

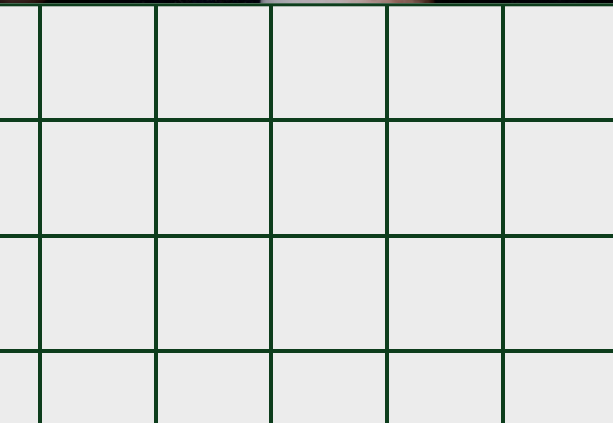


CLIMATE ADVOCACY LAB



# Climate Justice Microgrants: Insights & Reflections from the Program's First Five Years

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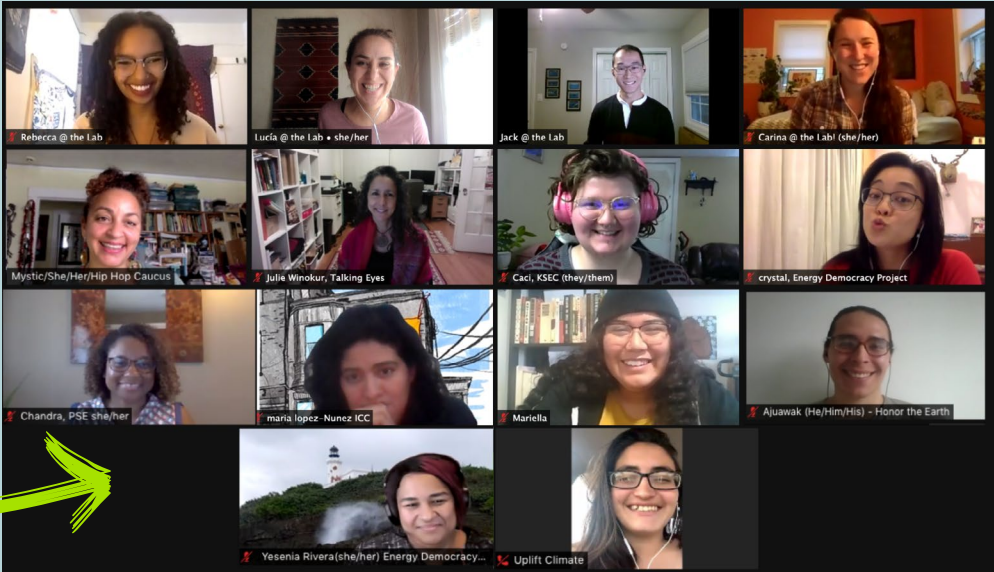
## Background

The Climate Advocacy Lab launched our [Climate Justice Microgrants program](#) in 2018 to help document and amplify “lessons learned” from U.S. climate justice organizations who are advancing equitable, community-based solutions to the climate crisis.

As the Lab team was taking stock of research gaps and grant-making priorities that year, we observed a big discrepancy between the powerful campaigns we knew environmental and climate justice organizations were running and the documentation (or lack thereof) of learnings from those campaigns. Our climate justice partners shared that while they had a lot of valuable insights into building grassroots political power to share, they were already strapped for time and funding – and they were *definitely* not receiving sufficient resources to be able to allocate time to reflect on these learnings and accomplishments. Further, because climate justice organizations did not have the bandwidth to tell their own stories and/or reflect on impact, their contributions to big wins were too often excluded or undervalued, creating a negative feedback loop that further affected their ability to secure more resources for their work.

While we knew the scale of the Lab’s re-granting program would be insufficient to solve the larger issue of disparities in the flow of philanthropic resources, our hope was that climate justice organizations would be able to leverage these projects to demonstrate the impact of their work and secure more resources to support their critical organizing work.

Members of the 2020 - 2021 Climate Justice Microgrant cohort met via Zoom to share learnings from their projects



### The overall goals of the Climate Justice Microgrants program are to:

- **Support climate justice leaders** to document and lift up insights, lessons learned, and best practices for advancing just and equitable solutions to the climate crisis.
- **Support the larger movement for climate justice** in the U.S. by building a greater body of knowledge and resources that provides actionable insights about how to achieve and scale up these solutions
- **Spark opportunities for cross-movement and cross-organizational learning**, discussion, and iteration on lessons learned from campaigns and projects among the Lab community

The Lab has distributed over **\$400,000 to 25 environmental and climate justice organizations since 2018**, supporting the development of insightful projects that feature grantee work on energy democracy, green infrastructure development, fossil fuel resistance, economic development, and other important subjects.



