

# ANNUAL REPORT

## BUILDING WHAT'S NEXT

Co-creating a carbon-free Minnesota.



*Celebrating  
30 years*  
of clean energy and  
climate action!



Hello Fresh Energy community!

We are living in a profound time, both in the pace of progress and in the deep threats against all that we hold dear. In the words of Janiece Watts, Fresh Energy's director of culture and partnerships, on the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, "We must carry on together for the protection and creation of a just and livable society."

Together, we have experienced another year of change and challenge. And through all that we are facing, Fresh Energy continues to assiduously pursue our mission to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. This is our promise to you.

What continues to bring me hope is the inspiring work our growing Fresh Energy team is accomplishing. Thanks to our powerful partnerships, deep collaborations, and perseverance, Minnesota made major progress on clean energy and climate policy in 2021.

The ECO Act modernized—and in my opinion revolutionized—Minnesota's bedrock Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) and made it more equitable. The Natural Gas Innovation Act is pushing gas utilities to evolve through strategic electrification and energy efficiency. And Xcel Energy canceled plans for a new fossil gas plant and slated its last coal plants for retirement.

Our plans to continue driving significant policy change in Minnesota are only getting more ambitious. Fresh Energy has a 30-year history of investing in high-impact program work, and the growth of our new Buildings department deepens that legacy and invests in Minnesota's future by taking on a top source of carbon pollution.

This year we are celebrating three decades of Fresh Energy. In that time the organization has dramatically grown its capacity to shape progress in Minnesota and the Midwest at the scale of the climate change challenge. As we pause to acknowledge this landmark moment for the organization and all who helped us get here, I am also looking ahead to the bright future that we are building together.

Thank you for your support in making this work possible.

Sincerely,



Michael Noble



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
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\*Indicates board members who departed or met their term limits in 2021.

## STAFF

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Michael Noble<br>Executive Director                               | Kathryn Krawczyk<br>Associate Editor—Newsletter/<br>Multiplatform, Energy News Network |
| Sarah Clark<br>Deputy Executive Director                          | Mat Larson Krisetya<br>Executive Lead,<br>Organizational Health                        |
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| Margaret Cherne-Hendrick<br>Senior Lead,<br>Innovation and Impact | Mari Ojeda<br>Senior Policy Associate,<br>Energy Access and Equity                     |
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| Caitlin Eichten<br>Senior Policy Associate, Buildings             | Jo Olson<br>Senior Director, Communications<br>and Engagement                          |
| Justin Fay<br>Lead Director,<br>Public Affairs and Advocacy       | Leigh Onkka<br>Senior Development Manager  |
| Eric Fowler<br>Senior Policy Associate, Buildings                 | Ken Paulman<br>Senior Director,<br>Energy News Network                                 |
| Allen Gleckner<br>Executive Lead,<br>Policy and Programs          | Isabel Ricker<br>Director, Clean Electricity   |
| J. Drake Hamilton<br>Senior Director, Science Policy              | Mike Schowalter<br>Senior Policy Associate,<br>Clean Electricity                       |
| Lani Hanson<br>Senior Editor,<br>Energy News Network              | Jillian Theuer<br>Development and Executive Associate                                  |
| Liz Hatfield<br>Community Associate,<br>People Operations         | Natalie Townsend<br>Policy Associate, Clean Electricity                                |
| Dan Haugen<br>Managing Editor,<br>Energy News Network             | Janiece Watts<br>Director of Culture and Partnerships                                  |
| Anna Johnson<br>Senior Associate, Public Affairs                  | Jukka Kukkonen<br>Clean Transportation Consultant                                      |
| Briana Kerber<br>Policy Communications Associate                  | John Berns<br>Lobbyist   |
|   | Akia Vang<br>Capitol Pathways Intern   |

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021 – 2022 FISCAL YEAR

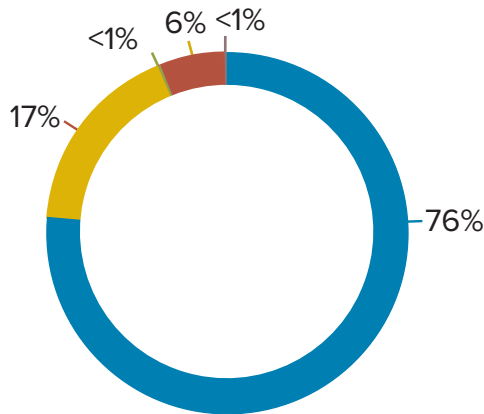
## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Without donor restrictions only.

