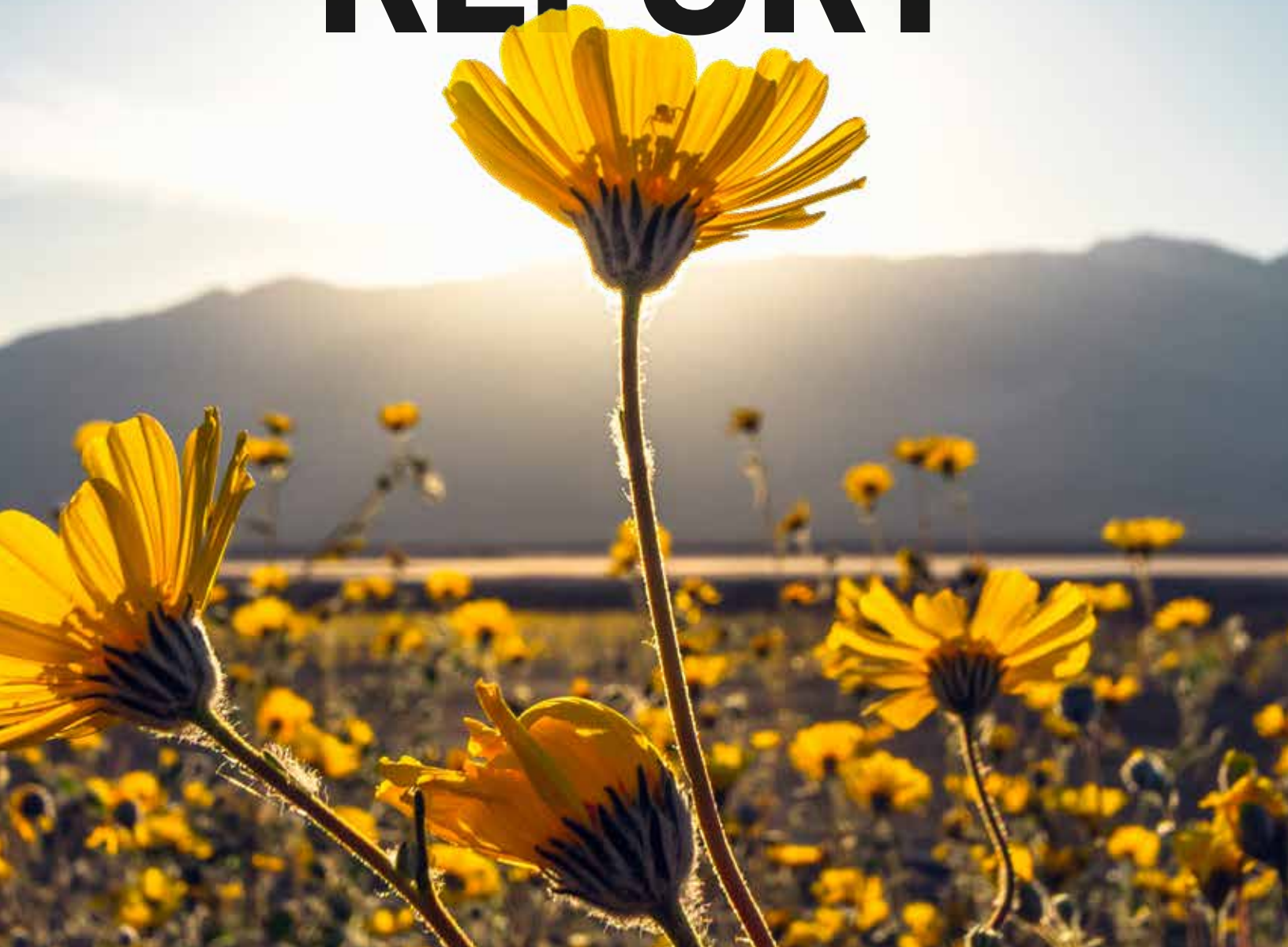




SPRING 2022

IMPACT REPORT



As the Acting Executive Director at the Sierra Club, I'm happy to share that this past December the Board of Directors approved our Powerful Together: 2030 Strategic Framework along with our Core Values. Our ambitious framework is an integrated plan to advance priority outcomes in support of the vision for the world Sierra Club wants to conserve, protect and create.

As part of our goal to protect 30 percent of U.S. lands and water we made great strides to preserve Minnesota's Boundary Waters, stopped oil and gas drilling in Chaco Canyon National Historic Park in New Mexico, and re-listed Gray Wolves as endangered species in 44 states.

Our goal to transform our energy system reached another milestone when Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign secured the retirement of the 350th coal plant in Rockport, Indiana. And our Healthy Communities campaign helped reduce the energy burden in lower-income neighborhoods in Detroit, Michigan.

In St. James Parish, Louisiana, our priority outcome to build a powerful base of support is illustrated by the tenacity of a community fighting against the petrochemical industry. The coalition of partners in the region is an example of when communities work together they can ensure healthy, clean, and safe environments for everyone.

I'm inspired by our goals for 2030 and hope you will be too. I know we can — and we must — create a world where everyone can exercise their human right to have fresh air, clean water, public access to nature, and a stable climate.

Your Sierra Club 501(c)4 donations give us a chance to expand our organizing and lobbying efforts to advance national and state policies and laws to address the systemic challenges that are accelerating the climate and extinction crises. And your Sierra Club Foundation tax-deductible 501(c)3 donations allow us to advance holistic advocacy campaigns that accelerate our transition to a clean energy future and protect critical ecosystems.

