



ANALYSIS OF INNOVATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Solutions Project Grantees, 2025



Just Solutions drives innovative, equitable solutions to the climate crisis in support of healthy, resilient communities and accountable democratic institutions. The movement strategy of Just Solutions is grounded in a belief that the most impactful policies can be created, passed, and implemented at the state level. As a result, Just Solutions invests deeply in the leadership of state-level coalitions and organizations to spur innovation, build powerful networks, and accelerate climate solutions that protect and strengthen community health and resilience, reduce greenhouse gases as quickly as possible, and end our country's dependence on fossil fuels.

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The Solutions Project (TSP) is a national non-profit organization that accelerates climate action by centering the solutions, voices, and power of frontline communities to create a just and equitable world where everyone has clean air, water, energy, and land.

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Key Findings

This report highlights a selection of the innovative climate initiatives that resulted from the work of frontline environmental and climate justice communities and organizations supported by The Solutions Project (TSP) at the local and state levels in 2025.

The report assesses **9 illustrative environmental and climate achievements** led by or involving TSP grantees that show the ongoing dedication of frontline communities over many years in the struggle for climate and environmental justice, the need for continued vigilance in protecting communities and defending prior successes, and the future-oriented optimism of communities dedicated to continued progress. This assessment highlights both initiatives that are successfully advancing local and state solutions and those demonstrating the perseverance and ongoing vigilance needed to protect communities and previous wins.

These achievements are expected to:

UNLOCK OVER

\$350 Million

annually in public investments

BLOCK

\$1.5 Billion

planned polluter investments

Promising significant **community, public health, and climate benefits** for environmental justice communities.

Taken together, these accomplishments reflect the success of TSP's movement-accountable grantmaking model and the critical role of future philanthropic action in ensuring a Just Transition.





This report highlights a selection of the innovative policies and initiatives that resulted from the work of frontline environmental and climate justice communities and organizations supported by The Solutions Project (TSP) at the local and state levels in 2025.

The following TSP grantees made material contributions to the achievements listed in this report: Appalachian Voices, Chispa Arizona, Coalition for Environment, Equity and Resilience (CEER), Inclusive Louisiana, Little Manila Rising, Local Clean Energy Alliance, NY Renews, Rise St. James, WeCount, and West Street Recovery. TSP grantees have been among many organizations, alliances and actors working to achieve impact in the design, enactment, implementation, and defense of climate and environmental justice efforts at every level of government. Given strong political headwinds at the federal level, this report examines the impacts of selected local and state achievements secured by TSP grantees in 2025 as a result of TSP's investments and capacity-building support, often realized through continuing effort over many years. Each of the examples analyzed involved the work of TSP-funded grassroots groups or alliances who are understood to have played significant and ongoing roles in achieving success within a broad coalition of partners. The achievements featured in the report indicate the success of TSP's movement-accountable grantmaking model which invests in community-led, ground-up solutions and can serve as a model for future philanthropic action to foster continued innovation and impact by supporting grassroots organizations and alliances.

This year's assessment, the third in a series of annual impact reports, highlights both initiatives that are successfully advancing local and state solutions and those demonstrating the perseverance and ongoing vigilance needed to protect frontline communities and previous wins.

Some of these initiatives serve as models for future action, setting a precedent for community-driven solutions and expanding upon identified policies, models, and strategies for realizing climate and environmental justice. Others demonstrate the dedication of frontline communities in identifying strategies and building the capacity to thwart ongoing threats to community health and well-being.

This report hones in on 9 climate and environmental justice successes among the many other campaign wins and accomplishments of TSP's grassroots grantee partners in 2025 that bring measurable benefits to people and the planet, advancing health, democratic governance and self-determination, and regenerative economic solutions. These successes often reflect the work of TSP grantees working alongside many other partners and groups toward a collective goal. Our findings show that the 9 TSP grantee environmental and climate impact achievements analyzed have the potential to benefit more than 36 million people across the country. In aggregate, these wins are expected to unlock more than \$350 million per year for state and local budgets, including climate investment. Illustrating the perseverance and vigilance of communities facing ongoing threats, we find that TSP grantees, in partnership with others, simultaneously also blocked \$1.5 billion in planned expenditures by entities that would have further degraded the environment, increased climate damage, and endangered the health and well-being of frontline communities.¹

¹ Funds allocated or blocked are, in nearly all cases, secure as of this writing. Funds have been budgeted or awarded, with few initiatives dependent on federal funding sources.



