

CONSERVATION MATTERS

CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION



**NEW
ENGLAND
LEADS
THE WAY**

2023 IMPACT REPORT

clf

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The climate crisis threatens our lives, economy, land, air, and water. The actions we take between now and 2030 will shape New England's future and that of our children and grandchildren. Every year, every month, and every day count.

With nearly 60 years of success tackling the toughest environmental challenges, Conservation Law Foundation understands the power of the law, the influence of grassroots action, and the dynamic role of local advocacy in moving the nation and the world toward a carbon-free future.

In the last decade alone, we have ended dirty coal's grip on our region, enacted laws to boost clean energy, shrunk the footprint of fracked gas plants and pipelines, played a central role in New England's first-in-the-water offshore wind farm, and pioneered lawsuits to hold Big Oil accountable for its climate deceit.

These strides have reverberated around the country. With your support, we are proving that New England can push the nation – and the world – onto a better path for the planet. Looking ahead, CLF is building on those many wins to seize the climate opportunity before us, because we *can* win on climate. Here's how:

- We must quadruple the rate of clean energy development across our region.
- We must use the strong climate laws already in place to halve the footprint of New England's fossil-fuel infrastructure.
- We must stop the new pollution threats created by the climate impacts we can no longer avoid.
- And we must invest in nature as a first line of climate defense.

With determination and courage, our actions in New England can build the future that our children and grandchildren deserve – the future that you are helping to create. Together, we are proving that even the most powerful opponents cannot defeat committed people united for a just cause.

Bradley Campbell
President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley Campbell".



Sara Molyneux

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Looking back over the past year, there's no doubt that climate events have been devastating for many of us. In just a few short weeks last summer, our region grappled with smoke from distant wildfires, flooding from torrential rains, and extreme heat, sometimes all in the same week.

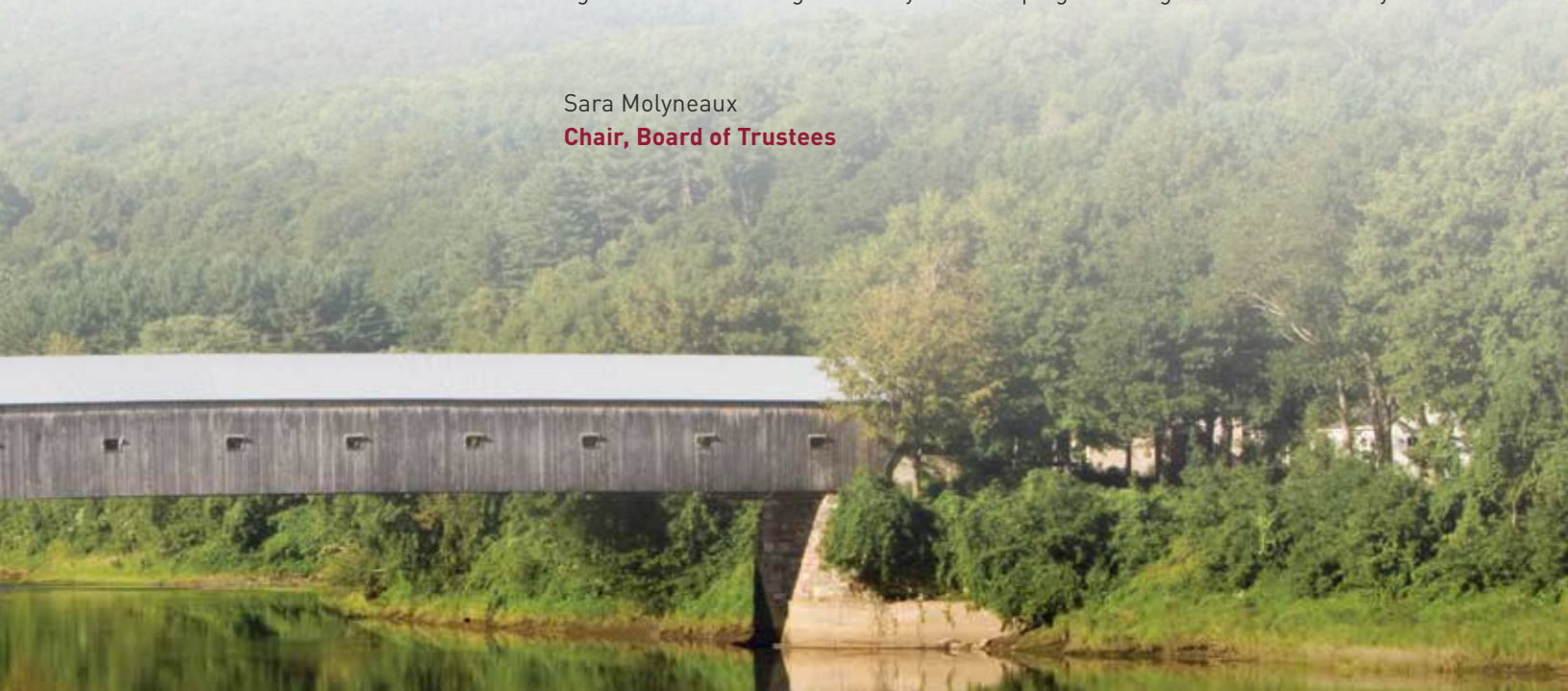
While it's understandable that many of us have felt overwhelmed, let's not allow that feeling to obscure the momentous strides we've made in New England. We have passed strong climate laws in five of six New England states. We are taking lawsuits against Big Oil further than they've ever gone in court. We are pushing in legislatures and courts to ensure that existing environmental protections do what they were meant to do: protect each of us, regardless of where we live. From solid climate laws to beefed-up bottle bills and new environmental justice laws, we are seeing change.