**Logos from the 25 organizations who have participated in the Lab's Climate Justice Minigrant program**

Following the completion of our 2023-2024 cohort in June, the Lab team – led by the Lab's Social Scientist, Jack Zhou, and our summer Intern, Kathryn Gioisa – completed a review of previous projects with a few goals:

- **Synthesize learnings from across the projects**, to better understand common insights and challenges;
- **Identify ongoing gaps** in the body of knowledge (e.g., geographic focus, issue area, campaign strategy, etc.); and
- **Summarize feedback from participants** on what has been most valuable about the program – and how we can continue to improve it to meet the needs of climate justice leaders.

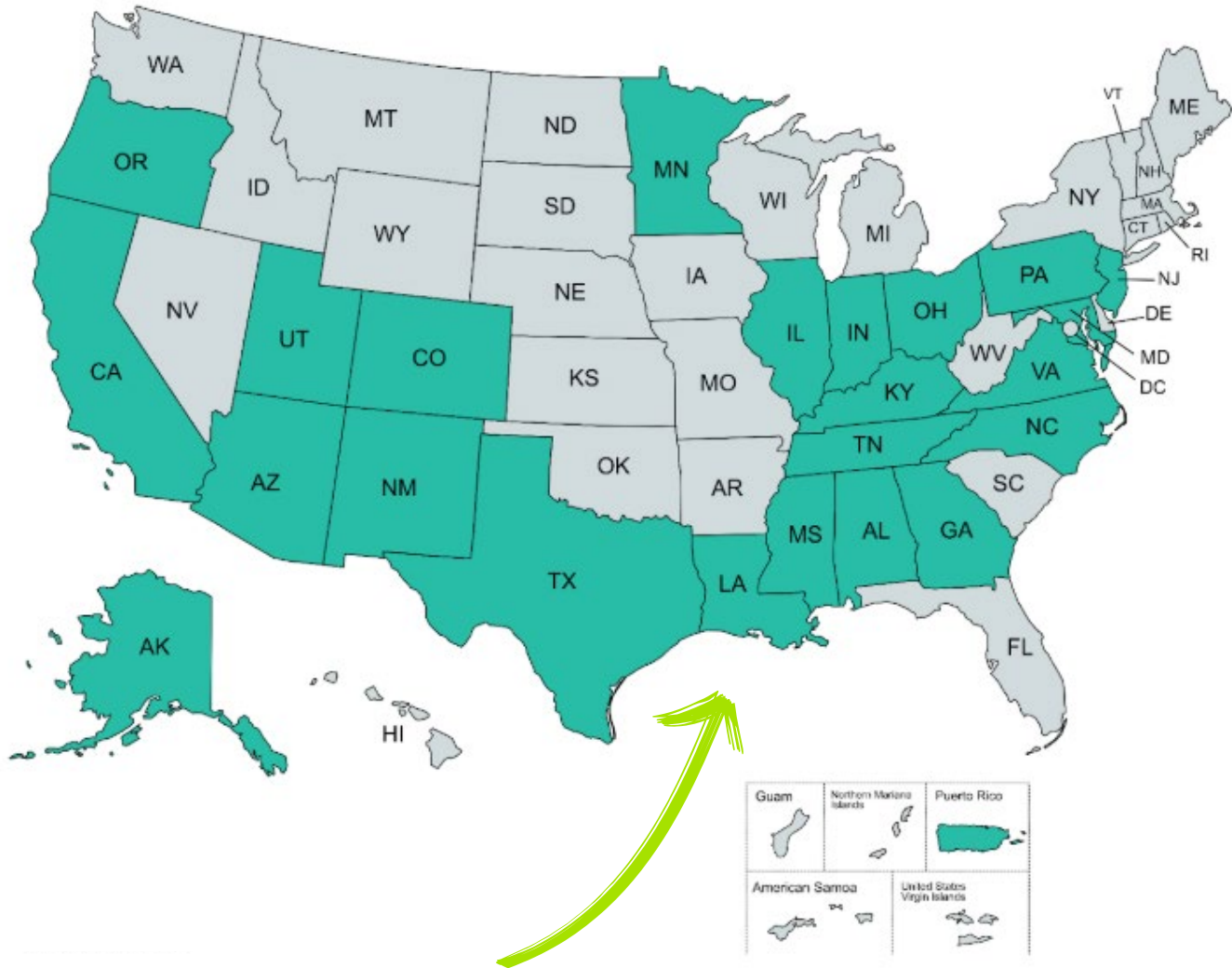
Our hope is these insights will be helpful to climate justice leaders as well as other movement support organizations and funders who support powerful environmental and climate justice organizing work!



