

CONSERVATION MATTERS

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MAKING EVERY DAY COUNT 2022–2023

IMPACT REPORT



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Every year,
every month,
every day
counts.**

TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR US TO TAKE SIGNIFICANT ACTION IN CUTTING CLIMATE-DAMAGING EMISSIONS IN NEW ENGLAND and in the country as a whole. The good news is that we are making progress.

But the reality is that we don't have any more time to wait. Extreme weather is already taking lives and increasing pollution. We can brook no more delays, no more stall tactics, no more false solutions. We need those who persist in putting up barriers to progress to step up or step aside. We need those who would lull us into complacency with greenwashed solutions to invest in real answers. And we need those who are responsible for the climate crisis and sowed decades of doubt about its origins to pay for the harms resulting from their deliberate duplicity.

It's also time to recognize that the climate crisis is not only an environmental issue – nor are its solutions. It is an economic issue, a public health issue, and a social justice issue. It requires new levels of collaboration among business, political, healthcare, energy, and NGO leaders. And it requires us all to maintain a laser focus on our ultimate goal: net-zero climate-damaging emissions by 2050.

No other organization has the breadth of experience to lead this work in New England. CLF has called this region home for more than 50 years. We have built deep local relationships across board rooms, living rooms, and hearing rooms. We have led the fights to pass new laws where needed – and to enforce existing laws for meaningful results. We know that our wins in one state can and do lead to big changes regionwide – and nationally.

Most importantly, we have the partnership and commitment of people like you, from every corner of New England. You have not only provided the critical financial foundation for our work, but also raised your voice again and again to create meaningful change for people and places regionwide.

Together, we are making every day count.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brad Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brad" and last name "Campbell" clearly distinguishable.

BRAD CAMPBELL
President

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

WITH SPRING JUST UNDERWAY HERE IN NEW ENGLAND, I'VE BEEN GIVING THOUGHT TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANTING SEEDS – and not just planting but nurturing those seeds to germination.

Sometimes, those seeds sprout immediately – when we've sued a polluter for violating the Clean Water Act, for example, and we see them take measures to curb their harm. Other times, those seeds take years to grow and mature fully, reaching heights we may not have imagined.

But, of course, planting seeds is not enough. They require careful attention and nurturing to reach their full potential. Is the groundbreaking law we pushed to pass being enforced? Is the defendant in our case following through on the terms of our hard-won settlement agreement? Are regulators acting on the new policy we helped create?

It's when the answer to those questions is "no" that I've witnessed CLF at its best. Often our true impact comes not in the victory itself but in remaining steadfast to its promises in the face of delay and duplicity.

This past year has been no exception. In this special Impact edition of *Conservation Matters*, you'll find stories of perseverance, innovation, and vision, including:

- our work with partners to enshrine into law the right of *all* communities to shape their future,
- our effort to expose the inner workings of the entity that controls New England's power grid, and
- our push to clean up our transportation systems to right the harms they have inflicted on low-income communities and communities of color.

Your support enables CLF to take the seeds planted today and ensure that they take root so that all New Englanders can thrive. Thank you.



**With your
support, New
Englanders
can thrive.**

Sara Molyneaux
SARA MOLYNEAUX
Chair, Board of Trustees





BY PAMELA REYNOLDS

And Justice for All

Across New England, CLF is working to pass environmental justice laws that address the unfair share of pollution and climate change burdens some communities face.

By the time Tropical Storm Irene blasted through Vermont in August 2011, the 120 mph winds that had initially defined the system as a Category 3 hurricane had diminished by half.

Still, the storm was brutal. In less than 24 hours, Irene unleashed eight inches of rain, sweeping hundreds of homes and businesses off their foundations, washing out roads and bridges, and soaking crops.

Vermonters living in mobile homes – about 8% of the state’s population – suffered the hardest hit. Floodwaters spilled into trailers and drenched carpets, leaving behind a residue of thick mold on soggy walls. By the time the rain eased, one statistic stood out: 40% of those affected by storm flooding lived in a mobile home or trailer.

“They [constituents living in mobile homes] had been saying for years that they were experiencing degraded conditions in flood-prone areas,” says Kesha Ram Hinsdale, a Vermont state senator who heard from those grappling with flood hazards. Their persistent problems in the storm’s aftermath included sewage backup and a lack of clean drinking water.