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Grant Revenue Released from Restrictions   | \$ 4,872,921 |
| Contributions Without Donor Restriction    | \$ 1,100,025 |
| Interest and Dividend Income               | \$ 23,431    |
| Gain on extinguishment of PPP note payable | \$ 374,500   |
| Other Revenue                              | \$ 5,420     |

**TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE** **\$6,376,297**

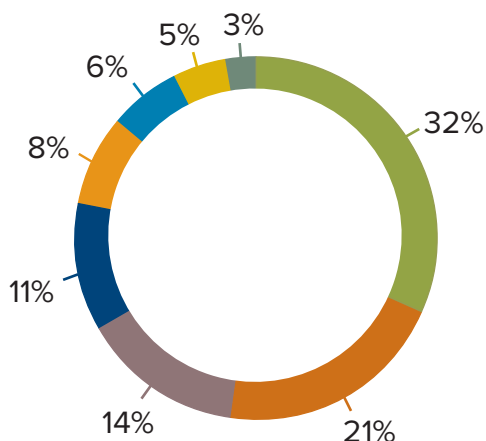


### EXPENSES

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Energy Transition                | \$ 1,752,765 |
| Energy News Network              | \$ 1,149,391 |
| Clean Electricity                | \$ 789,652   |
| Administration                   | \$ 635,581   |
| Public Affairs                   | \$ 439,930   |
| Energy Access and Equity         | \$ 358,862   |
| Fundraising                      | \$ 258,614   |
| Center for Pollinators in Energy | \$ 149,794   |

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$5,534,589**

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets **\$ 841,708**



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### ASSETS

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 4,887,578 |
| Investments               | \$ 569,629   |
| Pledges < 1 year          | \$ 2,202,031 |
| Pledges > 1 year          | \$ 1,282,051 |
| Prepaid Expenses          | \$ 64,319    |
| Property and Equipment    | \$ 688,443   |

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$9,694,051**

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Total Liabilities   | \$ 580,722  |
| Total Net Assets with Donor Restrictions  | \$6,752,354 |
| Total Net Assets without Donor Restrictions (Operating Reserve & Acceleration Fund) | \$2,360,975 |

**TOTAL LIABILITY and NET ASSETS** **\$9,694,051**

Period covered: February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022.  
An audited financial statement is available upon request.



## OUR DONORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Please access the full list of donors and supporters on our website:  
[fresh-energy.org/2021-22donors](https://fresh-energy.org/2021-22donors)

- THANK YOU -



# As a result of your investment in Fresh Energy



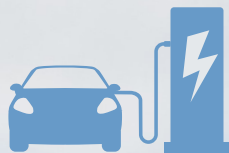
**\$6.6M**

more in investor-owned utility spending for under-resourced households thanks to the newly passed ECO Act.



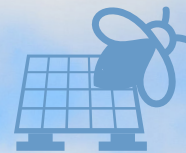
**1,911**

emails sent to Minnesota leaders, including legislators and commissioners, via Fresh Energy's public Action Network to advocate for critical clean energy and climate decisions.



**205**

new electric vehicle chargers planned and installed across Minnesota as a result of advocacy with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, coalition partners, and the public.



**7**

new Fresh Energy-led case studies covering the intersections of storm water management and pollinator-friendly solar at solar farms across the country.

Fresh Energy's mission is to shape and drive bold policy solutions to achieve equitable carbon-neutral economies. Together we are working toward a vision of a just, prosperous, and resilient future powered by a shared commitment to a carbon-neutral economy.