# Program Overview

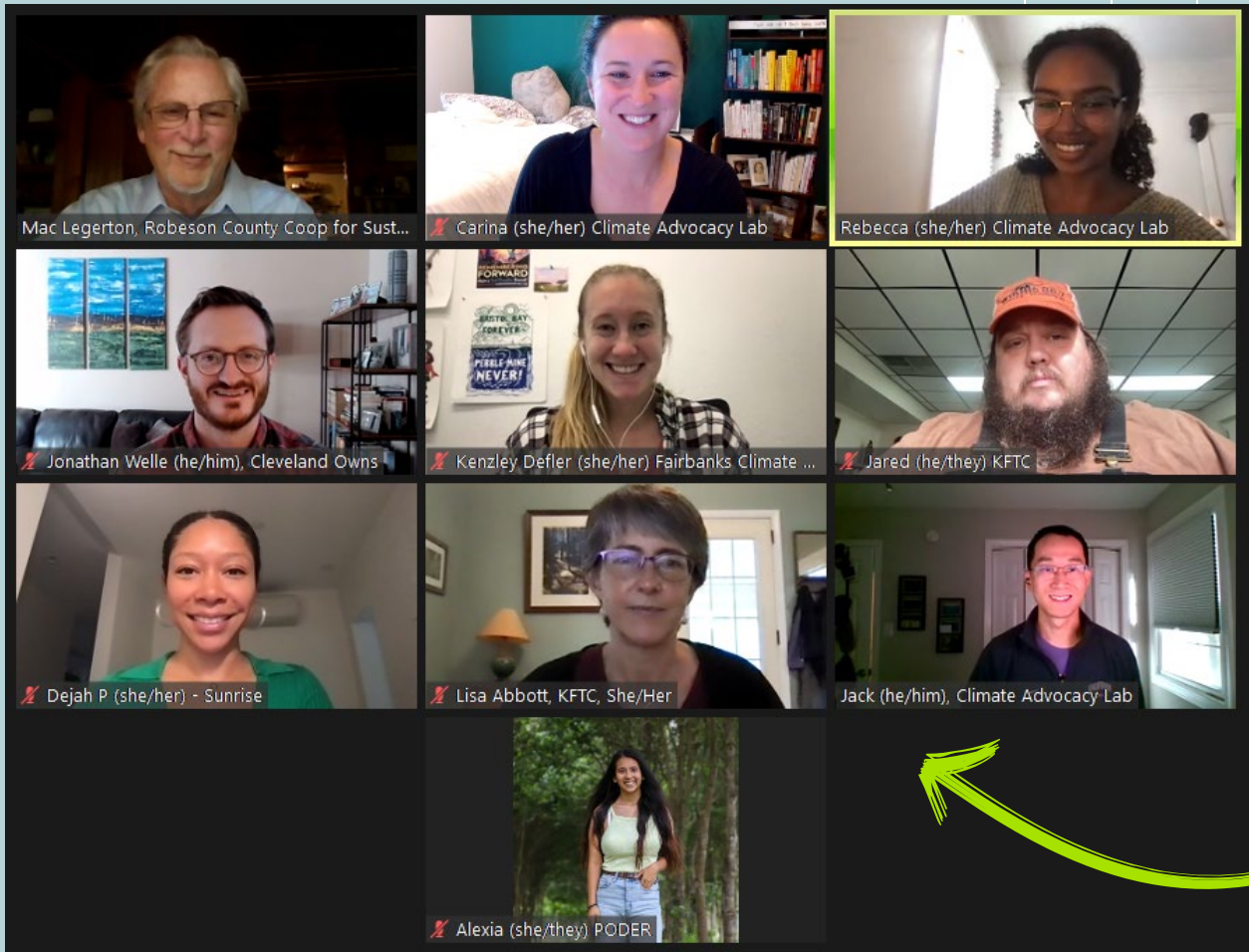
The 25 projects funded through the Lab’s Climate Justice Microgrants program cover work from 23 US states and territories and include: 6 documentaries or video series, 1 podcast series, 2 zines, 4 training toolkits, and 16 case study reports.