So, as we flip the calendar to a new season, I'd like to say how inspired I am by what CLF has accomplished and by your unwavering support, which has helped us lead the nation in accomplishing such change. In this special Impact edition of Conservation Matters, I hope you will be as encouraged as I am to read about:

- How we're moving ahead in our lawsuit against Shell Oil and its New Haven storage facility that puts neighbors in danger;
- Our successful fight to uphold clean water laws amid new threats and give back to the communities put at risk;
- Our push to lead the country in enacting smart climate laws that will usher in a clean energy age.

We have so much to be proud of and much that we still must do. Your continued support means plenty of good news to share about the environment and the fight against climate change. Thank you for helping New England to lead the way.

Sara Molyneux
Chair, Board of Trustees



A SHELL GAME

For years, Shell Oil has jeopardized the health and safety of New England’s coastal residents with storage tanks adjacent to waterways and communities. CLF is suing the oil giant – and making progress.

Xóchitl García has spent her entire life in the Fair Haven neighborhood of New Haven, Connecticut. It’s an area of modest, mostly multi-family clapboard homes just a couple of miles – a seven-minute drive – from the massive Shell Oil storage tanks hulking over the New Haven Harbor.

She’s worried about the facility’s overpowering smells and its possible effects on health, water quality, and the safety of people who fish along the banks of the nearby Mill River. Another of her looming concerns: the possibility that the next big storm will flood the aging tanks. A leak from just one of them would inundate the neighborhood with gasoline, ethanol, fuel oil, and diesel.

“It’s a big flood zone for sure,” says García. “One of the things that’s most concerning is all these affected areas have churches, schools, grocery stores, bodegas, housing, spaces that most of the community uses or needs.”

García’s concerns are echoed repeatedly across the community and are one reason CLF sued Shell Oil and nearby Gulf Oil in 2021 for violating federal pollution regulations in New Haven. The suits unfold within a troubling context: Big Oil has known about climate change for decades while actively perpetuating it. And, even as these companies publicly denied the worsening crisis for years, they spent millions actively undermining climate science and government attempts to tackle the growing threat. As the weather grows more extreme, they have become even more duplicitous.

Meanwhile, oil infrastructure – like that in New Haven – sits on the edge of waterways and dense communities, where it is vulnerable to the increasingly powerful storms and sea level rise caused by climate change. This is the case for Shell’s New Haven facility and its oil terminal in Providence, Rhode Island. The Providence facility, which CLF sued in 2017, threatens the health and safety of people and wildlife along Narragansett

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The company’s inconsistent positions about climate risk and unlawful operation of its New Haven facility are putting families, businesses, and local waters in harm’s way.

- BRADLEY CAMPBELL

Photo: CLF



Xóchitl García (left) has long advocated for her Fair Haven neighborhood.

Bay. The cases in New Haven and Providence followed on the heels of CLF's 2016 lawsuit against ExxonMobil over conditions at its Everett, Massachusetts, oil terminal [see page 6 for the latest on that case].

"We consider Shell's climate neglect to be an imminent threat," says Bradley Campbell, president of CLF. "The company's inconsistent positions about climate risk and unlawful operation of its New Haven facility are putting families, businesses, and local waters in harm's way."

FIRST OF ITS KIND

CLF lawsuits against these oil giants are groundbreaking. We were among the first to sue Big Oil to remedy the risks from facilities adjacent to critical waterways and coastlines prone to flooding in extreme weather. And, despite Shell's attempts to get our cases thrown out of court, both the New Haven and Providence lawsuits have been given the go-ahead by separate judges.

That makes them the first cases of their kind to reach this stage of the legal process. We are now in the legal discovery stage, a critical step to moving a case to trial. Shell has tried to stall our efforts to request relevant documents, but the company was forced to relent under court order. So far, CLF advocates have deposed numerous Shell employees and consultants and received tens of thousands of documents describing Shell's acknowledgment of severe weather threats and its failure to protect its at-risk facilities from them.

LIES AND DECEIT IN NEW HAVEN AND PROVIDENCE

As the case against Shell in New Haven moves forward, CLF continues parallel work in Rhode Island. We recently filed a motion to force Shell to answer basic questions about its Providence terminal, which it has failed to safeguard against flooding. Unsurprisingly, Shell has been evasive, refusing to answer questions that might implicate high-level Shell parent companies and officials. Still, the evidence turned over by the company itself starkly demonstrates our point: Company photos show Shell's Providence facility flooded with water after a December 2022 storm. It's clear the company knows its terminals are vulnerable to weather conditions worsened by climate change.