Last year, after years of advocacy by Hinsdale, and in partnership with CLF and other allies, the Vermont legislature passed

a law meant to help communities like those devastated a decade before by Irene. The state’s first environmental justice law provides a framework for protecting vulnerable communities that get hit hardest by extreme weather or endure the fallout stemming from the polluting infrastructure too often concentrated in their neighborhoods. These communities not only bear a higher burden of harm but also lack equal access to benefits such as green space, healthy homes, and public transit.

In most states, such communities are predominantly Black and Brown, low-income, or neighborhoods where people speak a language other than English. In rural, mostly white Vermont, the environmental justice community is made up of white, low-income residents. Some are migrant farm workers. Many live in mobile homes.

“Our mobile home parks have been a source of understanding what rural environmental injustice can look like,” says Hinsdale, a California native who moved to Vermont for college and has since become a fervent advocate for low-income residents, immigrants, and people of color.

After Irene, many mobile home residents were left on their own to rebuild. They organized and were eventually able to obtain funding to salvage their homes. But, like so many

RELIEVING BURDENS AND SHARING BENEFITS

[OPPOSITE PAGE] Tropical Storm Irene left Vermont' mobile home residents devastated – despite years of raising alarms about the flood dangers they face.

[RIGHT] Vermont state senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale has championed the state's vulnerable communities for years and led the fight for an environmental justice law there.

PHOTOS: ASSOCIATED PRESS



environmental justice communities, they lacked a voice or the ability to influence larger decisions that impact their neighborhoods. Vermont's new law aims to change that. It establishes an environmental justice advisory council in which one seat will be held by someone living in a mobile home community.

The Vermont law is just one example of how CLF is working across New England to help eliminate unfair policies that have left environmental justice communities without a voice. In 2021, CLF and its partners pushed Massachusetts to pass its Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy, which significantly increased protections for environmental justice communities. In 2022, as Vermont passed its bill into law, similar bills were filed in Connecticut, Maine, and Rhode Island. The mission, says Dale Azaria, a Vermont resident and interim vice president for environmental justice at CLF, is to provide legal protections for communities exposed to a greater burden of environmental harms.

"All New Englanders – no matter where they live, their race or immigration status, or how much money they make – have the right to clean air and water, easy access to green spaces, affordable public transit," she says. "Every community should have the power to impact the decisions that affect their health, livelihoods, and quality of life. These laws are a fundamental tool to help us get there."

Hinsdale says that attempts to get environmental justice legislation passed in Vermont largely floundered until groups like CLF joined grassroots activists to push for change.

"It was key in the sense that they have had decades of history helping to move things through the State House," she says. "They have a professional class of advocates that a lot of the social justice groups just don't have here."

"It really doesn't work to have just a small number, or just one organization, leading the charge to get things passed," agrees Azaria. "It takes a really broad coalition of people to get something enacted."

Even in states with more established environmental justice movements, like Massachusetts, embedding needed

protections into law has taken time. The 2021 Massachusetts law was a watershed moment for CLF advocates and our partners, many of whom had worked for its passage for two decades. That law is particularly momentous because it requires state agencies to consider how new utility infrastructure, such as a power plant or an electrical substation, will impact a community already home to more than its fair share of industrial facilities. Communities now have a say about what gets put in their backyard.

The work to pass that bill has already paid off. Last year, Massachusetts regulators revoked a key permit for a

"Every community should have the power to impact the decisions that affect their health, livelihoods, and quality of life."

DALE AZARIA, INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

proposed polluting power plant in Springfield, a designated environmental justice community. CLF had worked with the city and neighbors to stop the plant for more than a decade.

"This was huge, and the first time we've seen that," says Azaria.

Meanwhile, in Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, the work continues. In each of those states, CLF is partnering with a diverse coalition of community-based organizations, social justice advocates, environmental groups, and legislators who can help craft environmental justice statutes that work for all the people living in those states.

For now, Vermont remains a step ahead. The passage of its new environmental justice law means that, at last, all voices will get heard. In particular, residents of mobile home communities can look forward to a future in which they won't get left hanging the next time a storm blows through.

