

clf

conservation law foundation



STRATEGIC PLAN

2020-2025





The Fight for New England's Future

For more than 50 years, Conservation Law Foundation has tackled the environmental challenges that others had declared too big, too tough, and simply impossible to solve. CLF's experience, tenacity, and reach across New England mean that we can make dramatic progress on the toughest environmental challenges where others cannot.

Now, we are focused on driving forward a future that is equitable and healthy for all, while also confronting the most urgent environmental threats in the here and now. The work we do, together, in the next five years will lay the foundation for the 50 years that follow.

Our strategic plan provides a framework for CLF to skillfully collaborate and coordinate our work across states. Through greater community engagement, collaborative problem solving, and a commitment to environmental justice, we will achieve four strategic goals:

Climate Change

Establish New England as a national climate leader and accelerate a just clean energy transition.

Communities

Measurably reduce environmental risk and improve environmental health, accessibility, and climate resilience in vulnerable communities.

Conservation

Protect and restore New England's endangered landscapes, wildlife, and waters.

Change Leadership

Revolutionize and reinvent the systems and laws that fail to protect New England's people, environment, and economy.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

CLF's mission is to protect New England's environment for the benefit of all people for generations to come. We recognize that environmental burdens disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color. We also acknowledge that we cannot adequately address these inequities with honesty and action if we fail to confront unconscious bias, discrimination, and insular recruiting within our organization.

CLF is committed to creating a diverse staff and board where unique perspectives are represented, respected, and valued. To ensure our work is relevant, credible, and inclusive, we must build relationships where environmental justice, frontline, and marginalized communities are present, respected, and heard.

Our DEI Goals

- Improve workplace inclusiveness and culture
- Improve workforce diversity
- Increase and deepen partnerships with environmental justice communities

Working on diversity, equity, and inclusion at CLF will build a stronger, more effective organization poised to grapple with our obligation to fight for justice in the face of historic and systemic inequity.



Climate Change

OUR GOAL Establish New England as a national climate leader and accelerate a just clean energy transition.

The science is clear: If we don't collectively cut our climate-damaging emissions to net-zero by 2050, our health, our economy, and our children's future will suffer.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Enact and implement enforceable mandates in every New England state, requiring net-zero climate-damaging emissions by 2050 and aggressive interim reduction targets.
2. Cut New England's fossil fuel use in half by 2030.
3. Stop new or expanded fossil fuel power plants and pipelines, and shut down existing fossil fuel power plants.
4. Double New England's supply of clean electricity from renewable sources by 2025.
5. Ensure a fivefold increase in the number of zero-emission vehicles on New England's roads and rails.
6. Advance new models of a clean and just economy in collaboration with community-based organizations.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ACTIONS

- Pass laws in Vermont, Rhode Island, and Connecticut to meet or exceed Massachusetts and Maine mandates for cuts in greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide.
- Fix the lack of access to, and underuse of, energy efficiency and renewable energy resources in low-income communities and communities of color.
- Oppose and challenge new or expanded natural gas transmission lines and power plants in partnership with affected communities.
- Implement state regulations that require fossil fuel power plants to lower their emissions over time to meet climate targets.
- Expand responsibly sited onshore and offshore clean energy resources and transmission.
- Create incentives and requirements for utilities to electrify affordable and accessible transportation modes and support a growing market in charging infrastructure and low-cost charging options.
- Implement community or municipal pilots in every New England state to innovate climate solutions that both cut climate-damaging emissions and advance the health, livability, and economic well-being of people of color and low-income populations.

Communities

OUR GOAL Measurably reduce environmental risk and improve environmental health, mobility, and climate resilience in vulnerable communities.

We all have a right to breathe fresh air, drink clean water, and put down roots in a healthy community.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Lower toxic exposures for people where they live, learn, and play.
2. Improve the resilience of New England communities to survive and thrive in a changing regional climate.
3. Measurably increase carbon-free mobility in urban and rural communities.
4. Stop new and expanded waste facilities and cut in half toxic releases from landfills and incinerators.
5. Improve community well-being and environmental health in at least a dozen New England communities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ACTIONS

- Develop a regional campaign to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in New England.
- Collaborate with grassroots organizations to address toxic exposures in a dozen or more communities across New England.
- Protect public trust interests on Boston's waterfront from unsustainable development, climate risk, privatization, and exclusion.
- Secure transportation solutions that are reliable and affordable in at least 12 underserved communities.
- Advance reliable and affordable transportation and improved quality of life in rural communities in partnership with advocates and motorists.
- Advocate for local and state solutions to cut New England's waste stream in half.
- Support more just and sustainable food systems through legal and technical assistance to small, sustainable farms and food businesses.