The 2025 climate successes presented below highlight some of the work of TSP grantees which, through partnerships with broader coalitions and networks, have advanced local and state solutions to climate change and protecting communities through policymaking, community organizing, and/or legal action. The successes highlighted are limited to accomplishments that were passed, adopted, implemented, or achieved in 2025. These achievements span the country, including several examples in states with more challenging political environments.

TSP partnered with Just Solutions to assess what each of these initiatives will mean to communities across the country.

For each of the grantee accomplishments highlighted below, Just Solutions assessed:

- The number of people who are known to benefit or can be expected to benefit, with a focus on frontline communities.
- The amount of dedicated funding that can be directed to climate justice outcomes or the amount of planned polluter investments blocked through each initiative.
- The community, public health, and climate-related outcomes associated with each initiative.
- Ongoing threats to forward progress in the current political environment that are being defended through legal, advocacy, and narrative strategies.
- The broader impact or significance of the environmental or climate policy success as a model or tipping point for other geographies or levels of government policy-making.

It should be noted that the efforts highlighted below are only a sample of many identified gains. We selected a breadth and depth of wins to showcase success, and there are many more, which were not chosen for this research, or about which we are unaware.

In the summary below, a selection of nine illustrative achievements from a host of identified gains are highlighted—six local and state solutions that are moving the needle in community-driven responses to climate change, and three initiatives that have protected overburdened communities from environmental and climate threats and energy affordability challenges. These achievements exemplify the breadth and depth of strategies employed by grantees and their partners. They are presented in alphabetical order by state within each section. Calculations of the number of people estimated to benefit rely on regulatory or agency reporting, news reports, and U.S. Census Bureau data. Where Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) population estimates are provided, calculations are based on demographic data for all populations that are not classified as non-Hispanic white. Data related to the amount of funding unlocked or investments blocked by each initiative are similarly drawn from government estimates, corporate reporting, and/or news reporting.

SUMMARY Cumulative Impact of Featured Policies

Grantee
Accomplishments
Highlighted

9

Estimated People
Benefiting in Communities
Across the U.S.

+36M

Annual Money
Unlocked for State
and Local Budgets

+\$350M

Polluter
Investments
Blocked

\$1.5B

Electric Bus Deployment

Phoenix, AZ

In 2022, the Phoenix City Council unanimously passed² a Transportation Electrification Action Plan³ that included provisions for transitioning the city's heavy-duty vehicles, including 500 buses,⁴ to an all-electric fleet by 2040.⁵ In 2023, the City purchased six hydrogen fuel cell-electric and 20 hybrid-electric buses,⁶ which were deployed in 2024.⁷ In 2025, the clean bus transition continued, with an order for 12 battery electric buses which will be deployed in 2026.⁸ Local advocates have played a key role in ensuring public participation in transportation planning and advancing City investments in clean transportation improvements.

← IMPACT →

Transitioning the City of Phoenix's fleet of 500 buses to all-electric promises to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and save public funds that would otherwise be spent on fossil fuel costs and maintenance of diesel-fueled buses.

MONEY UNLOCKED

\$230 Million

for hybrid, fuel cell, and battery electric bus purchases (2023–2028);⁹ approximately \$18.6 million in local and grant funding to support battery and fuel cell electric bus infrastructure and equipment (2025–2030).¹⁰

BENEFICIARIES

Bus Riders

in the Phoenix metro area who make 27.8 million trips annually (2025 data),¹¹ a majority of whom are BIPOC and low- and moderate-income (2023 survey results).¹²

5 Million Residents

of the Phoenix Metropolitan Area¹³ who experience reduced pollution and traffic congestion.

