



# 2019 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments



CLEAN GRID  
ALLIANCE

*Delivering Midwest Renewable Energy*

## OUR WORK

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CGA works on policies to help **create markets** for renewables, transmission to **deliver** renewables, rules and law to ensure there is **fair access** for renewables, and advocacy to **promote** renewables.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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2019 was a very busy year for clean energy in the Midwest. We successfully fought back several anti-wind bills regarding siting, setbacks, and moratoriums. At the same time, several states had legislation that would advance clean energy standards/renewable portfolio standards, and advanced a number of technical bills that would create a brighter future for clean energy.

Our new challenges include pushing for another round of beneficial transmission projects to deliver renewable energy to the MISO grid, exploring ways we can bring our expertise to the MISO South region, and engaging in new market drivers in the state policy and regulatory processes.

New demand drivers also have come into play. Commercial and Industrial purchasers, such as Google, Facebook, Microsoft, and other consumer brands, are seeking to improve their bottom line and meet their customer-demanded sustainability goals through investing in wind and solar projects. CGA raised this issue at our CGA Soiree, which featured speakers from Google, Geronimo Energy, and Cargill. This informative discussion focused on the need for innovation to help improve accessibility of renewables for corporate purchasers. We are actively developing relationships with these organizations to help address their specific needs, find solutions to the market barriers they are encountering, and explore ways they can be involved in advocating for renewables at the state level and at MISO.

As the markets for solar and storage continue to grow and become increasingly important to CGA's mission, CGA is working to solidify our position as a "go-to" expert on solar and storage issues in all of the CGA work channels.

I am grateful to the dedicated Board of Directors and staff who work together to keep their eye on the prize, and overcome roadblocks to our mission of advancing renewable energy in the Midwest.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Beth Shroet*





CLEAN GRID  
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Delivering Midwest Renewable Energy

## 2019 AT-A-GLANCE



**18**

Legislative Wins



**1.7MM**

Radio Impressions



**\$741,888**

Grants Received



**49,765**

Website Pageviews



**160**

MISO Calls/Mtgs.



**233**

Regional Policy Calls



**1,126**

Blog Pageviews



**167**

Qtrly. Meeting Attendees



**6**

New Members



**94,021**

Google Ad Impressions



**64**

Media Placements



**\$103,384**

Gala Revenue

# MAKING AN IMPACT

Great progress has been made on the state level to drive demand for wind and solar through renewable energy policies. Increasingly, utilities have been embracing renewables primarily based on economics. The newest demand drivers are Commercial & Industrial customers, who are clamoring for access to renewables. Yet, none of this matters if the projects can't get built.

On July 20, 2017, Clean Grid Alliance gave a presentation to its philanthropic partners alerting them to the growing challenge facing renewable energy developers – local opposition groups. Local groups advocating against renewables were growing and becoming more sophisticated. Fortunately, our message was heard loud and clear. Funding to help address this growing problem was secured, and a program now branded as the **Land & Liberty Coalition** was born. The name **resonates with conservative, rural landowners** and communities where wind and solar projects are most often developed.

west where **local communities are competing to attract new renewable development**.

For two years, the Land & Liberty Coalition has been working to support renewable energy projects. They engage in local siting discussions, recruit renewable energy champions and mobilize them to support new wind and solar projects in their communities. Local field teams also build relationships, and equip and educate community members to help address misinformation, attend meetings, sign letters to the editor, and engage in the communities as ambassadors for renewables.

