on to educate people about available IRA benefits in six states

**670M+**

Cumulative acres of sacred and critically important lands and waters protected by the Biden-Harris administration

**1,344**

School districts awarded federal clean school bus grants to date, thanks to a campaign led by LCVEF's Chispa program

*Achievements listed are a result of policies enacted thanks in part to LCVEF's and partner organizations' organizing, education, and mobilization work, as well as work by our CVM state affiliates*

# 2024 FOCUS AREAS

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, our strong partnerships with the 30+ state affiliates in the Conservation Voters Movement (**CVM**), and our unique and multifaceted approach to protecting people and the planet, LCV Education Fund (**LCVEF**) is a national leader in the climate, environmental, and democracy movements.

Throughout this report, we refer to what we — LCVEF, LCV, and the CVM — accomplished together across four main areas in 2024, including progress made possible by our close collaborations with Black, Latine, Indigenous, and other communities of color, as well as immigrant, youth, and low-wealth communities.



## **EQUITABLE & JUST CLIMATE PROGRESS**

We created a groundswell of support for equitable and just climate action at the local, state, and federal levels, all leading to clean energy advancements that are making tangible differences in people's lives. These include lowering energy costs, safeguarding public health, bringing revenue to communities, and creating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Our approach included educating and mobilizing individuals, communities, the media, and decision-makers about how to expand access to solar, improve electricity transmission, hold utilities accountable, protect communities from fossil fuel pollution, and utilize the transformative federal investments from the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (**IRA**).



## **LONG-TERM POWER BUILDING**

We invested deeply in providing resources, information, and training to help shape the next generation of leaders and volunteers across the country. We prioritized working alongside communities of color and young people, who are among the first and worst affected by climate change, have been too often left out of mainstream environmental organizations, and are among the most committed to supporting strong government action to curb pollution and confront the climate crisis.

LCVEF's power-building programs focused on creating a more powerful, cohesive, active, and racially inclusive CVM to advance federal, state, and local climate action and democracy progress.



## **CIVIC PARTICIPATION & DEMOCRACY**

LCVEF continues to execute one of the largest and most dynamic nonpartisan civic engagement and voter outreach efforts in the nation — with an emphasis on reaching and increasing participation among historically underrepresented communities.

In 2024, we hosted events, launched voter education programs and outreach, deployed innovative digital and outdoor advertisement strategies, and initiated millions of conversations with hard-to-reach voters to register them and turn them out to the polls. We also generated a groundswell of support for protecting and advancing voting rights across the country, which helped achieve critical policy victories in 28 states.



## **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & PUBLIC LANDS**

We improved the health and safety of communities by building support for policies that ban “forever” chemicals and remove lead pipes from drinking water systems. We helped school districts switch from dirty diesel buses to emissions-free electric buses. And we protected our nation's most fragile and precious lands and waters, while also increasing access to wild places through a mix of conservation and policy wins.

We used a range of strategies and tactics, including educating and mobilizing the public, engaging the media, strengthening coalitions with Tribes, Tribal-serving entities, and organizations led by people of color, and partnering with aligned organizations.



# 330K

Good-paying clean energy jobs created so far by the IRA

# 51K

Clean energy jobs created by the IRA in rural communities

# 72K

Wind turbines in operation nationwide

# 46M

U.S. homes that can be powered by current U.S. wind energy capacity

# 36M

U.S. homes that can be powered by current U.S. solar energy capacity

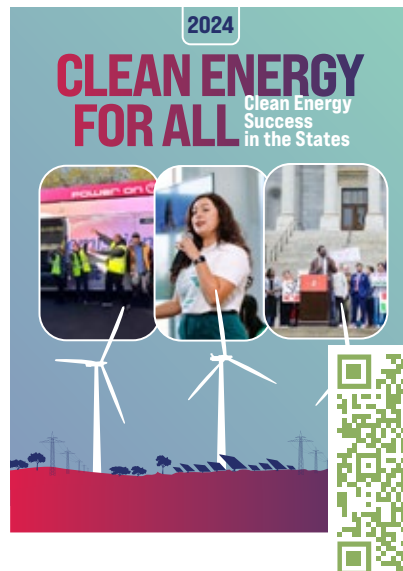
## STATES ADVANCE CLEAN ENERGY

When LCV, LCVEF, and the CVM launched the **Clean Energy for All** campaign in 2018, 100% clean energy was a pioneering goal, but thanks to six years of building power, we've raised the bar and accelerated bold and equitable state and local clean energy policies. Propelled by our state affiliates, the campaign has made remarkable progress nationwide, resulting in more than 40% of people in the U.S. now living in places committed to 100% clean energy.