OUTCOMES

Community

Estimated lifetime savings per electric bus of \$400,000 in fuel costs and \$125,000 in maintenance costs for electric buses. (Acquisition costs of electric buses are estimated to be \$700,000 compared to \$450,000 for methane-powered buses.)¹⁴

Public Health

Reduced air pollution in a metro area found to have the 4th most ozone pollution in the country.¹⁵

Climate

Greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide-equivalent (CO₂e) emissions per mile from battery electric buses are less than half that of diesel, methane gas, and diesel-hybrid buses.¹⁶

THREATS

None identified.

Expansion of Community Choice Power

Lathrop and Stockton, California

A Community Choice Aggregation¹⁷ non-profit company, Ava Community Energy, previously serving households in the San Francisco Bay Area expanded service to the Central Valley communities of Stockton and Lathrop in 2025. Customers are automatically enrolled (with an opt-out option) in an electricity generation service sourced from over 50% renewable energy,¹⁸ with the option of enrolling in a program sourced from 100% renewable energy for less than \$5 more per month.¹⁹ Service will be expanded to other communities in San Joaquin County in 2026.²⁰ Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) continues to provide transmission, distribution, and billing services.²¹ Ava Community Energy is the Community Choice Energy partner of a grassroots alliance working to promote clean energy development and democratization.²²

← IMPACT →

More California households are benefitting from affordable clean energy generated by a non-profit business that has a goal of providing 100% renewable electricity to its customers by 2030, rather than by an investor-owned utility.³³

MONEY UNLOCKED

+\$4.4 Million

in utility bill savings in the first six months of service.²³

BENEFICIARIES

Nearly 103,000 Residential, Municipal, and Commercial Customers²⁴

in the BIPOC-majority communities of Lathrop (84.2% BIPOC)²⁵ and Stockton (83.2% BIPOC),²⁶ the state's 11th largest city²⁷ with a poverty rate (15.5%) exceeding the state average (12.0%).²⁸

OUTCOMES

Community

- Renewable energy generation, with profits reinvested in clean energy jobs, renewable power, and local communities.²⁹
- Five percent savings on utility bills, compared to PG&E.³⁰

Public Health

Improved air quality from cleaner power generation in one of the most polluted regions of the country, with health benefits including improved cardiovascular and respiratory health outcomes and reduced mortality.³¹

Climate

Reduced CO₂e emissions of at least 138 lbs. per kilowatt hour, compared to the average for California utilities.³²

THREATS

None identified.



Heat Protections for Workers

Miami, FL

In 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis succeeded in a legislative campaign to preempt local governments from enacting heat protections for workers,³⁴ thereby shutting down an initiative in Miami-Dade County to pass such protections for its 300,000-person outdoor workforce.³⁵ Following a coordinated advocacy effort in which a TSP grantee played a key role, a major Coconut Grove developer agreed to voluntarily adopt heat protections for workers in order to secure a \$3 billion affordable housing development contract with Miami-Dade County.³⁶ The contract terms incorporate a “first-of-its-kind” community benefit agreement³⁷ that includes provisions for extreme heat safeguards (e.g., “liquid and cooling tools,” shade),³⁸ tenant protections, job training programs, Davis-Bacon wage provisions, and external monitoring for compliance.³⁹

MONEY UNLOCKED

\$9.5 Billion

estimated over the next century (an average of \$95 million annually) through a revenue-sharing agreement with Miami-Dade County.⁴⁰

BENEFICIARIES

About 3,800 Workers

employed at the construction site.⁴¹

OUTCOMES

Community

- Over 5,700 affordable and workforce housing units.⁴²
- Revenue from the agreement between Miami-Dade County and the developer to fund needed programs and services, affordable housing, and economic development.⁴³

Public Health

Protection from heat-related illness and death that is estimated to cause an average of 34 deaths annually in Miami-Dade County, with outdoor workers at a 35 times greater risk than the general population.⁴⁴

THREATS

None identified.

← IMPACT →

The Little River Project workforce heat protection agreement serves as a model for securing voluntary worker protections through negotiated community benefit agreements for housing and public works projects in those jurisdictions that have preempted local authority.