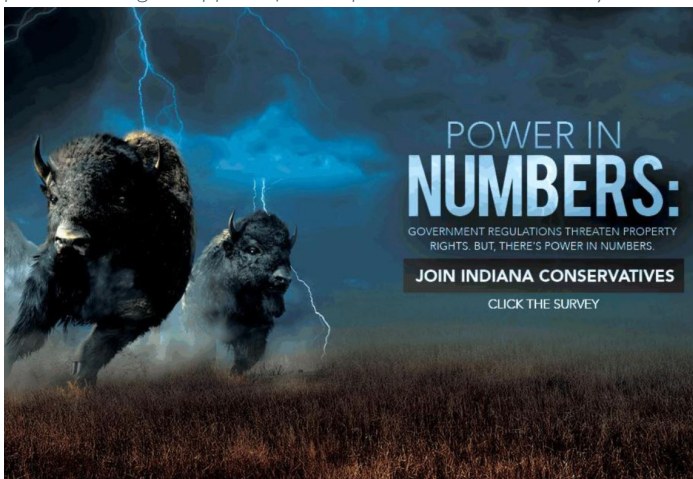
Local field teams were established in Michigan and Indiana in 2018. In 2019, Minnesota and Wisconsin were added. The strategies used in this project have had positive outcomes. In Michigan and Indiana, significant engagement by the field teams in attending local meetings; providing testimony at public hearings; recruiting surrogates, volunteers, and advocates; and pursuing earned media, resulted in **7 projects being successfully sited**.

Clean Grid Alliance is pleased to be the liaison between renewable energy industries and the project partners. The project is successfully tackling siting challenges at the local level where it matters most. We are looking forward to further success with this project in 2020 and beyond.



The goal for this project is to empower community members who want to host renewables on their land and ultimately **change the paradigm** to create an environment in the Mid-

*The Land & Liberty Coalition has tested messaging for its social media campaigns to attract Conservatives that support renewable energy. The image on the left is an example of imagery and messaging that resonated well in Indiana. Below on the right are advocates who turned out for a public meeting in support of development in their community.*



# STATE POLICY

CGA successfully fought several anti-wind bills regarding siting, setbacks, and moratoriums while advancing technical bills that create a brighter future for clean energy, like repealing anti-wind ordinances, advancing energy storage pilots and including storage in resource planning, passing an environmental mitigation bill, and regulatory reform. Below are a few highlights from the year:

## Indiana:

- Established an informal process to coordinate wind development with military bases in Indiana; avoiding legislation and a state coordination process that duplicates existing Department of Defense and Federal Aviation Administration processes.
- Successfully **defeated three anti-wind bills** filed in the 2019 Indiana legislative session.
- Successfully supported Indiana SB 535, which strengthens county government authority over county property within 4 miles of a municipal boundary and preventing a municipal government from enacting ordinances regulating development (prohibiting wind development) within that 4-mile zone.

## Iowa:

- Defeated a bill (SF 361) in Committee that would have significantly increased the distance turbines could be sited from any dwelling or non-participating landowner.

## Minnesota:

- Stopped a bill (SF 848) from receiving a hearing that would have effectively created a moratorium on new wind deployment in the state.
- Defeated a prevailing wage requirement that would have dramatically increased the cost and competitiveness of developing projects in Minnesota.
- Assisted in passing a bill (SF 100) into law requiring utilities to consider storage in their resource plans.
- **Built a strong relationship with organized labor** including helping facilitate agreements with member companies.
- Brokered an historic settlement agreement with Xcel Energy and labor to build 3,000 MW of solar by 2030.
- Attended 25 meetings with legislators, including a briefing with Congressman Philips' congressional staff regarding the emerging issue of transmission constraints.

## North Dakota:

- Successfully defeated HB 1167 on the floor of the House. This wind setback bill would have tripled the distance a turbine could be placed near a non-participating landowner.
- Passed legislation that prohibited the state from requiring developers to pay for the mitigation of land disrupted by wind farms.
- Convened a first-ever public meeting between the wind industry and the Public Service Commission to build relationships and discuss issues facing wind development.