DIG DEEPER

Learn more and get involved at clf.org/people-justice

CREATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

OFFICIALS UPHOLD DECISION BLOCKING MASSACHUSETTS BIOMASS FACILITY

In November, Massachusetts officials upheld a Department of Environmental Protection decision to revoke permits for a proposed biomass power plant in Springfield. For more than a decade, CLF has joined Springfield residents, grassroots organizations, and elected officials to oppose the biomass facility, which would spew pollution into nearby communities. Springfield City Council President Jesse Lederman thanked CLF, the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition, and Senator Ed Markey. "Together we are making clear: the days of polluters being rubber-stamped in cities like ours are over," he remarked.



CLIMATE LAWSUIT AGAINST SHELL IN NEW HAVEN MOVES FORWARD

A CLF climate lawsuit against Shell Oil in New Haven moved forward in September after a federal judge largely rejected the company's motion to dismiss the case. CLF is suing the oil giant for its failure to prepare its fuel storage terminals to withstand the impact of severe weather due to climate change. At risk is the New Haven community, which would be severely impacted by a toxic spill. The case is one of several CLF lawsuits against big oil companies for putting communities across New England at risk of catastrophic spills and contamination. In the decision, the court found that CLF had laid out an actionable case against Shell for its failure to prepare its New Haven facilities to withstand the dangers of climate change.



New Haven Harbor is at risk from Shell's oil storage terminal, which is not fortified against the impacts of climate change. PHOTO: DAVID RICHARDS /CC BY 2.0

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP COMMITS \$25 MILLION TO NEW ENGLAND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS FUND

In a win for environmental justice communities, the UnitedHealth Group announced last July a \$25 million commitment to the Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund II. The fund, launched by CLF and Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation, was created to finance inclusive mixed-use developments near public transportation that offer retail, housing, and social services to support healthier communities.

As part of this commitment, three new mixed-income projects are now underway in Brockton, Dorchester, and Hamilton, Massachusetts. The Fund's equity in these properties will help create 102 mixed-income homes. Each development will be transit-oriented, energy efficient, climate resilient, and include ground-floor retail space. The Fund is expected to finance more than 1,000 homes in total.



UnitedHealth's investment will help fund mixed-income developments located near public transit. The first Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund supported this development in Beverly, Massachusetts, among others. PHOTO: LAURIE O'REILLY

COMMUNITY ACTION PAYS OFF

Springfield, Massachusetts, residents fought for more than a decade to stop the construction of a polluting power plant in their community.

PHOTO: THE REPUBLICAN



Under Pressure

On a Tuesday afternoon last November, New England residents packed into a downtown Providence conference room for a board meeting with ISO New England, the region's electric grid operator. They sat alongside state officials and technical experts through a four-hour agenda touching on energy supply and prices, among other topics.

Community members were more than happy to wait. After all, this was an unprecedented opportunity: the first public meeting ever held by the nonprofit entity responsible for keeping electricity flowing to the six New England states.

When they finally got their chance at the mic, speaker after speaker implored ISO New England to respond to the climate emergency – to use its considerable power (pun intended) to help get climate-polluting fuels like gas off the grid and more clean energy like wind and solar on.

It was a momentous moment, one born out of frustration with an entity many of us have never heard of but that holds an outsized influence on the kind of energy that fuels our lives. Before last fall, the ISO had never opened a board meeting to the public in its 25-year history. That was just one example of why activists have criticized the ISO for a lack of transparency and public accountability. It's also one way the grid operator has long sidestepped talking about the role it could play in helping to avert the climate crisis.

But the ISO's days of closed doors and climate inaction may be ending – thanks to CLF, our partners, and a growing chorus of activists calling on the grid operator to change its ways.

Reforming Our Regional Electric Grid Operator

As the entity that controls our region's electricity, ISO New England should logically take the mantle in ushering in our clean energy transition. The reality is, it isn't. Reverend Kendra Ford, Unitarian Universalist minister and climate organizer at 350.org, attended that public meeting in Providence and beseeched the ISO to respond to the climate emergency.

"The more I've learned about how they [the ISO] make choices and what their priorities are, it's clear that they maintain things the way they have been," says Ford, who lives in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. "The thing that was so clear to me at that board meeting was that they hadn't actually encountered reality yet."