In 2024, **we pushed for progress in 31 states**, including expanding access to solar and wind power, securing critical investments in the electric grid, holding utilities accountable to keep consumer costs low, winning community protections from fossil fuel pollution, and deploying the transformative federal investments from the IRA. Highlights include:

- **Maryland's** governor mandated a framework for reaching 100% clean energy by 2035 and allocated \$90M for climate solutions, half of which will go to overburdened and underserved communities.
- **Ohio** approved the state's largest solar project, which will generate enough electricity to power 170,000 homes and will also be the nation's largest agrivoltaic project, using the land for both solar and agricultural purposes.
- **Oregon** reinstated its Climate Protection Program, which requires the fossil fuel industry to reduce climate emissions 90% by 2050.

To secure these and scores of other victories, our state affiliates mobilized people to send 141,500 messages, held 4,700 meetings with decision-makers, and organized events attended by 29,000 people.



*Read about progress in the states*

# 1M

Doors knocked on to educate people about available IRA benefits in six states

# 300

Homes signed up for solar consultations, thanks to IRA canvassing by Georgia Conservation Voters

# 3.4M

Households that have received tax credits for energy-efficient upgrades nationwide — totaling \$8.4B to date

# 300K

Electric vehicles purchased in the first three quarters of 2024 with IRA rebates, which saved purchasers \$2B

## HELPING PEOPLE ACCESS IRA BENEFITS

The IRA, which was signed into law in 2022, includes historic federal investments intended to replace polluting power sources with clean energy, speed the adoption of electric vehicles, and lower health-harming emissions across the U.S. Yet, one year later, polling found that **7 in 10 people were unaware** of its far-reaching benefits.

Over the past two years, **LCVEF, along with our partners and affiliates, set out to change that by talking directly to the public.** Canvassers took to the streets in states across the country, including Georgia, Montana, and Wisconsin. Together, they knocked on over 1 million doors and **spoke with nearly 150,000 people about the IRA and its benefits.** The results of these conversations are **helping renters and homeowners** meet a range of needs. For example:



**Heather**, a longtime resident of her neighborhood, knew nothing about the IRA. She spoke with us and was delighted to learn that she could be eligible for tax credits for **her recently installed energy-efficient AC unit.** She'll be pursuing that tax credit along with a free home energy assessment.



**Jamari** lives with and takes care of his aunt, who is on a fixed income. He's the primary breadwinner, so he works as much as he can and is always looking for ways to save money. As a result of a conversation with us, Jamari plans to pursue a **free home energy assessment** and is excited to help protect our planet while cutting costs.





**Andrew** works in automotive marketing. Still, he had incorrect information about the IRA's **electric vehicle tax credits** and thought that the opportunity to receive those had closed. After speaking with us, he understands that the IRA provides these funds for another eight years, and that he also likely qualifies for tax credits for a recently completed house project.



**Floyd** recently made **energy-efficient upgrades to his kitchen appliances**, including an energy-efficient stove, refrigerator, microwave, and dishwasher. As a result, his electric bills have decreased, and he plans to upgrade other appliances in his home.



**Dena** and her husband moved into their home last year and are enthusiastic about making eco-friendly improvements. They plan on installing **solar panels, getting an electric vehicle, and even changing the roof** of their house to increase energy efficiency. They were happy to learn about the IRA and how it may help them make those changes.



**Erica** is a homeowner who's passionate about the environment and is working on getting her garden certified as a habitat for pollinators. Before speaking with us, **she was unaware that the IRA had an environmental component**. She had installed a new energy-efficient furnace last year and was excited to learn that she may still be eligible for tax credits.

In addition to connecting with individuals, canvassers made contacts that generated community presentations, house parties, and media events to **spread the word about the IRA's wide-ranging clean energy benefits**, including presenting to mayors and members of Congress.

*Stories and photos courtesy of our Michigan state affiliate*

# LONG-TERM POWER BUILDING

## DEVELOPING LEADERS AND ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN ARIZONA

Each summer, the roads and sidewalks in parts of Phoenix can get so hot that even brief skin contact can result in second-degree burns. To help communities address problems like this, LCVEF's Chispa Arizona program engages young people and community members, building the power of Latine communities to achieve climate justice and environmental protections.

### Plantando Semillas Youth Program

Teenagers are often stereotypically shown scrolling TikTok, eating pizza, or playing video games with friends. They aren't often shown huddled together drafting legislation or organizing community events. But that's exactly what the 13- to 18-year-olds who participate in Chispa Arizona's Plantando Semillas Youth Program are doing.