"Other oil facilities around the country have been breached and discharged during big storms like Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Harvey," says Darrèll Brown, vice president of CLF's Rhode Island office. "Recent storms that have threatened New England have been severe, and a catastrophic hit is just a matter of time unless Shell takes action to protect the community and environment."

Meanwhile, in New Haven, worried residents remain resolute. Ana Juarez, a mental health advocate and resident of Fair Haven, worries about the long-term mental health consequences of seeing "the eyesore" of oil tanks from her treeless neighborhood. Long-time resident Anstress Farwell, a declarant in the case against Shell, worries about the age and condition of tanks, some of which she says are open to neighborhood backyards. After storms, she says, she has observed oil slicks on puddles in the street. But, Farwell adds, she worries less knowing a regional watchdog is on the case.

"It's the work that CLF has already done in Massachusetts and Rhode Island that teed it up to come into Connecticut with such expertise and experience," she reflects. "We're just so grateful for that. We are so excited that this serious, ongoing problem is getting attention with the level of resources and expertise that CLF has."

Anstress Farwell has seen oil slicks on puddles in the street following storms. Photo: Nora Grace Flood | New Haven Independent



SUCCESSES

EXXONMOBIL SELLS POLLUTING FACILITY

ExxonMobil, under pressure from a CLF lawsuit, has ceased operations at its Everett, Massachusetts, oil storage terminal and agreed to sell the aging facility. As part of an agreement with CLF, the oil giant has stipulated that the property can never be used to store petroleum products again. That means residents of Everett will soon be free of unhealthy and overpowering fumes and the risk that a major storm will inundate the facility, spilling oil and toxic chemicals into streets, basements, and Boston Harbor.

ExxonMobil's departure is a victory for residents of Everett and neighboring Chelsea. The case is part of an expanding CLF effort to hold the oil and gas industry accountable for deceiving the public about its products and facilities, disregarding the law, and putting communities in harm's way.

Photo: Alex MacLean

NASHUA ASPHALT PLANT FLOUNDERS

Amid fierce community opposition, Nashua, New Hampshire, officials have rejected a proposal to build a polluting asphalt plant in the city. The plant would have been constructed in an environmental justice community home to many people of color and people with limited English proficiency. The proposed plant would have been dirty and noisy, worsened air quality, and brought hundreds of heavy diesel trucks to the neighborhood every day. CLF advocates worked with the community to oppose the proposal. And, although the developer has appealed the decision, CLF remains on the case.

HOLDING UTILITIES ACCOUNTABLE

CLF's Connecticut advocates played a key role working with legislators and other advocates to pass a new law to hold electric and gas utilities accountable for how they spend customer dollars. Electric and gas utilities have no place charging Connecticut's residents and businesses for their lobbying and marketing activities, which often promote the continued use of polluting fossil fuels. The new law clarifies that a utility's lobbying, marketing, and entertainment costs should be borne by shareholders and not residents and businesses. It will make sure the money from our utility bills doesn't fund activities that harm our health and our planet.



Campaign to Watch

PUSHING THE EPA TO CLEAN UP BOSTON-AREA WATERS

To protect the Charles, Mystic, and Neponset rivers from toxic stormwater pollution, CLF and the Charles River Watershed Association filed a lawsuit last year charging that the EPA failed to take the necessary steps to keep these iconic rivers clean. For years, the federal agency dragged its feet in taking action to limit pollution draining into the three rivers from commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. The EPA attempted to dismiss CLF's lawsuit, but a judge denied that effort and ordered the agency to issue pollution limits to those properties by the fall of 2024. CLF's battle ends only when those limits are in place to hold polluters accountable for degrading the Boston area's most precious resources.



The Merrimack River is just one New England waterway with a cleaner future. Photo: Shutterstock

merrier days ahead **FOR THE MERRIMACK**

In New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Puerto Rico, CLF holds a scrap metal recycling company accountable for heavy metal pollution defiling critical waterways.

For years, Schnitzer Steel Industries has operated three metal recycling yards in New Hampshire close to the banks of the Merrimack River. The Concord and Manchester facilities accept many types of metal scraps, from broken appliances to junk cars. Workers pile these metal discards in towering heaps before squashing them into giant cubes that get shredded and melted into new products, including sustainable ones like solar panels and wind turbines. In fact, Schnitzer Steel (rebranded as Radius Recycling in 2023) bills itself as a leader in sustainability, reusing millions of tons of materials each year that might otherwise end up in landfills.

But in 2021, CLF advocates uncovered a different reality from the green image Radius Recycling projects publicly. In its self-reporting to the EPA, the company admitted to shockingly high levels of heavy metal pollutants leaking from its scrap yards into the Merrimack. Each time it rained, zinc, copper, aluminum, solids, petroleum, and lead washed from uncovered piles of scrap metal stacked in its yards and into

the Merrimack. Some of these toxic pollutants were detected at levels 400 times higher than is safe for people and wildlife, based on EPA standards.