# With Energy, we were able to ensure...



**86%**

drop in Xcel Energy's carbon emissions by 2030 thanks to Commission action on a new long-range plan and Xcel canceling plans to build a new gas plant in Becker, Minnesota.



**79.4M**

metric tons of CO2 estimated to be removed over the next 20 years from MISO's first installment of Long Range Transmission Planning projects in Minnesota, the Dakotas, and western Wisconsin.







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JOIN OUR COMMUNITY:



[fresh-energy.org](https://fresh-energy.org)



[freshenergytoday](https://www.facebook.com/freshenergytoday)



[@freshenergy](https://twitter.com/freshenergy)

FEATURED EVENT | VIRTUAL BENEFIT BREAKFAST

# Our Shared Challenge

Together, we can do hard things.



**SIGN UP NOW** for Fresh Energy's Virtual Benefit Breakfast  
October 13, 2022 | 8-9 a.m.

Register to join Fresh Energy and Julian Brave NoiseCat for an inspiring discussion about driving an ambitious—and seemingly impossible—agenda at this critical moment in human history.

Nationally acclaimed journalist and thought leader **Julian Brave NoiseCat** has become a force for climate action across movements. Named to the TIME100 Next list of emerging leaders

For information on sponsoring the 2022 Benefit Breakfast or becoming a table captain, please contact Leigh Onkka at [onkka@fresh-energy.org](mailto:onkka@fresh-energy.org) or 651 726 7572.

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in 2021 and member of the Canim Lake Band Tsq'escen, NoiseCat has developed and advocated for ambitious climate policies for all.

**RSVP:**  
[fresh-energy.org/benefitbreakfast](https://fresh-energy.org/benefitbreakfast)  
\$125 suggested  
minimum donation

## FEATURED SPEAKER:

Julian Brave  
NoiseCat

*"NoiseCat  
stands where  
the currents of  
climate journalism,  
advocacy, and  
policy meet."*

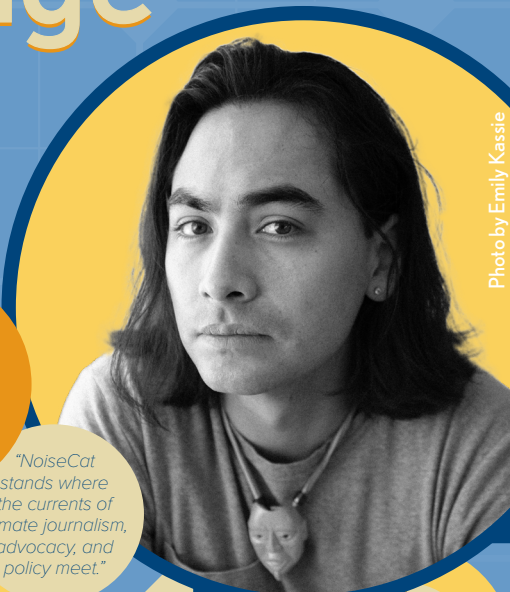


Photo by Emily Kassie





## CLEAN ELECTRICITY

*Clean power generation is the foundation of a carbon-free electricity supply, and we must secure approved plans for a 90% carbon-free electric system by 2025.* Through leadership as energy policy experts and active engagement at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Minnesota Legislature, and other decision-making venues, Fresh Energy is working to end reliance on fossil fuels, dramatically increase renewable electricity generation, maximize efficiency, and manage demand in the usage of electricity.

As a result of our efforts, coal plants are closing or running less often, utilities are making historic investments in more efficient systems, utility customers have renewable electricity choices, and wind, solar, and battery storage are an increasing part of Minnesota's energy system. Because a large-scale energy transition will require a modern electric grid, Fresh Energy is also working both to advance a distribution grid that supports clean energy projects in our communities and to secure transmission for increased renewables across our region by advocating for a 20-gigawatt capacity increase across the footprint of MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator), our grid operator.



## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*Through coalitions and collaboration, opportunities for individual action, and policy design, we are growing a shared commitment to a zero-carbon future and driving ambitious policy change at multiple levels of government.*

As a policy organization, Fresh Energy drives change in multiple decision-making forums, including local governments, the Minnesota Legislature, and with our Congressional delegation. To achieve this, we provide expert leadership on policy-maker education, advocacy, and coalition work with partners across the state. In this role, we provided testimony at more than 50 hearings.

Fresh Energy also launched a new and swiftly growing Action Network, with more than 1,300 members, that equips the public to weigh in on climate and energy decision-making at venues traditionally challenging to access, including the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.



## CENTER FOR POLLINATORS IN ENERGY

*Fresh Energy develops and leads special projects in Minnesota and other states to expand the number of constituencies supporting clean energy—the Center for Pollinators in Energy is a central aspect of this work.*

Fresh Energy launched the Center for Pollinators in Energy as a catalyzer and clearinghouse of information to increase use of flowering meadows under solar sites and secure scientific data on habitat, soil, water, and energy benefits. This project has evolved to focus on communication and special projects related to solar site design.

In partnership with Monarch Joint Venture, Fresh Energy released a new study proving that pollinator-friendly habitat on photovoltaic solar sites supports robust pollinator activity with a documented abundance of bees, butterflies, moths, flies, and wasps utilizing the habitat.

*Interested in learning more? Check out [fresh-energy.org](https://fresh-energy.org) for the latest.*

Photo by Laura Lukens, Monarch Joint Venture

## ENERGY TRANSITION

*To turn the tide on climate change, we must not only generate electricity without carbon, but also reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our entire economy.* To achieve the dramatic economy-wide emissions reductions needed, Fresh Energy is blending strategies across energy efficiency, strategic electrification, innovation, and more in Minnesota's industrial, transportation, agricultural, and building economies.

We are meeting the moment head-on by expanding our work on buildings. The passage of the Natural Gas Innovation Act created new opportunities for Fresh Energy to influence how gas utilities pursue fuel-switching, innovation, and beyond. We are also working to electrify transportation by shaping equitable investments in charging infrastructure and electric buses, all while pushing the envelope on high impact medium- and heavy-duty vehicle electrification with the release of a new report that puts industrial vehicles in the spotlight.

And the Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition, incubated by Fresh Energy, reached its goal of awarding 40% of its annual operating budget to organizations energizing local work in equitable building decarbonization across the Midwest.



## ENERGY ACCESS AND EQUITY

*As more investments are made in state and utility-led assistance programs and we shift from an energy system based on fossil fuels to one that is powered by renewable energy, we must ensure an equitable and just transition.*

Fresh Energy is committed to ensuring the move to clean energy benefits all and equity becomes a central part of our work across programs and within our internal operations. Fresh Energy has guided the next evolution of the Minnesota Multifamily Affordable Housing Energy Network (MMAHEN) to create space for a new, advocacy-driven housing and energy coalition to form. Fresh Energy is leading this transformation, which is actively underway.

In multiple state and national forums, we also shape energy efficiency and weatherization investments, and other initiatives to reduce the energy burden on under-resourced households, including renters and multifamily residents. We are deeply involved in the implementation of the ECO Act, which updated Minnesota's landmark Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) in 2021, and supported Metro Transit in releasing its bus electrification plan. In this and many other ways, we are working to ensure that our energy system is truly efficient, healthy, and equitable.



Photo by Marcela Gara, Resource Media

## ENERGY NEWS NETWORK

*Fresh Energy's Energy News Network is a national network of news sites providing daily links to top energy news stories, original reporting, and webinars on the transition to clean energy.*

Editorially independent from Fresh Energy's policy work, the Energy News Network (ENN) is staffed by professional editors and a team of more than a dozen journalists who cover state-based stories in a regional context. The nearly 20 original news articles produced by Energy News Network reporters each month shine a light on subjects that would otherwise go unreported, and our journalism is regularly republished or quoted in trade publications, traditional media outlets, and in other arenas. A powerful example of the strength of ENN's reporting came this year when a two-part series that provided a deep dive on the barriers to the clean energy transition was published on the front page of the Southern Illinoisan, a newspaper serving the heart of coal country.



Photo by Neeta Satam