Conservation

OUR GOAL Protect and restore New England's endangered landscapes, wildlife, and waters.

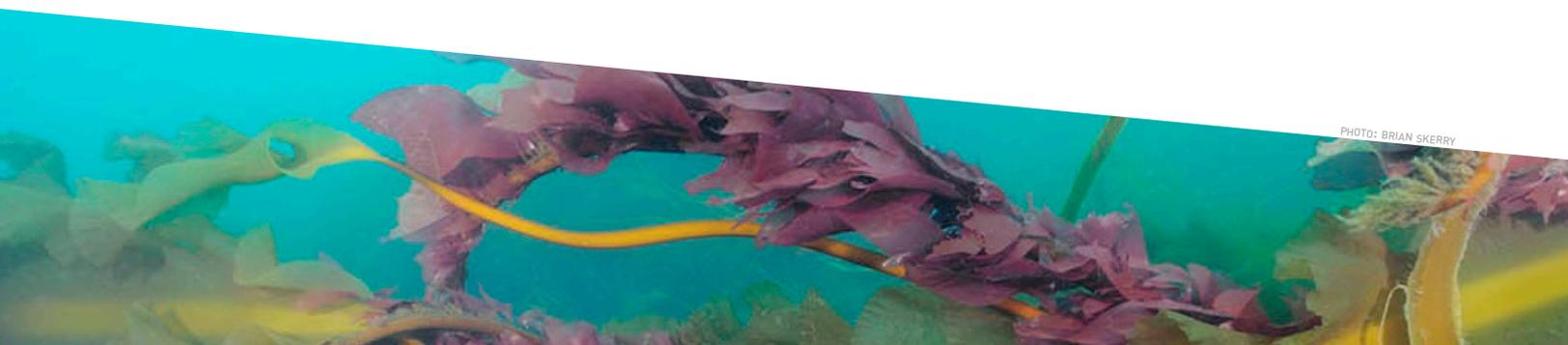
So much of our region's history is rooted in our ocean, rivers, and lakes, and so much of our economic success depends on our waters' health.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen legal protection for New England's natural resources.
2. Reduce harm to North Atlantic right whales and begin population rebuilding.
3. Defend and expand marine protected areas in New England to enhance biodiversity and climate resilience.
4. Achieve healthy populations of groundfish and forage fish in New England waters through improved management.
5. Lower pollution that harms New England's major water bodies and cut harmful algae outbreaks in half from current levels.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ACTIONS

- Champion the use of natural systems to improve water quality, air quality, and community resilience.
- Secure strong protections for North Atlantic right whales that significantly lower deaths and injury from gear entanglements, ship strikes, and ocean noise.
- Protect crucial marine habitats in New England.
- Stop oil and gas drilling in New England's ocean waters.
- End overfishing and rebuild Atlantic cod stocks in the region.
- Protect and restore key forage species that support groundfish and other marine wildlife by pushing for strong state and federal management measures.
- Stop stormwater and nutrient pollution that is harming New England's rivers and water bodies.
- Hold polluters accountable to the Clean Water Act in every state in the region.



Change Leadership

OUR GOAL Revolutionize and reinvent the systems and laws that fail to protect New England's people, environment, and economy.

We must transform systems, markets, and laws to innovate better solutions to advance environmental health and resilience.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Design innovative investment strategies to benefit New England's environment, communities, and public health.
2. Challenge and transform broken regulatory systems that expose communities to life-threatening climate and health risks.
3. Prepare our communities to survive and thrive in a changing climate through adaptation and greater resilience.
4. Build community power by securing stronger rights, remedies, and resources in the face of systemic and historic injustice.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ACTIONS

- Increase direct investment in healthy, equitable, low-carbon, and resilient neighborhoods in all New England states through innovative blended capital funds.
- Establish fossil fuel industry liability and accountability for climate change risk.
- Hold producers and manufacturers liable and accountable for plastic and chemical waste.
- Enforce existing rules or establish new ones requiring consideration of climate risk in major governmental actions in all New England states.
- Establish mandates to use nature-based or green infrastructure solutions to create community resilience wherever feasible.
- Create new and stronger legal tools for citizen enforcement in all New England state courts.
- Reform environmental review processes to elevate climate and environmental justice concerns, reduce needless delay, increase the public's access to information, and strengthen the protection of natural resources.



MISSION

CLF protects New England's environment for the benefit of all people and our future generations. We use the law, science, the market, and communications to create solutions that preserve and restore our natural resources, build healthy, resilient, and just communities, and sustain a vibrant economy.

VISION

A healthy, thriving New England for all.

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