Aghast, CLF advocates combed through five years' worth of the company's EPA data from 2016 to 2021. They unearthed levels of pollutants that were downright scary, not only for anyone living along New Hampshire's Merrimack River – which provides drinking water to 700,000 people – but also for those living near other Radius facilities in Massachusetts and Puerto Rico.

“With the Concord facilities, we were especially concerned about lead, which is dangerous even in small amounts, especially for children,” says Chelsea Kendall, staff attorney with CLF's Clean Air and Water Program. And the lead levels released from the facilities, she says, weren't small. They were as much as 1,800% higher than the EPA allows. Yet this multinational, billion-dollar company wasn't acting to fix these known violations at its facilities, leaving people at risk.

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We've been able to hold a big polluter accountable while allowing communities to restore public waters that had been contaminated.

- HEATHER GOVERN

CLEANING UP A DIRTY ACT

In 2022, CLF sued Radius Recycling (then still known as Schnitzer Steel Industries) over Clean Water Act violations at 11 of its most polluting locations. Those included Massachusetts scrap yards on the Blackstone River in Worcester and Attleboro, the Mystic River in Everett, and its two New Hampshire facilities. CLF also called the company to account for pollution from scrap metal yards that were polluting waterways in Bayamón, Canóvanas, Caguas, Ponce, and Salinas, Puerto Rico. Radius's pollution of these communities piled onto the already disproportionate burden shouldered by the neighborhoods surrounding its facilities, many of which are communities of color, low-income communities, and communities of non-English speakers who have been marginalized historically.

Radius was quick to come to the table to settle the lawsuit. Late last year, the company agreed to a \$2.2 million settlement and to fully comply with the law by cleaning up its pollution. The money collected through the settlement will go to community organizations working to restore local waters in the affected communities. In New Hampshire, one of those organizations is

the nonprofit Merrimack River Watershed Council, which will receive \$600,000 to improve the river's water quality.

The settlement is a prime example of how CLF continues to work to uphold existing laws meant to protect the public. For decades, we have vigorously enforced environmental protections – including forcing the cleanup of Boston Harbor and prompting new regulations to prevent Cape Cod communities from spewing nitrogen from septic tanks into local waters. Accountability to the law remains one of our core strengths and most effective tools in driving change.

“These settlements are a big win for the communities that use the Blackstone, Mystic, and Merrimack rivers,” affirms Heather Govern, vice president for CLF's Clean Air and Water. “We've been able to hold a big polluter accountable while allowing communities to restore public waters that had been contaminated.”

REBIRTH FOR A RIVERWAY

Although the waters polluted by Radius Recycling still have a ways to go before they are restored to the quality residents deserve, now there is some funding for cleanup so that people and wildlife can begin to recover. We will remain on the case to make sure river waters stay clean.

John Macone, a policy and education specialist with the Merrimack River Watershed Council, says that the river's cleanup may be the beginning of people feeling a sense of ownership over the health of a critical local resource that provides drinking water and possibilities for recreation.

“My hats off to Conservation Law Foundation for tackling this because this was an open source of pollution into the Merrimack. It's going to get cleaned up, and the valley's going to get some good projects that come out of it.”

When rain seeped through Radius Recycling's scrap metal piles, it carried chemicals and other pollution into waterways. Photo: CLF



SUCCESSES

CLEANING UP CAPE COD

Massachusetts officials announced new regulations to clean up wastewater pollution from antiquated septic systems on Cape Cod in response to a CLF lawsuit. Outdated and ineffective septic tanks release high levels of nitrogen through wastewater, leading to toxic algae outbreaks in the Cape's waters, placing people at risk, harming fish and wildlife, and dampening tourism. The new regulations will help clean up Cape Cod's iconic bays, estuaries, and beaches, protecting a national treasure. The victory caps off a nearly 10-year-long effort by CLF to force Cape Cod communities to address the growing problem.

Photo: EcoPhotography



PROTECTING MANCHESTER CHILDREN FROM LEAD POISONING

CLF's work to end childhood lead poisoning in New Hampshire took another step forward late last year when Manchester officials created a commission aimed at preventing poisoning. CLF advocated for the commission, which will serve an essential, ongoing role in identifying strategies the city can use to reduce lead hazards and better protect Manchester children. The city's Mayor and Board of Aldermen voted unanimously to establish the commission in May.

ACTING ON CLIMATE

It was a huge success to get Rhode Island's Act on Climate law passed in 2021, but the work hasn't stopped there. CLF has been working actively in the state's General Assembly to ensure that the landmark law is fully implemented. This past year, we supported successful efforts to reform the siting of solar energy projects and update the state's building code to require that new buildings be energy efficient. This year, we're fighting to cut emissions from heating homes and businesses, among other initiatives. It's important to ensure that the Act on Climate law is implemented correctly and that the state meets its goals for phasing out fossil fuels and reducing climate-damaging pollution.