Sustainable Future Program Investments

New York

Following years of advocacy by climate and environmental justice partners for state climate investments,⁴⁵ New York's Fiscal Year 2026 budget, adopted in June 2025,⁴⁶ included a \$1 billion investment in the Sustainable Future Program. In September 2025, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that the funds include \$450 million to reduce building emissions, \$250 million to boost clean transportation, and \$200 million to expand renewable energy and grid modernization.⁴⁷ Benefits include a \$50 million allocation to the EmPower+ program, which offers no-cost home energy assessments and energy efficiency improvements to low- and moderate-income households. Another \$50 million will fund capital improvements at under-resourced public schools to improve air quality and reduce emissions, and \$100 million will support the deployment of clean energy school buses.⁴⁸ As required by state law, at least 35 percent of the benefits from these investments must be directed to New York's disadvantaged communities.⁴⁹

MONEY UNLOCKED

\$1 Billion

over five years⁵⁰ (an average of \$200 million annually).⁵¹

BENEFICIARIES

19.8 Million New York Residents⁵²

approximately 35% live in one of the state's 1,736 disadvantaged communities.⁵³

OUTCOMES

Community

- Increased access to clean energy technology, infrastructure, and improvements.
- Lower household energy costs.
- High road job creation.

Public Health

Improved indoor and outdoor air quality through reductions in building and transportation emissions.

Climate

Cross-sector greenhouse gas reductions, including but not limited to buildings, electricity, and transportation.

THREATS

Governor Hochul has yet to build on this precedent, omitting any new allocations to the Sustainable Future Program from the Executive's FY2027 budget proposals.⁵⁴

← IMPACT →

As climate investments have been rolled back at the federal level, New York's FY2026 investment in the Sustainable Future Program is the largest climate-related investment in the state's history.⁵⁵

Climate Justice Plan

Harris County, TX

In April 2025,⁵⁶ Harris County adopted a precedent-setting, community-driven Climate Justice Plan⁵⁷ that was the culmination of a three-year planning effort. The plan developed out of an innovative partnership between a TSP grantee and the County's Office of Sustainability that was informed by feedback from community groups and local residents and community advisory and working groups. The Plan's five focus areas—Ecology, Infrastructure, Economy, Community, and Culture—include strategies for clean energy, energy efficiency, transportation, land use, waste, and green space, as well as housing, economic development, education, food security, and water and air quality.⁵⁸ The Plan, which has been translated into four languages,⁵⁹ is expected to inform County budgetary actions in the coming years.⁶⁰

← IMPACT →

Harris County is the first U.S. county to enact a community-driven Climate Justice Plan that addresses the climate resilience needs of the entire community.⁶⁹

MONEY UNLOCKED

\$1 Million

to date through the Sowing Equity through Engagement and Development (SEED) initiative.⁶¹

BENEFICIARIES

4.8 Million Residents of Harris County
approximately 73% of whom are BIPOC.⁶²

OUTCOMES

Community

- Increased community resilience through efforts underway to realize the plan's vision.⁶³
- Development of community-driven initiatives and collaborative solutions.

Public Health

- Reduced urban heat island effects.
- Expanded green spaces.
- Improved air, water, and soil quality.⁶⁴

Climate

Greenhouse gas emission reductions, the scope of which will be determined through a planned benefits and impacts analysis.⁶⁵

THREATS

The Climate Justice Plan acknowledges that a number of recommended actions cannot be achieved at the county level and will depend upon successful future advocacy and organizing efforts at the state level.⁶⁶

Harris County also faces budget challenges, including a \$200 million shortfall that resulted in budget cuts in the county's 2026 budget.⁶⁷ Key climate change-related line items in the 2026 budget saw cuts compared to the 2025 budget, although funding remained above 2023 and 2024 levels.⁶⁸

Flood Resilience Plan Equity Framework Reinforced

Harris County, TX

In 2018, Harris County voters passed a \$2.5 billion bond measure in the aftermath of the devastating flooding impacts of Hurricane Harvey to fund flood mitigation projects.⁷⁰ In 2020, Harris County Commissioners established a Community Flood Resilience Task Force to inform equitable decision-making in flood resilience planning,⁷¹ and a Prioritization Framework was adopted in 2022 that includes consideration of social vulnerability.⁷² In 2025, a \$1.3 billion shortfall in the cost of completing 181 identified projects placed Commissioners under pressure to backtrack from equity commitments.⁷³ In response, a coalition of community-based organizations insisted that the Prioritization Framework not be abandoned, resulting in a majority of Commissioners reaffirming their commitment and voting to ensure funding for “Quartile 1” projects (i.e. those that are both of high need and that serve vulnerable populations). A public-facing dashboard has also been developed to report on the status, funding, and prioritization of flood mitigation projects.⁷⁴