Projects were selected primarily based on their potential to offer new lessons and best practices to achieve and scale up just and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. While the majority of the projects documented wins, we did support three projects ([fighting the Tesoro-BP refinery](#), stopping construction of the [Bayou Bridge Pipeline](#), and the [El Paso Climate Charter](#)) that detailed lessons from campaigns that either lost or were at a “re-grouping” phase. After identifying projects through existing partnerships for the first (2019-2020) cohort, we shifted to an open nomination process in the fall of 2020. Environmental and climate justice organizations were asked to self-nominate a completed program for a microgrant, or be nominated by external collaborators or colleagues for recognition.



Climate Justice Microgrant projects feature work from 23 US States and territories. Analysis of the projects revealed a gap in the Upper and Lower Plains states, the lower Midwest, and New England.

Created with mapchart.net



Members of the 2022 - 2023 Climate Justice Microgrant cohort gathered for a virtual celebration at the end of the program.

The vast majority of climate justice micrograntees were community-based organizations representing communities and constituencies on the fence lines of extractive industries and frontlines of climate change. A handful of grantees, however, were national organizations or networks composed of various local affiliates or who work with local partners. (Note: For ease of use, we refer to both local and national/network grantees in this report as “frontline organizations,” with the understanding that climate justice work is best understood and executed in direct connection with the communities most impacted by climate change.)

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## Support Climate Justice Leaders to Document and Lift Up Lessons Learned

The breakdown of campaign subjects is shown below, with the majority of cases featuring frontline fights against fossil fuel infrastructure like campaigns against pipeline projects or to close down polluting power plants.

| Campaign Topic   | # of Projects | Project Examples   |
|--|---------------|--|
| <b>Anti-fossil fuel:</b> Include case studies of campaigns against the operation or expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, such as coal plants, oil and gas pipelines, and refineries.                   | 7             | <a href="#">Communities for a Better Environment</a> , <a href="#">Deep South Center for Environmental Justice</a> , <a href="#">Honor the Earth</a> , <a href="#">Memphis Communities Against Pollution (MCAP)</a> , <a href="#">Philly Thrive</a> , <a href="#">Movement Training Network</a> , <a href="#">Robeson County Cooperative For Sustainable Development</a> |
| <b>Internal organizational storytelling:</b> Projects that explore strategies beyond the scope of a single campaign, such as case studies on navigating internal conflict and movement landscape analyses. | 5             | <a href="#">Partnership for Southern Equity</a> , <a href="#">Uplift Climate</a> , <a href="#">Sunrise Movement</a> , <a href="#">Youth Climate Finance Alliance</a>   |
| <b>Green infrastructure:</b> Efforts to develop physical and social infrastructure projects, such as building community-owned solar installations or forming neighborhood climate resilience councils.     | 4             | <a href="#">Cleveland Owns</a> , <a href="#">Groundwork Ohio River Valley</a> , <a href="#">Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)</a>  |
| <b>Legislative or electoral efforts:</b> Campaigns for new laws that protect the health, rights, and future of impacted communities at the local or state level.   | 4             | <a href="#">Amanecer People's Project</a> ; <a href="#">Ironbound Community Corporation</a> , <a href="#">Portland Clean Energy Fund</a>   |
| <b>Utility justice:</b> Efforts to combat predatory utility practices and democratize energy generation such as utility accountability campaigns and rural energy efficiency programs.                     | 3             | <a href="#">Energy Democracy Project</a> , <a href="#">Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition</a> , <a href="#">Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)</a>  |
| <b>Disaster recovery:</b> Organizing efforts in communities that have recently been hit by climate disasters, such as hurricanes and flooding.   | 2             | <a href="#">Climate Justice Alliance</a> ; <a href="#">Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)</a>   |



## Expand the Body of Climate Justice Movement Knowledge

Jack and Kathryn reviewed each climate justice microgrant project and noted key insights and lessons learned, as well as challenges that organizations faced.

**Relational organizing and community care are the foundation for all our work.** Across projects, the most common insights focused on the importance of community, relationships, trust, and love as anchors for all our organizing. Leaders from Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE) explain that *“Values-based organizing is about relationships and trust. PSE doesn’t go into a community unless they are asked to and they don’t tell them what needs to be done but they ask what needs to be done and listen.”* As Cheri Foytlin from the Movement Training Network phrased it, *“The first step to organizing for social, climate, and environmental justice is not to talk, but to listen. What does your community need?”* In their Utility Justice Playbook, leaders from Energy Democracy observed, *“Philanthropic giving is used to artificially divide us – we need to use our deep relational organizing as a movement to care for those who may feel constrained and aid them in building power.”*

**Stay accountable to impacted constituencies and ensure campaigns prioritize equitable climate solutions that truly meet community needs.** Groundwork Ohio River Valley worked with local community members in mostly-Black neighborhoods of Cincinnati to learn which issues were most pressing to residents in those neighborhoods (e.g., urban heat islands, flooding, and toxic pollution) and then developed plans to build resiliency in the form of cooling centers, greenspace to combat landslides, community outreach programs, and other initiatives.