Since the program launched in 2021, **100 budding leaders have participated — gaining organizing and leadership skills** that will benefit them and their communities for years to come.

In 2024, **Plantando Semillas participants began confronting critical shade equity issues in the Phoenix area.** The teens are working with their communities to apply for funds, plant shade trees, create water collection systems to keep the new trees alive, and collaborate with state lawmakers to address other ongoing challenges.



*Chispa Arizona's Plantando Semillas Youth Program meets with Governor Hobbs to talk about heat resiliency in their communities*



### HOW I FOUND MY VOICE

It was the summer of 2022, one of those relentless Arizona summers where **stepping outside felt like stepping into an oven.** The lack of shade made walks and going to the park out of the question. I felt trapped, watching **my little daughter, full of energy and curiosity, bouncing off the walls,** desperately wanting to run, explore, and play. But the heat had other plans for my toddler and me, and I ached for connection.

Eventually, I was introduced to Chispa Arizona and invited to their summer youth program. At first, I wasn't sure if it was for me — but something about it clicked. **I had found a supportive community, a place where I belonged,** a place where my toddler could run and play, and a place where people celebrated each other's stories, struggles, and joys. I wasn't alone anymore.

The Plantando Semillas program **helped me understand environmental racism** and its connections with my community's dangerous lack of shade. Together, we began advocating for greener space and a vital tree canopy — and **50 trees have been planted** in my community as a result of our work. Through the program, **I gained confidence and am now the voice for my children** and future generations.

– *Jasmin C. Loaiza Rosas, Plantando Semillas program participant*



# 600

Attendees at Chispa Arizona events who identified community projects to be funded by the IRA

# 500

Chispa volunteers and community members trained in 2024

# 20K

Active Chispa volunteers and activists

# 900

Trained local leaders in AZ, CO, MD, NV, and TX

# 30K

Volunteer actions taken to drive federal climate progress

# 90

High schools and colleges participating in LCVEF youth trainings and outreach

## Community Engagement Program

Relationships between local government officials and members of marginalized communities are often shaped by complex histories, including the systemic disenfranchisement of, and underinvestment in, those communities. In this context, **building trust takes time, effort, and skill.**

In 2024, Chispa Arizona provided all of that and more to **build and strengthen partnerships between government officials and the people they serve**, and to connect communities with the IRA resources that will help them address environmental injustice and the climate crisis.

Chispa Arizona staff partnered with local organizations to **engage more than 600 Maricopa County residents with local officials**. Chispa staff facilitated conversations educating participants about IRA-funded opportunities that would benefit the most vulnerable communities. They **offered events in various locations to accommodate schedules and language needs** and reach people who have been historically excluded from this type of decision-making.

Chispa Arizona staff also provided **technical assistance for IRA grant applications** to address identified needs, including reviewing grant applications with an eye to addressing equity issues.

To date, Chispa Arizona has helped secure **\$15 million in IRA funding** in collaboration with a community-based organization and the City of Phoenix. Funds will support **parks, green spaces, green jobs, public transportation, and complete streets** — which are accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Funds will also **help mitigate urban heat islands**, which are significantly warmer than the surrounding areas and pose health risks to vulnerable communities.



*Chispa Arizona and partner organizations host an IRA Summit to engage the community on how to use IRA benefits and grant funding opportunities to mitigate extreme heat and other challenges*



# 6K

Climate Action volunteers and activists  
trained in 2024



# 44K

Climate Action volunteers and activists  
engaged to date — 40% of whom are  
young people



# 20%

Increase in youth Climate Action  
volunteers and activists since 2023



# 30+

Participants in the 2024 Boards and  
Commissions Fellowship program,  
which prepares leaders to advance  
strong environmental policies in their  
communities



# 160

People trained by LCVEF's Boards and  
Commissions Fellowship program to  
date, with 50+ currently serving on state  
and local boards



# CIVIC PARTICIPATION & DEMOCRACY

## 349

Poll workers recruited in partnership with Power to the Polls

## 254

Democracy policy wins in 28 states that protect and expand the right to vote

## 10K+

Grassroots actions taken in support of state-level pro-democracy policies, such as improved election security, voting rights restoration, and fair maps

## SAFEGUARDING ELECTIONS BY RECRUITING POLL WORKERS

Poll workers across the nation play critical roles in **safeguarding our elections and ensuring the right to a secure, fair, and accurate voting process in all communities**. From explaining how voting equipment works to counting ballots, poll workers smoothly guide voters through each step of the process to cast their ballots on Election Day.