Phelps Turner, a CLF senior attorney leading the organization's advocacy on the grid operator, adds that the ISO's tendency to keep its decision-making processes secret has allowed it to create obstacles to clean energy progress. "ISO New England's rules and policies have hindered the development of clean energy resources, making us overreliant on fossil fuels," says Turner. That has left us with more polluting emissions in New England that not only damage our climate but also clog our air and harm public health.

FIXING THE GRID

ISO New England, the region's power grid operator, has hindered clean energy in the region. Now residents are calling on the ISO to change its ways. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

New England's power grid operator has stifled the region's clean energy transition for years. Public pressure is key to making them change their tone. BY RISHYA NARAYANAN

In fact, the ISO actively works to keep us dependent on fossil fuels. While it professes to represent the public interest, it has ignored public calls for and state laws mandating large-scale clean energy. It also has acted with complete disregard for the science that demands we end our use of climate-damaging fuels like natural gas on our power grid.

Combining Advocacy and Public Pressure

As energy experts, CLF advocates have been allowed into the ISO's inner circles for years, working behind the scenes to break down the barriers to clean energy the grid operator has built. Our work was pivotal in pushing every New England state to urge the grid operator to formally integrate the consideration of climate change into its mission and operations.

But ISO New England's push for more natural gas has remained relentless. Over the past 20 years, the region has grown more dependent on the polluting fuel for both heat and electricity. For almost as long, the ISO has called on New Englanders to build more gas pipelines and power plants, claiming that without them we risk rolling blackouts on the coldest days of the year when the region's gas supply won't be able to keep up with demand for both heat and power.

The ISO has pulled out these scare tactics year after year at the start of every winter, using the media as a bully pulpit to justify its own policies that put clean energy sources at a competitive price disadvantage compared to fossil fuels. "The reality is that we have never had rolling blackouts and the chances are slim that we ever will," says CLF's Turner. "The ISO's rhetoric is not only misleading but also unproductive. It's their way of shielding themselves from criticism of their slow response to the climate crisis."

Frustrated by the ISO's continued hyperbole, this past year, CLF launched a media campaign to spotlight the grid operator's pro-gas tactics. In nine op-eds published throughout the region, we called out the ISO for its climate negligence and fearmongering. Our goal was to turn the tables on its rhetoric using the same media outlets that the ISO had effectively exploited for more than a decade. The grid operator attempted to discredit our criticisms, but its protests fell flat when it became clear the facts were not on its side.

Then, last fall, something changed. First, there was that momentous public meeting in Providence where speaker after speaker called out the grid operator for its climate inaction. Then, a few weeks later, the ISO released its annual analysis of how our electric grid would perform in the coming winter. CLF advocates braced themselves to respond to the usual hype about potential gas shortages and rolling blackouts. But the ISO's tone had shifted. The overblown talk was gone, as was the cry for more polluting gas infrastructure.

"I think everything has been energized," says Ford. "If every time there's a public sentence about the ISO, or a story – let alone multiple stories – we remind people that we are leading the transition and the ISO needs to follow us, then it gives everyone energy and courage to keep engaging in this activity to get the change that we need."

Moving Toward Our Clean Energy Future

These shifts in the ISO's tone show the combined power of behind-the-scenes advocacy and public awareness. But our work is far from over. For one, ISO New England has only committed to one public board meeting a year. And it hasn't made any promises about how it will act on the public's pleas. Nor have we seen the ISO move from climate inaction to climate action.

"We're going to keep urging the states to weigh in on these matters and let the ISO hear from them about the importance of our climate objectives," says Turner. "And we're going to try to bring a stronger voice from impacted communities in all the places that we work."

Whether it's fighting for public inclusion in technical meetings or bringing the ISO's climate culpability to the forefront – CLF and our partners will not stop until we attain the clean energy future we all deserve.

**POWER
UP**

Your support is helping CLF put pressure on ISO New England. Learn more at clf.org/pressure.

MAKING PROGRESS ON CLEAN ENERGY

MASSACHUSETTS CLIMATE BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

In August, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker signed a far-reaching climate law adopting new measures related to clean energy, energy efficiency, and transportation emissions.