Campaign to Watch

PROTECTING NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES

With less than 350 animals remaining on Earth, North Atlantic right whales are in crisis. The biggest threats to this species are the speeding ships that transit the waters off the East Coast and the lobster and crab trap lines in those waters, which entangle whales and other marine animals. CLF is pushing for restrictions on speeding vessels as well as new, ropeless fishing gear that can significantly limit the number of entanglements off New England's coast.

Right whales face a difficult and complicated situation, particularly in Maine where the lobster fishery is such an important part of our economy and history. But extinction is forever, and right whales are dangerously close to extinction. CLF will continue the work to ensure whales and marine industries can coexist.

THE POWER OF POLICY

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CLF's work here in New England is paving the way for progressive climate policies across the country.

- CAITLIN PEALE SLOAN

Across the region, progressive climate laws championed by CLF and partners are ushering in a new clean energy future.

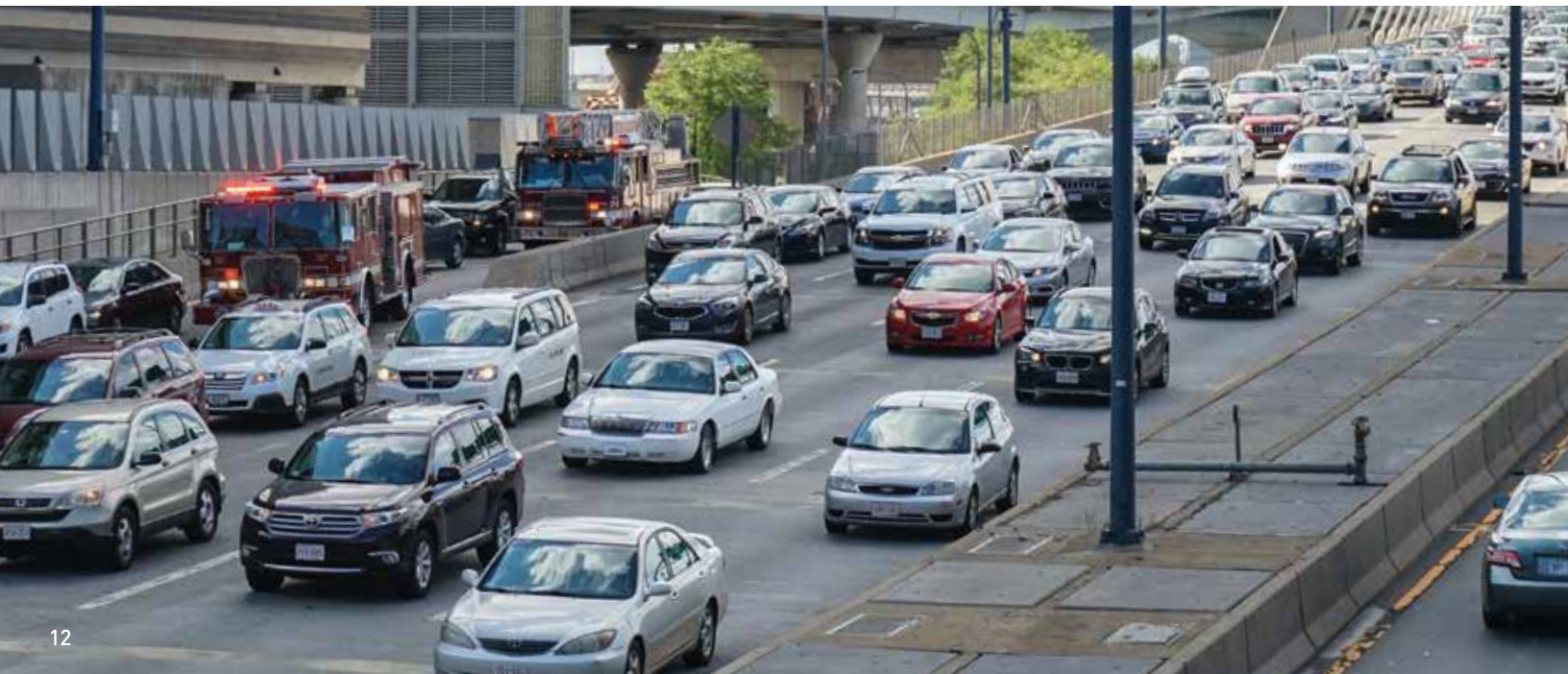
Most afternoons, miles of cars and trucks inch through Boston on Interstate 93. They sit bumper to bumper, taillights glowing like holiday lights. But it's no party. Instead, another day of commuting is underway on one of New England's most smog-choked highways. Vehicles like these, primarily gas-powered, account for 40% of climate-damaging emissions across the region.

And since the pandemic, laments Adi Nochur, a Somerville resident and senior transportation planner at the Boston-based Metropolitan Area Planning Council, "driving long distances has rebounded to where it was before the pandemic."