Yet, since 2020, poll workers and election officials across the country have left at the highest rates in decades, with **36% of local election offices having changed hands since the last presidential election**. Reasons for the departures include personal safety concerns, threats and harassment, long hours, low or no pay, and an increasingly elderly workforce wary of public health risks — all making it difficult to fill the more than 644,000 positions it takes to run our nation's elections.

LCVEF has been partnering with Power to the Polls to meet this need by recruiting poll workers, putting them in touch with their state or local election administrators for training and placement, and following up with them to learn whether voting in their localities was safe, fair, and efficient. Since launching the partnership, **we've added more than 2,000 poll workers across the country, including 349 in 2024**. Of the poll workers we surveyed, 95% reported that the elections ran smoothly, that they had positive experiences, and that they want to serve as poll workers again.



As a Black woman in the [U.S.], I've always just known that I have to vote. You know, folks literally died so that I could have this right, and I feel like it's honoring my ancestors to make sure that I exercise that right, and I try to help as many other folks do that as well."

– *Brooke Harris*, poll worker and former Michigan LCVEF Democracy for All Director

## 2K+

Poll workers recruited since 2020

# 6M

Contacts made to help people register or make plans to vote

# 436K

Voters registered by LCVEF and partner organizations

# 286K

Voters registered from historically disenfranchised communities

# 1.2M

Text messages sent to help people navigate the voting process

## GOING THE DISTANCE TO REGISTER NAVAJO VOTERS

The Navajo Nation is home to 141,000 people. The reservation includes soaring mountains, high desert, and Ponderosa pine forests and spans 27,000 square miles. Its rugged landscape is overlaid by 18,000 miles of roads — 15,000 miles of which are unpaved. So, door-to-door **canvassing to register Navajo voters poses its challenges**, including walking long distances, confronting cold and windy weather, and even being chased by dogs.

In 2024, LCVEF and our state affiliate, Stewardship Utah, partnered with the Diné-led organization Wingbeat 88 to **overcome these obstacles**. We knocked on 4,295 doors, engaged in 29,045 conversations, **registered 13,558 eligible Navajo voters**, and gained 4,845 pledges to vote. The nonpartisan 2024 effort was the **largest voter registration effort ever on the Navajo Nation**.

“

We’ve organized and registered voters on the Utah and Arizona sides of the Navajo Nation for years to help ensure every community ... no matter their zip code, is able to exercise their fundamental right to vote.”

– *TJ Ellerbeck, Stewardship Utah Executive Director*

Although **Indigenous communities and communities of color** have been historically excluded in our democracy, they’ve long been **frontline leaders in the fight for community and environmental liberation**.

“

We’re organizing to spark community compassion and engagement while educating and informing our Diné relatives about their voting rights.”

– *Liv Knoki, Wingbeat 88 Executive Director*



Wingbeat 88 activists register voters in their community



# 3.6M

Friends reached and encouraged to vote  
by 743K mobilizers



# 6K+

Get-out-the-vote bus shelter ads, digital  
ads, and posters in nine cities

# 2.3M

Get-out-the-vote reminder phone calls



# 555K

Mailers sent to help people navigate the  
voting process

# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & PUBLIC LANDS

## 670M+

Cumulative acres of sacred and critically important lands and waters protected by the Biden-Harris administration

## 120K

Acres of ecologically and culturally important land added to California's San Gabriel Mountains and Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monuments

## PROTECTING LANDS AND WATERS ALONGSIDE TRIBAL-LED COALITIONS

Equitable access to nature. Thriving wildlife corridors. Safe drinking water. Protection of sacred sites. These are among the many reasons that conservation of our lands and waters is critical. Three **2024 California monument designations** are prime examples of successful LCVEF conservation efforts.



*Photo by USDA Forest Service*

**The San Gabriel Mountains** contain 70% of Los Angeles County's open space, provide more than one-third of residents' drinking water, contain habitat for 160+ rare, threatened, and endangered species, and protect significant archeological, historical, and architectural elements.