MONEY UNLOCKED

Nearly \$360 million
in bond funding for Q1 active projects.⁷⁵

BENEFICIARIES

4.8 million Harris County residents
about 73% are BIPOC.⁷⁶

OUTCOMES

Community

- Improved resilience and safety.
- Lower risk of property loss in overburdened communities.

Public Health

- Reduced exposure to industrial waste and other pollutants during storm events.
- Reduced threat of mosquito-borne illness.
- Decreased risk of household mold.
- Fewer mortality risks from flooding events.

Climate

Potential for appropriate wetland management (highlighted in the Prioritization Framework) to minimize greenhouse impacts.

THREATS

Legislation has been introduced at the state level to dilute local control of the Harris County Flood Control District and give the state more power in decision making. To date, these efforts have been unsuccessful.⁷⁷

← IMPACT →

Advocates worked with Harris County Commissioners to reinforce equity commitments and ensure that the most vulnerable communities are prioritized for flood mitigation funds.

Wood Pellet Production & Shipping Project Defeated California

Following vocal community opposition and an organized campaign by a coalition of local and national groups,⁷⁸ a wood pellet project planned by Golden State Natural Resources in partnership with Drax Global, the second largest wood pellet manufacturer in the world,⁷⁹ was defeated in 2025.⁸⁰ The proposed project would have developed two wood pellet plants in Tuolumne and Lassen Counties that together would have produced up to one million tons of wood pellets annually.⁸¹ The project would have also included construction of a storage and export terminal at the Port of Stockton.⁸² Wood pellets produced at the two mills would have been transported from the mills to the Port of Stockton, stored, and then shipped to fuel power plants overseas.⁸³ The wood pellet mills would have been two of the largest in the U.S.⁸⁴

← IMPACT →

The defeat of this project after a multi-year effort⁹⁴ represents a win for the communities that would have been directly affected as well as those along the proposed transportation routes, with significant community, public health, and climate benefits.

INVESTMENTS BLOCKED

+\$500 Million

estimated project cost for the two plants and shipping terminal.⁸⁵

BENEFICIARIES

+100,000 Residents

who live within 3 miles of the Port of Stockton, 79% of whom are BIPOC.⁸⁶

Nearly 12,000 Residents

living within 3 miles of Jamestown and Nubieber, proposed sites of the mills in Tuolumne and Lassen Counties.⁸⁷

OUTCOMES

Community

- Improved health, well-being, and self-determination.
- Reduced industrial fire risk in Lassen and Tuolumne Counties, as about half of the largest U.S. biomass facilities experienced fires or explosions (2014-2022).⁸⁸

Public Health

- Reduced exposure to air pollutants, such as particulate matter,⁸⁹ that put already-vulnerable residents at higher risk of health conditions including asthma, cardiovascular disease, and low birth weight.⁹⁰ (Stockton ranks 30th in the country as an "asthma capital."⁹¹)
- Lower cancer risk in Lassen and Tuolumne Counties.⁹²

Climate

Avoidance of over 178 metric tons of CO₂e emissions annually resulting from a projected 23% to 27% increase in shipping traffic at the Port of Stockton and an additional 10,000 train cars⁹³ needed to transport wood pellets.

THREATS

None identified.

Chemical Plant Project Canceled

Louisiana

In the face of strong community opposition,⁹⁵ Mitsubishi Chemical America, Inc. withdrew plans to build a methyl methacrylate (MMA) chemical plant in Geismar, Louisiana in January 2025.⁹⁶ MMA, which is produced from ethylene and methane gas, is used to produce plastics, resins,⁹⁷ pesticides, and other products.⁹⁸ The plant would have been the largest MMA plant in the world, producing up to 350,000 tons of MMA a year.⁹⁹

← IMPACT →

Community mobilization against this project,¹⁰⁹ which had been in development for at least four years,¹¹⁰ prevents further environmental and public health degradation in an overburdened community.