## Legislator Meetings

## South Dakota:

- Lead the response effort that successfully **persuaded Gov. Noem to retain the state's Reinvestment Payment Program** for renewable energy projects.
- Defeated a wind setback bill (SB 1226) in committee that would have increased setbacks from any property line to 1,500 ft.
- Passed a bill that streamlined the information required as part of the regulatory process in exchange for an increase in the permit timeline from six months to nine months.
- **1.4 gigawatts of wind permits issued in 2019.**



# TRANSMISSION

Clean Grid Alliance continues to work on important transmission issues to reduce carbon and accelerate the shift to renewable energy in the Midwest. We do extensive work within MISO, as well as in state regulatory processes, to ensure there is fair access to the grid for new renewable energy projects. A few key accomplishments from 2019 include:

- CGA staff met with commissioners and staff from MN, IA, WI, IN, MO, MS, MI, SD, and New Orleans to discuss market issues in MISO related to the conclusions of the *Power Markets of the Future* report put out by the Wind Solar Alliance. Our focus was on the need to **create or adjust market products or structures to facilitate the changing resource mix** in the MISO footprint. We urged creation of a seasonable capacity construct (which MISO is already exploring under the RAN effort), support for the RIIA study, and the **need for holistic transmission planning** that addresses reliability and economic planning as well as generator interconnection issues.
- We used the media to **call attention to the lack of transmission capacity problem** that is hampering development in several MISO West states by pitching a blog entitled, *Clarion Call! Success Has Brought Us to the Limits of the Current Transmission System* to several trade publications. By year-end, we had 5 requests for interviews with CGA staff, and 2 print articles in trade publications. The blog cre-

ated significant buzz among utilities, corporate and industrial customers, state regulators and CGA members. The blog revealed the severity of the lack of transmission capacity in the MISO West footprint, and the significant negative effect such constraints place on the viability of renewable energy projects.

- Persuaded MISO and stakeholders to increase the renewable energy penetration in MTEP20 by 5% in each future.

## Rules & Law:

- The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin **approved the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line** on September 26, 2019.

CGA provided expert testimony on the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line case. We supported the case with a robust communications plan that included a dedicated webpage, earned media, social media videos, fact sheets, and a very successful press conference.

**August 16, 2019:** CGA held a press conference at the Wisconsin State Capitol highlighting the benefits of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line. The press event included representatives from Apex Clean Energy, EDF Renewables, MJ Electric and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. Together, we made a strong case for the line and the opportunities it would provide to Wisconsin. Five media outlets covered the event. Wisconsin Eye live-streamed the event. Three newspaper articles were published and the ABC affiliate WKOW-TV ran a spot.



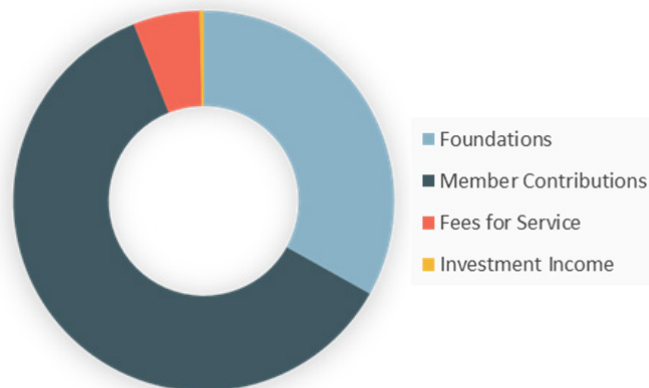
# FINANCIALS

## Statement of Activities

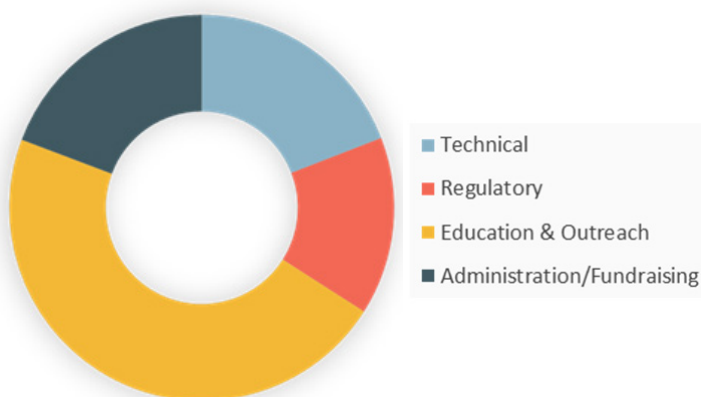
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Revenue	Amount	Percent
Foundations	\$ 741,888	33.03%
Member Contributions*	\$ 1,371,719	61.07%
Fees for Service	\$ 124,753	5.55%
Investment Income	\$ 7,932	.35%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,246,292</b>	