But as discouraging as this may sound, change is afoot. Five of six New England states now have potentially transformative climate laws on the books. Those laws lay the groundwork for a clean energy future in which people and goods move about in vehicles that don't rely on fossil fuels. These cars and trucks will no longer spew toxic fumes because they'll be electric. Charging stations will supply them with power derived from wind and solar. That same clean power will heat and cool our homes and businesses. And in this not-too-distant future, perhaps commuters on I-93 in Boston (or, for that matter, I-95 in Connecticut or I-295 in Maine) will ditch their cars altogether in favor of a smooth ride to work via electrified public buses and trains.

This is CLF's vision for New England. Along with our partners and supporters, we're creating climate policies that will dramatically cut carbon emissions in the

In the not-too-distant future, highway gridlock could be transformed.
Photo: Shutterstock



next 10 years, particularly in sectors responsible for the most pollution – such as transportation. Thanks to our legal expertise, long-standing community partnerships, and willingness to doggedly pursue our goals, we prove daily how to shape environmental policy, enforce existing laws, and challenge powerful opponents when they put profit first.

“CLF’s work here in New England is paving the way for progressive climate policies across the country,” says Caitlin Peale Sloan, vice president for Massachusetts. “And that’s going to make the difference between a clean, prosperous future in which we meet our net zero carbon emissions targets and potential climate catastrophe.”

Nochur, who serves on CLF’s Massachusetts Advisory Board, is heartened. “I’m cautiously optimistic – except for days when I happen to be stuck on 93 in traffic,” he says.

CLIMATE LAWS WITH TEETH

If there is any hope of reducing carbon emissions by 2050, rock-solid climate laws are the key. The problem: only about 16 states have enforceable climate mandates. Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Maine have all passed binding climate laws. CLF and our partners pushed three of these states – Rhode Island, Maine, and Vermont – to pass laws in just the last three years. Last year, CLF advocates urged Massachusetts, where we helped to pass the region’s first binding climate law in 2008 and to strengthen it in 2021, to do even more to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy development, and green building codes. And in New Hampshire, where no binding climate law is on the books, we are launching a fight to ensure one gets passed. We’ve succeeded because, unlike other organizations, we are active in all six New England states. The lessons we learn in one state we absorb and apply in another.

“We know that binding climate laws that cap carbon emissions can quickly make a difference,” says Peale Sloan. “Especially when they address the most polluting sectors, like transportation.”

ON THE MOVE, WITH CLEAN CARS AND TRUCKS

Because transportation represents such a massive chunk of carbon pollution, moving to clean electric vehicles is pivotal to meeting our carbon goals. Fortunately, the transition is underway on the highway and in state houses. Last year, Rhode Island passed new regulations designed to spur purchases of electric cars and trucks. The Advanced Clean Cars II and Advanced Clean Trucks standards went into effect in January 2024 and require that an annually increasing percentage of new cars offered for sale in Rhode Island must be zero emission, building to 100% by 2035. (The Clean Truck standards will go into effect beginning with model year 2025.)



*Electric cars are gaining traction in New England, and they are critical to cutting carbon pollution in the region.
Photo: Shutterstock*

With a push from CLF and our partners, Massachusetts and Vermont have also adopted the standards.

In Connecticut, where Governor Ned Lamont withdrew a proposal to adopt the same clean car standards late last year, and in Maine, CLF and partners continue to push to get more electric vehicles on the road while building the charging infrastructure necessary to make wide-scale adoption of clean cars viable.

And we haven’t forgotten that electrifying vehicles alone will not get us to a greener tomorrow. We need fast, affordable, and robust public transit options that allow us to move about without getting into a car.

Undoubtedly, the climate laws pushed by CLF are critical to meeting our carbon goals, but we know there’s still much to do.

“It took a long time to get us to the state we’re in,” reflects Nochur, “and we don’t have a ton of time to get out of it. But there are folks committed to moving things in the right direction, so that gives me hope.”

SUCCESSES

AFFORDABLE HEAT ACT BECOMES LAW IN VERMONT

After an exhaustive effort from CLF and our partners, Vermont's lawmakers enacted the Affordable Heat Act. The law has kickstarted a design process to establish a Clean Heat Standard to reduce Vermonters' dependence on high-cost, price-volatile, polluting fossil fuels. Most Vermont households and businesses burn imported fossil fuels for heating. CLF labored in the legislative process to strengthen the bill to better ensure a Clean Heat Standard will reduce that pollution over time and help low- and middle-income residents transition to clean heating appliances. Although Governor Scott vetoed the bill, the legislature overrode it, and the law will go into effect.

CLF REPORT ANALYZES THE ROLE OF BIOENERGY

As New England states begin the process of adopting laws like Vermont's Affordable Heat Act, the fossil fuel industry is leaning hard on selling biofuels as an alternative to traditional climate-damaging fuels like natural gas. To separate fact from fiction on these so-called "alternative fuels," CLF published a report examining the role of bioenergy. We concluded that these fuels should be used sparingly, if at all, in the region's transition away from fossil fuels. The report is a critical tool in shaping future policy and providing guidance for decision-makers who are considering biofuels to meet mandatory climate targets.