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)’s climate deep canvass project provided an opportunity to provide disaster response in the wake of recent storms and floods as well as identify community-driven solutions to these impacts. These included mine reclamation and home weatherization initiatives, which could strengthen bonds of connection

*“From interviews with movement elders to emerging leaders, this documentary tells an inspiring story of what it really means to be an organizer ...and also shows why centering values and lived experience is so critical to the work of organizing and central to our ability to be able to achieve the goals of energy and climate justice. When Black communities, Indigenous peoples and communities of color are authentically and thoughtfully engaged through organizing, we can win on climate and create systemic change! The film will be an important learning tool for the field and our own organization.”* –Chandra Farley, Partnership for Southern Equity



### LITTLE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION (LVEJO)

*“What I discovered about the La Villita Park campaign over the course of the microgrant project was how it is an ever-evolving campaign that continues to exist with growing visions to this day. What originally began as a campaign to clean up a toxic brownfield, transformed into a vision of building an accessible park, and is now pursuing the next innovation of building up a community owned cooperative farm! This project was a reminder that we must always listen to the community because only the folks most directly impacted hold the answers of what their needs are and know the true potential the community has to create. Our work is rooted in not only fighting the bad (the polluters), but it is also about building the good and laying the groundwork for creating a just and equitable future.”* –Guadalupe Blanco, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

La Villita Park Community Farm - July 2023, Produce Beds, LVEJO harvested over 5,000 lbs. of produce that was directly distributed back to the community.



and trust between organizers and their communities. Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) reflected that input from the local community shifted the initial goals of their La Villita campaign from a park *“to a transformative land sovereignty project where the community could eliminate harm and collectively create a healing space for healthy future generations.”*

**Investment in leadership development, skills training, and modeling new systems of democratic governance allowed organizations to build durable people power – even when they lost the campaign.**

The importance of “providing the public with tools to increase their confidence in and skillset to engage” in the governance structure of their municipal utility was one of Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition’s key takeaways from their [successful campaign](#) to transition Golden Valley Electric Association away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy. [Cleveland Owns](#) reflected on how a deep investment in leadership development – including the creation of the Lakewood Community Solar fellows program – was critical to their work creating the Cleveland Solar Cooperative. Fellows were trained in community organizing skills as well as solar economics and policy, which helped ensure the Cooperative was truly by and for the Lakewood community and led to increased participation and feelings of accountability among their membership. Peoples Justice Council experimented with “participatory budgeting” as part of their [From Resilience to Restoration work](#), allowing community members to directly decide how to allocate public funding in support of environmental and climate justice. And while [Amanecer People’s Project](#) lost their ballot initiative to develop an El Paso Climate Charter that would have heavily restricted fracking in the Permian Basin, they emerged from the setback with a new multigenerational organizational strategy and developed a following of local supporters beyond the youth activists they started with.

**On the flip side, a lack of investment in capacity-building can hamper campaign and organizing efforts and/or lead to burnout.** Too often, frontline organizations are under-equipped and under-resourced for the ambition of the work they undertake. While many microgrant projects emphasized the importance of training and skills-building, a handful of others reflected on the ways in which lack of access to key organizing resources and staff capacity, particularly in terms of training support. As the [Youth Climate Finance Alliance](#) points out in their report on the state of the US Youth Climate Movement, this can lead to “poor strategic vision, underdeveloped theories of change, internal conflicts, and high rates of burnout” as advocates feel squeezed for time, attention, and results. Similarly, as [Uplift](#) leaders wrote in their zine on autonomous youth organizing, the urgency culture that permeates climate action work can overtax frontline organizers and organizations, especially when attention is not paid to personal rest, restoration, and developing systems of emotional regulation.

**Cultural strategies helped organizations both draw on the wisdom of their elders and ancestors, as well as engage new constituencies.** In their [documentary project](#), *“Carrying the Fire,”* Honor the Earth reflected on how Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices – including horse rides, music, dance, and storytelling – built community among the Water Protectors and were a core part of their successful campaign to stop the construction of the Sandpiper Pipeline. [Hip Hop Caucus organized a variety show](#) called *“Ain’t Your Mama’s Heat Wave”* to “address the climate crisis through humor in culturally responsive ways.” The goal of the project was to “engage and empower Black Millennial and Gen Z cohort members” at HBCUs in the Hampton Roads area around the 2019 statewide election in Virginia – an election where pro-climate leaders won majorities in the state House of Delegates and Senate.