Together, your partnership helps us achieve our goals. We appreciate your commitment to our vision and outcomes, and value your ongoing financial support that powers our movement.

Thank you,

Dan Chu
Acting Executive Director, Sierra Club





Photo: Kekekabic Lake in Minnesota's Boundary Waters. Istockphoto

PROTECTING 30% OF U.S. LANDS AND WATER

CANCELING COPPER MINE LEASES IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS

Early this year, the Biden administration canceled two leases for sulfur-ore copper mining held by Twin Metals, stopping highly toxic and polluting sulfide-ore copper mines from being built along lakes and streams that flow directly into Minnesota's Boundary Waters. Our Minnesota chapter worked with our federal policy team, communications experts, and digital organizers to earn this win.

The Boundary Waters is America's most visited wilderness area, and we've partnered with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters in a fight to permanently protect the area from mining. Although the leases are canceled, there is still plenty of work to be done. At a minimum, we support the Biden administration's effort of a 20-year mineral withdrawal ban, but our long term goal is to push for permanent protection.

PROTECTING WOLVES IN 44 STATES

A federal district court struck down a 2020 decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that removed Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections from gray wolves across much of the country. This victory resulted from a lawsuit led by Earthjustice on behalf of Sierra Club, the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, the Humane Society of the United States, National Parks Conservation Association, and Oregon Wild. The ruling protects existing wolf populations in the Great Lakes region and West Coast states, and secured federal protections against killing and destroying their habitats.

Sierra Club has been a steadfast advocate for the ESA, and our Environmental Law Program has litigated to ensure protections are not stripped unlawfully.

STOPPING OIL & GAS DRILLING IN CHACO CANYON

At the opening of the Tribal Leaders Summit last year, President Biden and DOI Secretary Deb Haaland announced a twenty-year ban on new oil and gas leasing and drilling in a ten-mile buffer zone around Chaco Canyon National Historic Park. The ultimate goal of the Greater Chaco Coalition, a campaign led by Indigenous activists at Dine Cares, Pueblo Action Alliance and other groups is to ban new leasing and drilling in the entire Chaco Canyon ecoregion, an area sacred to both the Navajo and Pueblo people.

Though led by our Indigenous allies, we can be proud of the role the Sierra Club played in this campaign and win. Sierra Club organizers and the Rio Grande Chapter worked with activists in New Mexico, and even flew activists to lobby the DOI, EPA, and Congress in support of legislation and administrative action to protect the Greater Chaco Canyon ecosystem from drilling and development.



Photo: The Kiva, a spiritual site in The Chaco Culture National Historical Park. Istockphoto

BUILDING POWER

VICTORY IN CANCER ALLEY

For years, local residents in St. James Parish, Louisiana have fought back against toxic petrochemical plants. Industrial pollution in the area is so bad that it has been dubbed “Cancer Alley”—where people of color bear the brunt of the devastation. Many of the more than 200 petrochemical plants in the region are built on former slave plantations and surrounded by Black neighborhoods.

The Sierra Club worked closely with a community-led coalition to fight a devastating new project, the Formosa Plastics complex, which would spread 14

separate plastic plants across St. James Parish, emitting 15,400 pounds of cancer-causing ethylene oxide and 13 million tons of greenhouse gasses a year. Following fierce advocacy by the coalition, the Army Corps of Engineers announced that the project must go through a full Environmental Impact Study, which could take over a year and will stall construction, giving us more time to stop this project for good.

Sierra Club is also working to end the plastics buildout in the Ohio River Valley.



TRANSFORM OUR ENERGY SYSTEM

A BIG WIN FOR ENERGY JUSTICE

High energy burden—the percentage of gross household income families spend on energy cost—is a pervasive problem and results in utility shutoffs, perpetuates poverty, and threatens the well-being of low-income households. In places like Detroit, it hits Black neighborhoods hardest. The racist lending policies, segregation, and divestment these neighborhoods have suffered for years has led to poorer quality housing stock, which results in higher energy burdens. At the root of the problem is energy inefficiency, which is also a key driver of carbon emissions. We have been working to tackle the problem and ensure that energy investments are directed first towards those who are most affected.

In January, the Sierra Club reached a settlement that will begin to address the disproportionate energy burden for thousands of customers of DTE, Michigan's largest utility. The Michigan Public Service Commission approved the settlement, which will require DTE to deliver at least two percent in energy savings to customers annually through energy-efficiency and waste reduction investments.

The communities prioritized for investment will be selected based on analysis of data that includes poverty as well as race, and the Sierra Club and other stakeholders will be involved in developing metrics for research and implementation. This is an unprecedented victory and is a major step in the right direction when it comes to tackling the problem of racial inequity in our energy systems.

BEYOND COAL'S 350TH COAL PLANT RETIREMENT

AEP's Rockport Super Polluter, the 6th worst climate polluting coal plant in the U.S., became the 350th coal plant announced for retirement in Beyond Coal history. Thanks to years of advocacy from community members with the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign and partner organizations, Southwest Indiana residents can breathe a little easier now that Rockport will be fully retired by 2028.

This is a long-fought and important win, and we're continuing to chip away at Indiana Super Polluters, with Schahfer announced for retirement by 2023, and multiple units at Petersburg and Gibson announced as well.



Photo: Sierra Club Michigan Chapter



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THANK YOU
YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HELPS
PROTECT OUR FUTURE