INVESTMENTS BLOCKED

\$1 Billion¹⁰⁰

BENEFICIARIES

9,000 Residents

in the immediate area of the project site, approximately 48% of whom are BIPOC.¹⁰¹

OUTCOMES

Community

Improved health, well-being, and self-determination in a "Cancer Alley" community.¹⁰²

Public Health

- Prevention of anticipated release of nearly 39 tons of particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), about 129 tons of nitrogen oxides, and approximately 2 tons of sulfur dioxide per year,¹⁰³ all of which are linked to respiratory and cardiovascular illness.¹⁰⁴
- Prevention of other adverse health conditions associated with MMA exposure.¹⁰⁵
- Reduced asthma risk in a community with adult asthma rates of 9.6% to 11.7%.¹⁰⁶

Climate

Prevention of nearly 781,000 tons of CO₂ emissions annually.¹⁰⁷

THREATS

The company stated its plans to shift production to existing plants, including one in Tennessee, with the potential to increase emissions and adverse health impacts in those communities.¹⁰⁸



Containment of Data Center Cost Shifting

Virginia

Virginia has more operational and planned data centers than any other state.¹¹¹ A 2024 study by the state's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee found that, although data centers were not currently contributing to higher costs to ratepayers, significant utility bill increases could be expected by 2040 due to increased energy demand.¹¹² Efforts to enact separate rate classifications for data centers resulted in enactment of House Bill 2084 in 2025, which requires the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to assess the need for new classifications.¹¹³ As introduced, the legislation called for the creation of a separate classification for data centers.¹¹⁴ Although the enacted bill was weakened from the original with neither mention of nor a separate rate classification for data centers,¹¹⁵ it successfully sent a message to regulators, and in November 2025, the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) approved a new rate class specifically for large-energy users, such as hyperscale data centers.

INVESTMENTS BLOCKED

N/A

BENEFICIARIES

8.7 Million

Virginia residents, approximately 42% of whom are BIPOC.¹¹⁶

OUTCOMES

Protection of Virginia residential ratepayers from increased utility costs.

THREATS

None identified.

← IMPACT →

Although the enacted legislation does not go as far as originally proposed, passage establishes a precedent for future action to protect Virginia's ratepayers from rising cost burdens resulting from data center energy demands.

Conclusion



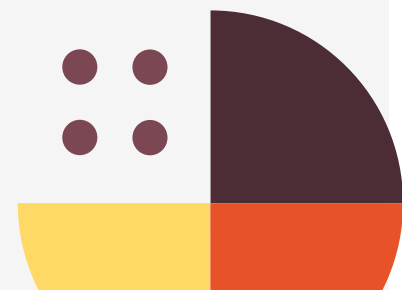
The 2025 environmental and climate impact achievements showcased above reflect years of organizing and advocacy work by frontline, environmental justice, and justice-centered organizations, including key leadership from TSP grantee partners. They demonstrate the ongoing ingenuity, perseverance, and resilience of those working at the local and state levels in the environmental and climate justice movements. As opportunities to advance solutions have dissipated at the federal level, a collection of diverse, localized strategies to advance and defend climate wins continue to result in community, public health, and climate benefits for frontline, environmental justice, and climate justice communities across the country. The multiple pathways to progress demonstrated by TSP grantees not only highlight the future-oriented optimism driving power shifts to local communities but also light the way to possible future action at the federal level.

To address both the opportunities and challenges of this moment, environmental justice and climate justice leaders will continue to need long-term and transformational levels of support and resourcing. Cultivating an environment in which community-driven environmental and climate solutions can take root, diversify, multiply, and thrive requires time and ongoing investment. As the shifting ground at the federal level upends existing policy and practice, the urgency of the climate crisis requires nimble local and state responses tailored to local conditions and needs. Creating the conditions in which locally-rooted climate solutions can bloom will require a philanthropic sector willing to abandon past assumptions and practice, embrace experimentation and innovation, and invest in community governance and self-determination.



ADVANCING LOCAL AND STATE SOLUTIONS

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