**HIP HOP CAUCUS**

*“The creation of our project will add to the existing knowledge base on the process of engaging in the use of creative, culture-based organizing strategies in the pursuit of climate justice. There is limited, existing research in this area, and we hope this case study will both help lessen the gap and help spark the imagination of the brilliant minds of people in these communities so that they can more readily engage in cultural and creative organizing efforts.” –Mandolyn “Mystic” Ludlum, Hip Hop Caucus*

**Non-violent direct action (NVDA) tactics helped organizations elevate the urgency of their campaign, creating key opportunities for strategic mobilizing and communications.** Philly Thrive leaned heavily on NVDA in their [campaign to close down the PES Oil Refinery](#) in South Philadelphia, including holding protests outside the refinery gates to educate workers and fence-line community members about their campaign. These tactics eventually led to the successful targeting of Port Authority and City Hall decision-makers who could close down the site. More generally, the [Youth Climate Finance Alliance](#) found that student climate organizers mentioned NVDA tactics as among the most successful tactics at their disposal, offering visible opportunities to recruit new supporters and deepen commitments within group members and among coalition partners.

**Coalitions can serve as a powerful, necessary vehicle for collective action – but they can also be a distraction that pulls organizations away from their core work.** The importance of “connecting folks of different backgrounds and different experiences” and “build[ing] a coalition of like-minded people” were two of the key takeaways from Memphis Communities Against Pollution (MCAP)’s [successful campaign to stop the Byhalia Pipeline](#). [Philly Thrive](#) shared that small, community-serving organizations must be cautious about which coalitions to engage with and spend time and resources pursuing. They emphasized the benefits of prioritizing collaborations with partners who share similar theories of change or risk being tokenized.

**Movement allies can play an important role to fill in technical, scientific, legal, and data analysis gaps.** Frontline organizations do not always hold deep technical expertise in-house, which is why more well-funded and specialized partners can provide critical assistance on legal, policy, research, and other matters. As leaders from Communities for a Better Environment phrased it in their [case study on the Tesoro-BP LA refinery merger](#), “Technical and legal expertise was critical. Community access to expertise unveiled hidden impacts and enabled challenges to bad decisions.” Similarly, the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice mentions the positive impact of external movement partners in [many of their campaign case studies](#), including Tulane University’s Environmental Law Clinic, to provide legal resources. Allies can also diversify the reach and impact of climate justice campaigns. For instance, the Robeson County Cooperative For Sustainable Development recounts the [importance of research and legal support](#) in unpacking the many false and flawed claims of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline’s developers. This knowledge base led to 82 separate legal cases litigated in front of various courts in North Carolina and Virginia, with numerous key victories against claims of eminent domain and faulty environmental risk analyses.



(Image credit: Philly Thrive)

*“We found through the Right to Breathe campaign that working in coalition is not always the most strategic or powerful. As frontline environmental justice organizers we know we belong at the table. A lot of times the question was whether it was the most important table for us to be at, for the victories we were trying to win on a city level. It was generally much more fulfilling and energizing being part of coalitions that had similar theories of change and were led by those most targeted by oppression. There was more space for Thrive to be ourselves and for our members to be centered.” –Philly Thrive*

# Spark Opportunities for Cross-movement and Cross-organizational Learning

We shifted to a “cohort”-style model in the fall of 2020, based on feedback from our initial micrograntees and in service of our broader goal to seed opportunities for peer learning, connection, and collaboration.

Micrograntees met virtually at the beginning of the cohort (to learn more about each other and proposed projects) and also at the end (to share and celebrate their completed projects.) Cohort members also met periodically with Lab staff members to receive technical support on project design, check in about key milestones, and talk through challenges.

The 2023 - 2024 Climate Justice Microgrant cohort met via Zoom to kick off their participation in the program.



Following the completion of the projects, each organization had the opportunity to share their learnings with the broader Lab community through a webinar or being featured in our weekly newsletter.

Leaders from Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) presented learnings from their climate deep canvass during a webinar for the Lab community in June 2023.



All in all, we've hosted 12 webinars and co-authored 16 newsletters with climate justice microgrant participants!

View the [full list here](#).

## Feedback and Reflections from Participants

As part of the Lab's learning and evaluation process, we measured progress toward our internal goals through a combination of pre- and post-surveys as well as 1-on-1 follow-up and full cohort reflection conversations. Three primary takeaways emerged from across participants' feedback about the value of the Climate Justice Microgrant program:

- Time and space for internal reflection on campaign and organizing;
- Connections between and peer learning with other cohort members; and
- Amplification of their efforts and impact across the broader Lab community.