NEW LAWS IN MAINE AND CONNECTICUT TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

For too many years, environmental justice communities have borne far more of the burdens associated with pollution and degradation and enjoyed far too few of the benefits of environmental protections. CLF advocates in Maine and Connecticut helped pass new laws to ensure that each state considers environmental justice communities in the permitting and licensing processes that may impact these communities. Officials must also consider existing burdens on communities and equitable distribution of benefits in those processes. In Maine, our work continues to make sure lawmakers fund the much-needed law.

INVESTING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

CLF's Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund II has invested in five Massachusetts-based projects – in Roxbury, Dorchester, Brockton, and Hamilton – which will bring 191 units of walkable, transit-oriented housing to those neighborhoods. More than half of the units will be affordable, income-restricted homes. These investments bring the total for this fund up to \$20 million. With eastern Massachusetts residents facing a housing affordability crisis, investments from the Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund will result in new housing options that are climate-friendly and inclusive.



Campaign to Watch

REFORMING OUR RECYCLING SYSTEM

CLF has been at the forefront of reforming our region's broken recycling system for years. One of the best ways to boost the recycling of plastic, glass, and aluminum containers is bottle return programs, also known as "bottle bills," which are a commonsense policy proven to get plastic bottles out of landfills and into the recycling stream. While some New England states, like Maine and Connecticut, pioneered bottle return programs, others have failed to get on board or have programs that need updates to make them more effective. CLF is working across the region to modernize bottle bills or pass new ones.

YOUR ADVOCACY IN ACTION

In the past year, we rallied our **35,000+ followers** to take nearly **10,000 actions** on local, state, and federal issues, from contacting legislators and signing petitions to sending in comments on draft regulations. Here are just some of the issues on which you spoke up and made a difference.



We urged our Vermont constituents to contact their legislators in support of the Affordable Heat Act, successfully passing this bill that will phase out the use of polluting and expensive fossil fuels in heating our homes and businesses. And, we mobilized supporters again to convince legislators to overturn Governor Scott's veto of the original bill.



We helped hundreds of our supporters call on regulators at NOAA to urgently release new measures to protect right whales from deadly vessel strikes. We can't afford to lose a single whale to these preventable tragedies.



We pushed to pass a Connecticut bill that regulates polluting facilities more strictly, ensuring that environmental justice neighborhoods already overburdened by industrial pollution aren't forced to live with more dangerous facilities built in their backyards.



We built support for a stronger, more scientifically-grounded management plan for the irreplaceable Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. The Monument is a cradle of marine life and deserves a robust plan to protect it.



We called for a community power initiative in Dover, New Hampshire, that would save utility customers money and help fund local clean energy projects.



We rallied Maine residents to successfully fight for a new and improved Bottle Bill. With more funding and a modernized process, single-use plastic recycling will be transformed in Maine.



We asked Mainers to urge the state's Public Utilities Commission to hold utility companies Central Maine Power and Versant accountable to standards and expectations of service for their customers.



We recruited Massachusetts members to call on their legislators to pass the Climate Safe Buildings Act. We need to prepare our neighborhoods to face the impacts of our changing climate.



We mobilized Rhode Islanders to successfully fight for Advanced Clean Cars and Advanced Clean Trucks regulations. These new policies will dramatically accelerate the transition to zero-emission vehicles. Limiting carbon pollution from transportation is a vital step toward protecting New England's future from climate change.

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

As I write this, a bitterly cold wind is rattling my windows. Just 24 hours earlier, temperatures hovered near 60 degrees. Such wide temperature swings were once remarkable, but no longer. New England weather conditions are changing so quickly that even meteorologists have difficulty keeping up. There is no doubt that climate change is here, and, as predicted, it is bringing erratic and extreme weather. That’s why CLF is redoubling efforts to push back against the powerful interests that are causing our overheating climate. We are working hard to protect the people and places that make New England unique.

For this reason, I’m thrilled to report that our supporters have been particularly generous this past fiscal year. An amazing 19% increase in funding in fiscal year 2023 has allowed us to expand our work on multiple fronts at a time when it is urgently needed. We have hired more legal advocates to fight on your behalf. They are working to accelerate clean energy, stop landfill and incinerator expansions, protect natural treasures like the endangered North Atlantic right whale, shield our coastlines from vulnerable oil terminals, and secure environmental justice protections for communities hit hardest by climate change.

In this last fiscal year, we increased our expenditures to support these goals by a commensurate 19%. We also received over \$4 million in bequest funding, which most certainly had a significant impact. We hope this will motivate others as they consider their possible impact on future generations. Overall, we once more achieved balanced financial results, including the carrying forward of some funds to use in fiscal year 2024.