\* Includes contributions for the siting project



Expenses	Amount	Percent
Technical	\$ 449,541	19.11%
Regulatory	\$ 351,400	14.94%
Education & Outreach	\$ 1,097,924	46.68%
Administration <sup>+</sup> /Fundraising	\$ 453,016	19.26%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,351,881</b>	



**Change in Net Assets \$ (105,589)**

+ Includes the cost of administering the siting project, which was new in 2019

**October 17, 2019:** The CGA Soiree was a "magical" evening that began with a VIP Reception where Minnesota Commissioner Steve Kelley said a few words about the renewable energy efforts taking place in the state. The program featured award-winning journalist Don Shelby as Master of Ceremonies. He led a panel discussion on Corporate & Industrial purchasing that included Peter Dahm (Cargill), Denise Hugo (Geronimo Energy) and Jeff Riles (Google). They discussed the realities of corporate investments in wind, solar and storage, the need for innovation in terms of building closer to load, accessibility, reliability and that C&I purchasing is creating a sense of urgency. The event concluded with a spellbinding show by Magician Dennis Watkins.



# LEADERSHIP

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Committee

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Julie Voeck  
NextEra

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Mike Bull  
Center for Energy and Environment

#### Secretary

Sarah Johnson Phillips  
Stoel Rives LLP

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Tyler Huebner  
RENEW Wisconsin

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Vestas

Kerri Johannsen  
Iowa Environmental Council

Scott Koziar  
Apex Clean Energy

Brian Lammers  
Advanced Generation Development

Nicole Luckey  
Invenergy

Shanelle Montana  
EDF Renewable Energy

Susan Williams Sloan  
American Wind Energy Association

Adam Sokolski  
Avangrid Renewables

Beth Soholt  
Clean Grid Alliance

John Sterling  
First Solar

Vanessa Tutos  
EDP Renewables

## STAFF

Beth Soholt  
Executive Director

Sean Brady  
Regional Policy Manager - East

Linda Brewster  
Office Manager

Holly Fritz  
Communications/Policy Associate

Peder Mewis  
Regional Policy Manager - West

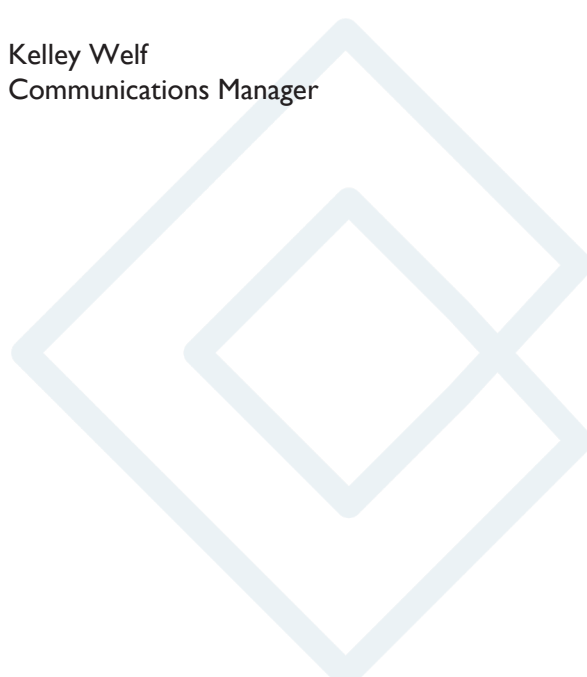
Natalie McIntire  
Technical/Policy Consultant

Ron Osterbauer  
Development Manager

Rhonda Peters  
Technical Consultant

Brian Rybarik  
Vice President - State Policy

Kelley Welf  
Communications Manager







# CLEAN GRID ALLIANCE

Delivering Midwest Renewable Energy

## 2019 MEMBERSHIP

# ADVANCING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE MIDWEST

*Leveraging technical expertise and building support to expand markets*



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