Dejah Powell (far right, middle row) gathered with other Sunrise Movement activists to show their support for a Green New Deal for Chicago. (Image credit: Sunrise Movement)

*"The microgrant definitely supported me with the space and time to do deeper documentation around the lessons and learnings within Sunrise around multiracial, cross-class organizing. I'm already thinking about how to host open space and time to discuss some of these, and also hear other people's reflections on what could be missing. I also think getting access to the Climate Advocacy Lab's community was valuable, so much I want to bring back to Sunrise from all the resources you all have!"*  
—Dejah Powell, Sunrise Movement

*"This project gave our team a chance to reflect and helped us identify a list of tangible tactics that have led to past successes and that we can now pull from for future work. It also gave us the opportunity to discuss some of the challenges we face as a volunteer-led climate advocacy organization. Having a comprehensive report of the Golden Valley campaign will make it easier to talk about the work to new people and bring them into our future efforts. Doing this project allowed a chance for our group to reflect on and celebrate our wins. When doing climate justice work, it can often feel frustrating that things aren't changing as quickly as we'd like and we often don't take time to celebrate the small successes along the longer path. Having conversations for this project really documented how much we have achieved and gave us a chance to appreciate each other's efforts and achievements. It reinvigorated us to keep going!"* —Kenzley Defler, Energy Justice Organizer, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

## KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

*"We hope it's valuable to other organizers to share our experience with deep canvassing. If we can have these kinds of productive climate conversations here, they can happen anywhere! The work helped us **show people that they are not alone**. On the whole, Kentuckians had a higher level of concern than we expected and it was often accompanied by a high degree of powerlessness or fatalism. We built a team of organizers and volunteers who understand and are using deep canvassing as an approach to building relationships and grassroots power. And we learned the **importance of supporting the canvassing team to hold space for each other and unpack the trauma** that we encountered in our communities and that we experienced each time we told our own climate stories."*  
—Lisa Abbott, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth



Graphic from the Golden Valley Electric Association campaign recruiting co-op members to take action for renewable energy. (Image Credit: Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition)

“Over the course of our microgrant project, the YCFA team learned so much! Chief among this was realizing how many young organizers are hungry for a deeper and broader reflection and analysis of our present moment and conditions - the spirit of reflection and regard for our work is strong and folks are excited to share. Especially with our focus on ‘post’ COVID organizing contexts, it was very affirming to see shared thematic analysis for how the context of youth climate organizing has shifted to face a new reality. The lack of capacity from frontline/BIPOC youth and student organizers can be compounded by not being able to offer them funds to complete their important work. I also think that for small youth-led organizations, many of which are often not fully funded, it can be hard to devote so many staff hours to projects that are not immediately related to program implementation. Small program grants help us dream up more expansive programming.” —Sof Petros, Youth Climate Finance Alliance



**Leaders from the Youth Climate Finance Alliance including Sof Petros (front row, middle) protest CitiBank’s funding of fossil fuel projects. (Image credit: Youth Climate Finance Alliance)**

“The climate justice sector is underfunded and besieged with many local challenges against the deep pockets of the traditional energy sector, which wants to maintain the status quo. The Climate Advocacy Lab has taken this brave task of highlighting these insights and lessons learned and shining a bright light for others to follow. It forced LVEJO to sit down, think, and reflect on its experience in making La Villita Park a miracle of success. This exercise is difficult for LVEJO which is constantly besieged by current needs, underfunding, and multiple current challenges.” —Dale Asis, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization



**Members of the Cleveland Solar Cooperative pose next to their community solar project, including Jonathan Welle (second from back.) (Image credit: Cleveland Owns)**

“Having a chance to reflect on what it took to create the Cleveland Solar Cooperative helped validate our assumption that at the heart of powerful organizing work is how we build relationships, create shared understanding, learn about ourselves, and build justice. I’m glad we could document that learning through this case study and hope it helps other groups of residents move toward community solar. The process of creating this case study reminded us of just how much we’d done and learned together. We built power through education; through new relationships; through new knowledge of our shared power. We built a legal infrastructure. We built knowledge of the financial infrastructure necessary to do this work. We’re excited to start sharing our case study widely and generate more momentum for the campaign!” —Jonathan Welle, Executive Director, Cleveland Owns



**Crystal Huang participates in an action in support of energy democracy in Oakland, CA. (Image credit: Energy Democracy Project)**