*Photo by Bob Wick, BLM*

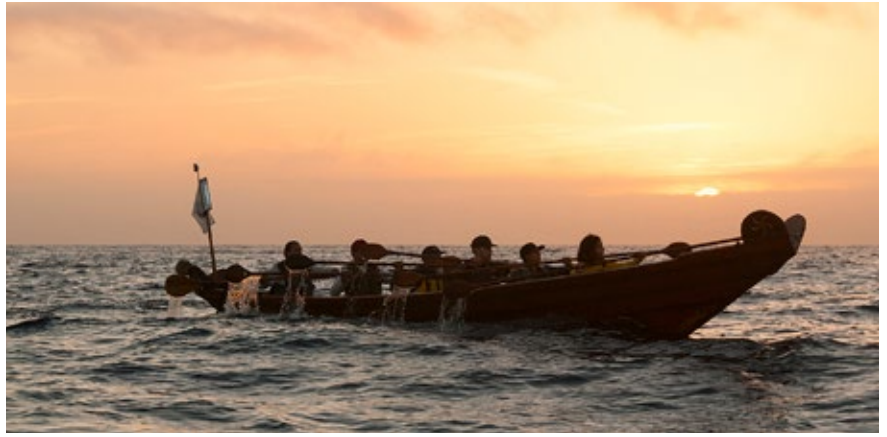
**Berryessa Snow Mountain** provides habitat for bald and golden eagles, black bears, mountain lions, elk, deer, northern spotted owls, and chinook salmon — and has been inhabited by linguistically diverse Tribes for 11,000 years, including the Yuki, Nomlaki, Patwin, Pomo, Huchnom, Wappo, Lake Miwok, and Wintun Indigenous peoples.

# 850K

Petition signatures gathered to support expanding and designating new national monuments in AZ, CA, CO, IL, MD, NV, and OR

# 13M

Acres protected in the Western Arctic — safeguarding ecosystems and wildlife that are vital to the subsistence way of life of Native communities



*Photo by Robert Schwemmer, NOAA*

**Chumash Marine Sanctuary** includes 4,500 square miles of Central California's coast and ocean waters, protects cultural resources and possible ancient village locations of some of California's Indigenous Peoples, and acknowledges the native homelands of Chumash Peoples and their ancestors.

LCVEF worked with our state affiliate, **California Environmental Voters**, to support the **Tribal-led coalitions** driving these monument campaigns. Together, we built public awareness and decision-maker support, gained media coverage, delivered hundreds of thousands of petitions, and used public art to win protections for these critical lands and waters for future generations.

# “

These additions to the San Gabriel Mountains and Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monuments include must-protect areas that provide communities with critical drinking water, create access to greenspaces for underserved communities, hold historical and cultural significance to California Tribes and Indigenous community leaders, and serve as wildlife corridors and habitats for imperiled animals and native plants.”

– **Mary Creasman**, *California Environmental Voters*  
Chief Executive Officer



# 1,344

School districts awarded federal clean school bus grants to date, thanks to a campaign led by LCVEF's Chispa program

# 12,241

Zero-emission electric school buses set to replace dirty diesel buses

# 50%

Projected reduction in new car and SUV greenhouse gas emissions by 2032 from expected 2026 levels due to new EPA clean vehicle rules

# 14M+

Metric tons of carbon emissions expected to be cut annually from energy-intensive industries due to Department of Energy investments

## SAFEGUARDING DRINKING WATER FROM PFAS

Exposure to PFAS leads to an array of health problems, including decreased fertility, **developmental delays in children**, **increased cancer risk**, and elevated risk of obesity. And yet, these chemicals have been used in manufacturing and consumer products — including food packaging, clothing, shampoo, and even dental floss — since the 1940s. **PFAS build up in people and animals, persist in the environment**, are often called “forever chemicals,” and make their way into our drinking water.

LCVEF has been educating and mobilizing to push for regulation of PFAS since 2016, and in 2024, **we succeeded when the Biden-Harris administration established the first-ever national drinking water standard for PFAS**. The EPA rule holds chemical companies and other polluters accountable for the damage they have done to our health by dumping hazardous PFAS chemicals into our waters.



EPA Administrator Michael Regan announces new drinking water standards for PFAS.  
Photo via EPA Flickr

The rule establishes a nationwide, legally enforceable drinking water standard for PFAS, creates legally enforceable caps on PFAS, and requires public water systems to monitor for, and share information about, PFAS levels. Ultimately, the rule will **prevent PFAS exposure in drinking water for approximately 100 million people**, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable illnesses.

# “

EPA's first-ever national drinking water standards are a historic win for people all across the country whose health has been impacted by toxic PFAS “forever chemicals.”

– **Madeleine Foote**, LCVEF Healthy Communities Program Director



Our Earth Is Worth Mobilizing For

# YOUR SUPPORT FUELS LCVEF'S WORK

THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

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

740 15th Street NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.785.8683