CLF has never stopped pushing to keep Massachusetts on track when it comes to meeting its climate goals. CLF helped to pass the state's groundbreaking Global Warming Solutions Act in 2008. We later sued the Commonwealth for failing to enforce the law. This past year, we successfully urged the legislature to update that law and develop a guide for reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

This latest development is one more step in the right direction, as it removes subsidies for dirty biomass and incentivizes clean offshore wind production. Although it falls short when it comes to commuter rail electrification and in addressing environmental inequities in lower-income and Black and Brown communities, CLF will keep pushing until progress is made in those areas as well.

NEW HAMPSHIRE MAKES ELECTRIC VEHICLES MORE ACCESSIBLE

New Hampshire's Public Utilities Commission approved an Eversource plan that makes it easier for residents to buy and charge electric cars. CLF played a critical role by working with Eversource and others to refine the plan into one that the commissioners would approve. CLF also advocated for the proposal at a Commission hearing and helped get other parties on board. The additional support convinced the Commission to approve the plan. It was another example of how our policy expertise can result in victories for our climate.



RHODE ISLAND SIGNS 100% RENEWABLES BILL INTO LAW

CLF's forceful advocacy paid off in June when Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee signed a new law requiring that 100% of the state's electricity come from renewable sources by 2033. The law amended Rhode Island's old Renewable Energy Standard, which required retail sellers to obtain only 19% of the electricity they sell from renewable energy resources. The new legislation continues to increase that percentage incrementally until 2033, when it reaches 100%. The "100% Renewables" bill will drive the creation of new renewable energy resources and jobs in Rhode Island and other New England states. Rhode Island has seen a 74% increase in renewable energy jobs since 2014, and this bill will result in even more.

CONNECTICUT ENDS INCENTIVES FOR GAS EXPANSION

Last spring, the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority decided to wind down the state's efforts to expand gas heating, concluding that the program was counter to the best interests of families and businesses and in conflict with the state's climate and energy goals. The old 2013 gas expansion plan was designed to convert more homes and businesses from oil heating to natural gas. However, that plan clearly did not align with Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act, a law that requires the state to cut its climate-damaging emissions over the next several decades. CLF and other groups demanded that any incentives to burn more polluting fossil fuels end, and our advocacy paid off.

RHODE ISLAND COMMITS TO CLEAN ENERGY

CLF helped move forward the nation's first offshore wind farm off of Rhode Island's Block Island. Now the state is committing to 100% renewable energy statewide.

PHOTO: LAURIE O'REILLY



Transportation at the Crossroads

To avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis, we must reinvent the ways we travel – but we must do so with justice at the forefront.

BY ADILSON GONZÁLEZ MORALES



Just before dawn on a frigid morning last December, hundreds of riders crowded together on an MBTA platform. They were there to snag the first train departing from the Medford/Tufts stop – one of seven new stations opening that day on Boston’s Green Line. As brassy bells announced the train’s arrival, riders whooped and cheered. Cameras by the dozen captured the moment people hopped on board.

It was a ride decades in the making, one that got its start in the late 1980s, when state and city officials were planning how Boston’s highways could accommodate more cars and trucks – a massive project soon dubbed “the Big Dig.” The project troubled CLF’s small band of advocates. More vehicles passing through Boston would only create more toxic air pollution for communities already enduring the harms from highways cutting through their neighborhoods.

CLF filed a lawsuit challenging the project, which brought state leaders to the table to discuss solutions. Central to those discussions was the idea of transportation justice. Offsetting the Big Dig’s increased pollution was not good enough. CLF wanted the state to commit to solutions that would benefit the residents most at risk from the project, who were largely people of color and low income. That meant providing more accessible and efficient transportation options for those communities to get to work and school – just as the Big Dig promised for the predominantly white drivers who would pass through the city’s new tunnels every day.

After intense negotiations, the Commonwealth committed to significant public transit improvements, from adding more

commuter rail stops to building more parking garages at MBTA stations to extending the Green Line service. CLF’s vigilance had transformed the state’s largest-ever highway project into a groundbreaking win for public transportation.

Transportation justice stands at the center of CLF’s transportation advocacy to this day – and it’s become even more important in the face of the climate crisis.