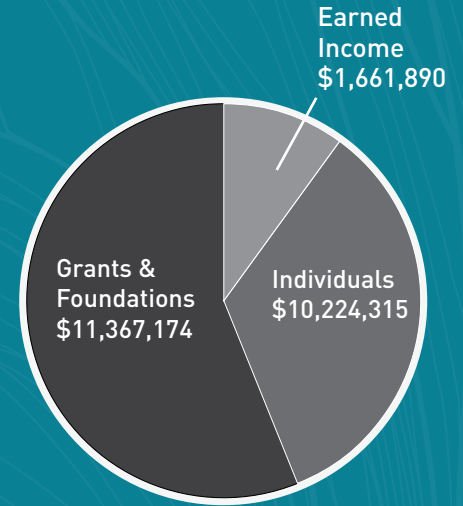
These contributions put us on a firm footing for the work ahead. We are grateful for your investment in New England’s future – a future in which we are determined to ensure that our children will enjoy clean energy, clean transportation, abundant natural resources, and a thriving environment. Your support allows us to continue the momentum we have so successfully built toward a carbon-free future. This year, we thank you again for your unwavering support.

Gratefully,

Andrew J. Falender
Treasurer, Board of Trustees

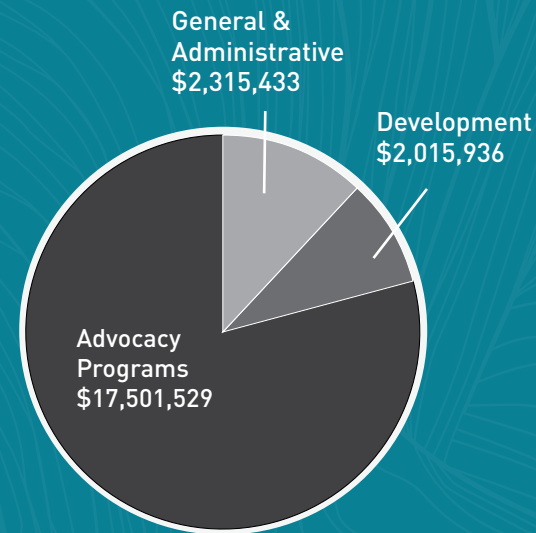
SOURCES OF OPERATING FUNDS

TOTAL FUNDS: \$23,253,379



USES OF OPERATING FUNDS

TOTAL FUNDS: \$21,832,898



NET ASSETS

[as of July 31, 2023]

Unrestricted Net Assets:
\$11,206,678

Donor-Restricted Net Assets:
\$17,854,336

TOTAL NET ASSETS
\$29,061,014



2023 FISCAL YEAR SUPPORT

The following individuals, foundations, and organizations supported CLF during the 2023 fiscal year (August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023). Your generosity and shared vision – of a healthy, thriving New England for all – have made CLF’s work possible. We thank our invaluable members, whose continuing support helps protect New England’s environment for all. **THANK YOU.**

INDIVIDUAL DONORS Donors who gave \$500 or more to Conservation Law Foundation

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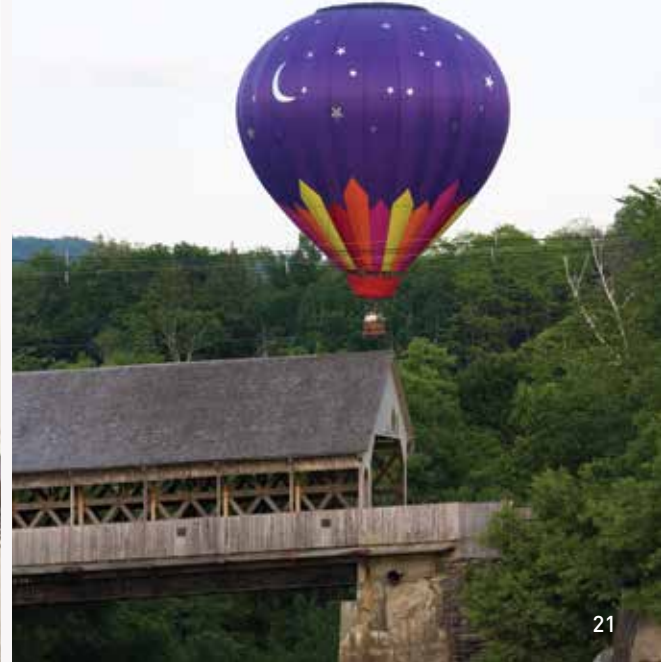
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As a lifelong environmentalist, I know that the climate crisis is an issue that cannot be taken lightly and that we don't have an option to lose this battle.

New England is at extreme risk from this existential threat. Addressing climate in our region should be highly motivating to us all.

I believe in the importance of acting now, but it can be easy to get caught up in the urgency of the moment and not leave adequate resources for the future. This is why I joined CLF's Cabot Society with a charitable gift annuity. This unique way of giving offers tax savings and flexible, steady income during my lifetime. Afterward, all remaining funds will go to CLF to carry on its work.

The climate crisis is an ever-growing issue, and by tackling it from all angles, New England will continue to lead the way to long-term, sustainable solutions. I am involved with a wide range of environmental organizations, and CLF is unique in finding solutions that use legal resources to create effective and actionable laws. My hope is that CLF, with its strong army of legal advocates, will serve as a model for national action and beyond.

I am hopeful for the future as more organizations and government officials prioritize climate work, but in the meantime, we must continue to work in concert with others and focus on our strengths to achieve a healthy, thriving New England and planet.

**Our donors inspire us to never give up because so much is at stake.
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