“The Lab has been incredibly valuable in broadcasting our work. We should think more strategically on leveraging such a movement resource. The Lab also has a lot of incredible movement-building insights within the Lab that climate justice organizers can really learn a lot to be more effective. I am incredibly grateful for the thoughtful support the Lab staff has put into supporting us to reach these goals we set out and take our project to the finish line!” —Crystal Huang, Energy Democracy Project



*“The Climate Advocacy Lab is filling one of the most important unmet needs and neglected issues in the work of environmental and climate justice in the U.S. The majority of competencies and energies expended in social action are in doing the work with little resources focused on what is being learned in the process. Even fewer resources are expended on documenting what social action practitioners have learned and on disseminating and deliberating on lessons learned together. Without making our learning a priority, documenting and disseminating it, and deliberating on how we can make our climate justice work both more effective and successful, the way in which we structure and perform our work will neither improve nor achieve our stated goals.”*

—Mac Legerton, Robeson County Cooperative for Sustainable Development



**Donna Chavis (far left) of the Red-Tailed Hawk Collective and Mac Legerton from Robeson County Cooperative for Sustainable Development (far right) attend a press conference on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline at the NC General Assembly. Image credit: Robeson County Cooperative for Sustainable Development**

## Opportunities & Next Steps

Through the Lab’s Climate Justice Microgrants program, dozens of climate justice organizations have been able to tell their own stories and share learnings from their campaigns with the wider movement. As a result, climate justice leaders have new insights into what has worked to win equitable solutions and build power on their campaigns as well as new connections and increased visibility for their work.

For the Lab team, the Climate Justice Microgrants program has also underscored a number of key opportunities and potential areas for further exploration and investment:

- **High demand for (and importance of) funding learning & evaluation work:** Since we shifted to an open nomination process in 2021, the Lab team has received hundreds of nominations for projects – including 165 in 2023 alone. The large number of applicants illustrates that frontline groups are as eager to do this analysis as the movement, and Lab members are to learn from their work. For every project we are able to support, there are dozens we would have funded with additional financial resources. For purposes of both movement generosity and, more importantly, strategic intelligence, the US climate movement should more highly prioritize funding the documenting and learning from leaders in frontline fights for climate action. This may mean similar initiatives to the Lab’s climate justice microgrants program or, better yet, long-term funding that includes dedicated support for evaluation and learning.
- **Significant geographic gaps in the knowledge still exist:** Expanding the geographical representation of grantees is a clear priority, as we evaluate future iterations of the climate justice microgrant program. For instance, the Northeast, Great Lakes, Great Plains, and Mountain West have been historically underrepresented in our cohorts, meaning we may be missing out on insights representative of specific climate justice fights in those areas, such as in Wyoming coal country where communities face economic transition or coastal New England which is at the frontlines of offshore wind energy development.
- **We need more models of how we “build the good”:** Another area of program expansion could be more projects that highlight the development of transformative, regenerative, equitable climate solutions. Producing more of these “build the good” cases could also be a welcome way to explore the concept of just transition and the intersection of interests between climate, environmental justice, and labor advocates. From the small body of evidence we’ve been able to collect so far, ideating and creating projects with inclusive new benefits may help build interest and engagement from historically marginalized or disengaged communities. We would like to invest in more research in this area.



- **Expand analysis to include learnings from other case studies:** While this analysis focuses exclusively on projects funded through the Lab's Climate Justice Microgrants program, we feel so lucky to support this type of campaign learning and reflection work with other movement support and intermediary funding organizations, including the Climate & Clean Energy Equity Fund, the Solutions Project, and Just Solutions Collective. A future, complementary analysis could also include insights from case study projects supported by those (and other) organizations, as a larger data set would allow us to draw more granular conclusions – such as across geography, demographic populations, and campaign issue focus.
- **More funding overall to the frontlines!** Finally, the US climate movement can better support frontline organizations fighting for climate justice by providing both resources (e.g., funding, data tools, access to training) – as well as a willingness to follow the lead of frontline advocates. This is in comparison to historical patterns of patronage and uneven power dynamics, or dictating the terms of engagement when working with frontline partners. By investing in the vision and potential of frontline organizations, the larger movement can reap rewards from building bases of grassroots support that can be cultivated for flexibility and commitment to the cause for climate justice.

## What's Next for the Climate Justice Microgrants Program?

The Lab is deeply grateful to all the organizations who have contributed to the Climate Justice Microgrant program over the past 5 years! Based on positive feedback from participants, we hope to continue to run the program for many years to come – and, of course, share learnings, insights, and impact along the way.

Visit the [Climate Justice Microgrants section of our website](#) for more information including members from the most recent cohort, registration details for related programming, and information on applications for the next grant cycle.