Just as Boston was forced to reimagine its transportation matrix 30 years ago, New England as a whole faces its own transportation crossroads today. We cannot address climate change without cutting pollution from cars, trucks, and buses, which accounts for 40% of emissions regionwide. Once again, focusing only on the vehicles on our roads is not enough. We need investments that get people out of their cars and onto public transit. “We also need to direct those investments to the places where they’re needed the most,” says CLF’s Johannes Epke, a staff attorney for environmental justice.

Currently, Black, Brown, and low-income communities have the least access to affordable, reliable public transit. Often adjacent to airports and bisected by major highways, these same communities are also overburdened by tailpipe and noise pollution. These pollutants can lead to serious health issues like asthma, COPD, high blood pressure, hearing loss, and sleep disruption. For people in rural communities, public transit often isn’t an option at all.

As we reinvent our transportation systems to slow and adapt to climate change, says Epke, it’s not just an opportunity but a



TICKET TO RIDE

[ABOVE] CLF staff celebrate the first ride on the MBTA's extended Green Line.

PHOTO: ADILSON GONZÁLEZ MORALES

[LEFT TO RIGHT] Cutting emissions from transportation means expanding rail service, making electric vehicles more affordable and accessible, and electrifying public transit fleets.

PHOTOS: SHUTTERSTOCK



necessity that we address these injustices. “We cannot fix one problem while ignoring the other,” she says.

That’s why CLF is pushing not only to electrify the cars and trucks we drive but also to make those vehicles affordable and easy to charge. We’re advocating for van-sharing services in rural areas and expanded broadband so people can conduct more of their business online. We’re pushing to pass legislation requiring transit agencies to electrify their buses, while also working to ensure those buses reach every neighborhood, run at useful times (and on time), and are affordable for everyone to ride. We are urging the adoption of low-income or fare-free transit fares so that no one is excluded from this vital public benefit. And we are calling for expanded rail service across the region – with all-electric trains.

The new Green Line track that opened in December serves as just one example of this advocacy in action. The line now serves more than 50,000 passengers daily, taking hundreds of vehicles off the road and slashing about 10.3 metric tons of harmful carbon emissions. “All of which ultimately helps

clean our air and improve the health of our communities,” says Epke.

Just as importantly, it gives people the ability to access jobs, healthcare, and schools more easily – without sacrificing their dignity or quality of life.

The climate crisis is the most urgent issue of our time, but we cannot approach its solutions with the kind of tunnel vision that drove those Big Dig proponents 30 years ago. In tackling the emissions damaging our climate, we can make life better for *all* New Englanders – most especially those whose needs have too often been overlooked in the past.

ON THE MOVE

Together, we can push for bold public transit investments today that will secure a healthy and just climate for tomorrow. Learn more at clf.org/transit.

PROTECTING PEOPLE, PLACES, AND WILDLIFE

REBUILDING THE ATLANTIC COD POPULATION

In December, the New England Fishery Management Council adopted a new plan to rebuild the struggling Atlantic cod population to a healthy level by 2033. The plan, regarded as a step in the right direction by CLF, now goes to federal fishery managers for approval. Cod in the Gulf of Maine has been overfished for decades. The new plan has a higher probability of success than previous plans, giving this iconic fish a chance to bounce back to a healthy population level.



MAINE ENACTS A NEW WASTE LAW

In April of last year, Maine Governor Janet Mills signed a new law closing a loophole that allowed out-of-state waste to be buried in the Juniper Ridge Landfill in Alton. When the state purchased the Juniper Ridge Landfill in 2003, state law required that only Maine waste be buried there. But Casella, the operator of the landfill, and ReSource, a waste processor, took advantage of a loophole that allowed waste processed in Maine to be considered “in-state.” They disposed of thousands of tons of out-of-state construction and demolition debris at the landfill, violating the intent of the law, taking up needed capacity at the site, and harming the health of nearby communities.

CLF fiercely opposes expanding landfills because of the air and water pollution they produce. That’s why, with our partners, we successfully pushed the legislature to close the Juniper Ridge Landfill loophole. And we will continue to advocate for policies that reduce the amount of waste burned and buried – in Maine and across New England – for the sake of our communities, environment, and climate.

NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICIALS UPHOLD CLF VICTORY AGAINST BETHLEHEM LANDFILL

In November, New Hampshire’s Waste Management Council issued an important decision standing by a May 2022 order agreeing with CLF that the state Department of Environmental Services acted unlawfully when it granted Casella Waste Systems a permit to expand its landfill in Bethlehem. As the basis of its decisions, the Council agreed with what CLF has been saying for years: There is no need now, or for the next several years, for additional waste disposal capacity in New Hampshire. Not surprisingly, Casella has appealed the decision to the New Hampshire Supreme Court. This unnecessary landfill expansion not only undermines the state’s waste reduction policies – it also continues the influx of waste from other states into New Hampshire. CLF will be vigorously defending the Council’s decision before the Supreme Court.



COD CAN'T WAIT

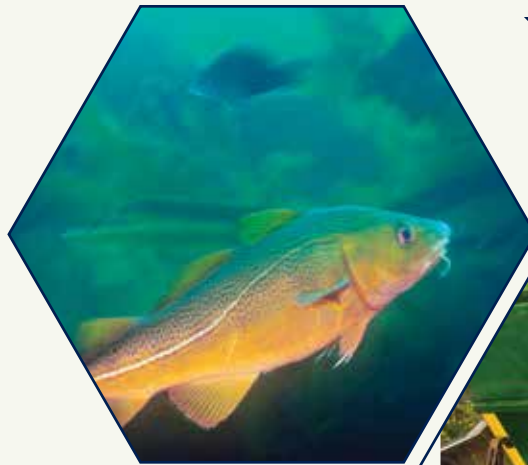
New England’s cod population can recover – but we must keep the pressure on to ensure regional fisheries managers follow through on their new plan.

PHOTO: BRIAN SKERRY

Your Advocacy in Action

In the past year, we rallied our 35,000+ followers to take nearly 14,000 actions on local, state, and federal issues, from contacting legislators and sending in comments on draft regulations to signing petitions. That's 58% more actions than in the previous year. Here are just some of the issues that you spoke up for.

▶ **We urged supporters to leave a comment with federal fisheries managers supporting a measure aimed at better tracking overfishing** of the struggling Atlantic cod population and more sustainably managing all of New England's groundfish populations. PHOTO: BRIAN SKERRY



▶ **We mobilized supporters to ask legislators to close a loophole in Maine law** that allowed waste from other states to be buried in a state-owned landfill. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK



▶ **We sounded an alarm about so-called "advanced recycling,"** a dangerous false solution to the plastic pollution crisis, and prevented a bill in Rhode Island that would have exempted "advanced recycling" facilities from the siting and public permitting processes that help to protect communities. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK



▶ **We drove support for strong regulations that will address harmful wastewater pollution on Cape Cod** – pollution that is driving the region's waters to the brink of ecological disaster. PHOTO: ECOPHOTOGRAPHY



▼ **We pushed to stop a Connecticut bill favored by the plastics and fossil fuel industries** that would have allowed them to continue business as usual rather than hold them accountable for their polluting products. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK



▼ **We ensured that Vermont adopted strict new regulations that will clean up pollution from transportation** by requiring car and truck manufacturers to sell increasing numbers of zero-emission, electric vehicles – instead of ones that run on dirty fuels like diesel each year. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK



▼ **We asked residents of Manchester, New Hampshire, to sign a petition** urging city officials to strengthen local ordinances to protect children from the hazards of lead poisoning, which harms 100 kids every year.

PHOTO: CANOPY FILMS



▲ **We joined the successful national effort to stop a dangerous federal bill** that would have sped up federal permitting processes for fossil fuel projects and shut out community input on them.

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK



▼ **We rallied support for stricter federal regulations to protect critically endangered North Atlantic right whales** from getting seriously injured and killed by boat and ship strikes, which are a significant threat to the species' survival. PHOTO: BRIAN SKERRY

FINANCIAL REPORT



AS I WRITE THIS, WINTER HAS FINALLY ARRIVED IN MY CORNER OF NEW ENGLAND after two months of unsettling, near-record highs interrupted by brief periods of record-breaking lows. Clearly, the effects of climate change are here, and we're all feeling it.

But the "weather whiplash" we've been through recently is only one effect of a warming planet. In New England, we've witnessed other changes: more flooding in coastal communities at high tide as storms grow more intense and sea levels rise; winter businesses in trouble as another season passes without steady snow and deep freezes; native plants and animals suffering due to erratic weather patterns.

That's why it's heartening to see the resolve and engagement of our supporters, who clearly recognize the urgency of the climate crisis. Over this past year, individuals, foundations, and corporations have stepped up with energy and passion to provide the support that will allow CLF to become even more impactful in our work to avert climate catastrophe.

Your generosity is remarkable. In the last fiscal year, which ended on July 31, 2022, we saw a 15% increase in grant and foundation support, while individual donations grew by 38%. Together, this stepped-up funding puts us on a strong financial footing, with more than \$32 million in assets. We are already putting our robust operating surplus to work to expand our fight for a healthy, thriving New England powered by a clean energy economy that works for all.

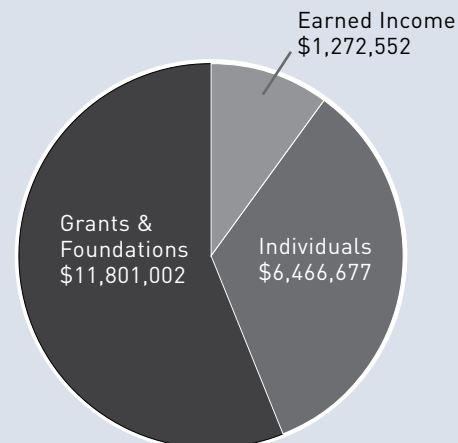
Such dedicated support shows confidence in and commitment to the path that we are forging together. And it comes at a critical inflection point, when CLF can build on the momentum created by the federal government's unprecedented commitment to climate investments. This year, let's show the entire nation just how much we can do.

Gratefully,

Andrew J. Falender
Treasurer, Board of Trustees

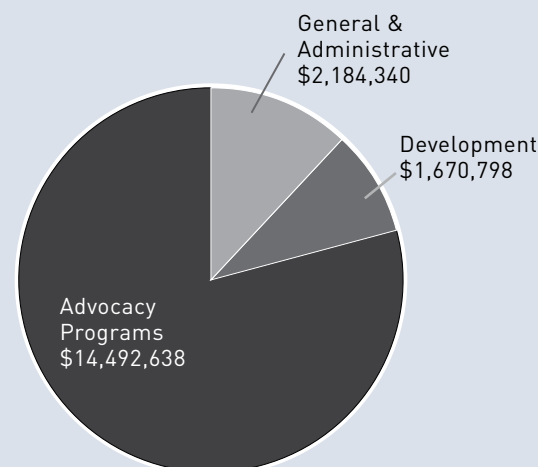
SOURCES OF OPERATING FUNDS

Total Funds: \$19,540,231



USES OF OPERATING FUNDS

Total Expenses: \$18,347,776



NET ASSETS [as of July 31, 2022]

Unrestricted Net Assets:

\$9,499,279

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\$22,905,245

TOTAL NET ASSETS \$32,404,524

Complete audited financial statements presented in GAAP format are available at www.clf.org.

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FOR A THRIVING NEW ENGLAND

WHY I GIVE TO CLF

TED HEAVENRICH

*Watertown, Connecticut
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When I was growing up, every summer my parents would pack up the car, and we would spend the next couple of months hiking and camping. This love and respect for nature and the environment stayed with me my entire life – and today the environment is one of my top three philanthropic priorities.

Over the years, I have supported many environmental causes, and CLF has stood the test of time. I have found that other local and national environmental organizations have either shifted their focus or weren't responsive to the needs and issues in the area.

What I like most about CLF is that they are willing and able to use the law to hold polluters accountable, but at the same time it's not overused. CLF's array of tools and strategies are key to the successes we have seen in Connecticut and across New England.

CLF has been a leader on local issues for decades, and the recent office and staffing expansion here in Connecticut is just the beginning. I am excited to see more growth and community support for CLF in the years to come!



Ted Heavenrich [ABOVE] grew to love the outdoors as a child, and that shaped his philanthropic priorities – including CLF – today.

Our donors inspire us to never give up because so much is at stake. Hear more from CLF supporters at clf.org/whywegive.

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