



**MI HEALTHY
CLIMATE PLAN**

2024 Report



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

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ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

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Table of Contents

Letter from the Director	1
Introduction.....	2
Activities of the Council on Climate Solutions	3
Legislation to Implement the MI Healthy Climate Plan.....	4
MI Healthy Climate Plan Legislative Wins.....	5
Climate in the State Budget.....	8
Clean the Electric Grid.....	8
Electrify Vehicles and Increase Public Transit.....	9
Repair and Decarbonize Homes and Businesses	10
Drive Clean Innovation in Industry	10
Protect Michigan’s Land and Water	10
Additional Climate Investments.....	10
Climate-Related Federal Funding.....	11
Creating the Michigan Climate Investment Accelerator to Help Secure Federal Funding	13
Cross-Cutting State Activities Supporting Implementation of the Plan	14
Climate Equity and a Just Transition	14
Building Climate Capacity for Communities and Local Governments	17
MI Healthy Climate Corps.....	18
Coordinated Climate Action at EGLE	19
Communications and Engagement	22
Sector-Specific Updates and Activities.....	26
Electricity: Clean the Electric Grid	27
Transportation & Mobility: Electrify Vehicles and Increase Public Transit.....	31
Built Environment: Repair and Decarbonize Homes and Businesses	34
Industry: Drive Clean Innovation in Industry.....	36
Natural and Working Lands: Protect Michigan’s Land and Water	37
Conclusion.....	37

Letter from the Director

Dear fellow Michigan residents:

To meet the bold goals of Governor Whitmer's MI Healthy Climate Plan, we need to work with anyone and use every tool in our toolkit—and this year, we did just that. The Plan's launch in 2022 marked a critical milestone in Michigan's climate strategy, with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, and an intermediate target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 52% from 2005 levels by 2030. But this plan is about so much more than just emissions reductions; it's a plan to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change while spurring economic opportunity, creating good-paying jobs, improving public health, protecting our air, land, and water, and so much more.



In my travels across the state, I saw the impact of climate action. I rode an electric school bus in Pontiac, celebrated a federal grant award in Detroit that will help transition Michigan's ports to zero emissions, and attended the launch of Flint's Curbside Recycling Program, just to name a few highlights. We accomplished a lot in 2024 and set the stage for more progress to come, securing more than \$500 million in new federal funding, making Michigan number one in the nation for winning Inflation Reduction Act-funded projects. Because of our collective work, Michigan is a top state for clean energy job growth and bringing home projects and funding for climate and clean energy projects from the federal government.

In 2025, EGLE will continue our commitment to realizing the vision of the MI Healthy Climate Plan—a vision we can't realize alone. This work requires collaborative efforts, starting with the leadership of Governor Whitmer and other state departments and including important work from local governments, community-based organizations, and individual residents. Together, we can ensure every Michigan resident experiences the benefits of a clean energy future, including lower energy costs, good-paying jobs, and cleaner air. I look forward to working with you as we create a healthier, more equitable future for every Michigander.

Phillip D. Roos, Director

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

A photograph of a sandy beach with the word "MICHIGAN" written in large, rustic letters made of sand. The letters are slightly raised and have some small twigs and debris mixed in. The background shows the ocean waves and a clear sky.

Introduction

In 2020, [Governor Whitmer's Executive Directive 2020-10](#) charged the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), through its Office of Climate and Energy (OCE), with developing the MI Healthy Climate Plan (the Plan). The Plan was released on April 21, 2022, after extensive stakeholder engagement that included consultation with Tribal governments, meetings with the Council on Climate Solutions, workgroup members and key stakeholders, and with consultation from the Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice (MAC-EJ). Previously, [Governor Whitmer's Executive Directive 2019-12](#) entered Michigan into the U.S. Climate Alliance and committed Michigan to pursue at least a 26-28 percent reduction below 2005 levels in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2025. [As of 2024](#), the states in the Alliance have collectively reduced net GHG emissions by 19 percent between 2005 and 2022 and the Alliance is on track to meet its near-term climate goal by reducing collective GHG emissions 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

Since the issuance of the Plan in 2022, EGLE has provided an annual report to the Governor on activities in support of its implementation as required in Executive Order 2020-182. The Executive Order also calls for a regular report to the Governor on the activities of the [Council on Climate Solutions](#). The following document provides a snapshot of activities undertaken in 2024 by the Council on Climate Solutions, progress toward meeting the goals of the Plan, and a summary of some of the key activities state government and stakeholders have taken across Michigan to support implementation of the Plan. This report is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather illustrative of the many actions being taken across the state toward reaching a carbon neutral Michigan.

In addition to the progress and key accomplishments on the pathway to implementing the Plan, this report also includes key initiatives conducted by EGLE through the Office of Climate and Energy as well as other state agencies to drive climate action across Michigan. The document begins with a summary of the activities of the Council on Climate Solutions, including highlighting the key topics of discussion at each of the quarterly meetings. The document then provides a summary of key climate-related policy actions taken in 2024, including the following: 1) legislative acts passed and progress toward implementation, 2) state budget allocations passed by the legislature, and 3) federal funding secured by the State of Michigan. The report then highlights climate-related programming and initiatives coordinated by the State of Michigan – predominantly by EGLE and the OCE – including state efforts to coordinate and support environmental justice (EJ) stakeholders, local governments, communications and events, action at EGLE, and driving statewide climate action via the MI Healthy Climate Corps. Finally, the report summarizes actions across all of state government toward implementing the Plan organized by sector and including statistical updates to measure physical progress toward meeting the Plan.



OBJECTIVES OF THE MI HEALTHY CLIMATE PLAN



Activities of the Council on Climate Solutions

The Council on Climate Solutions was created by [Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-182](#) as an advisory body in the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The Council continues to play a foundational role in the implementation of the Plan. In 2024, the Council on Climate Solutions held three meetings: April 2, August 27, and November 12. Topics included the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), the CPRG Competitive Implementation Grants, updates from the Office of Environmental Justice Public Advocate and the Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice, and climate and clean energy in the State Budget. Other presentations related to implementation of the Plan included an overview of the MI Healthy Climate Corps, MI Solar for All (MISFA), and the Justice40 Accelerator for Michigan. Finally, the meetings included presentations from other State of Michigan departments including the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Office of Public Lands, Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Michigan's Growth Office, and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's (LEO) Community and Worker Economic Transition Office.

Legislation to Implement the MI Healthy Climate Plan

The year 2024 saw continued momentum around climate action in Michigan. In July 2024 Governor Whitmer signed [House Bill 5028](#) (sponsored by Representative Ranjeev Puri) to give homeowners that are a part of a homeowner's association the freedom to make energy-saving home improvements to their property, including the installation of solar panels. By enabling people to implement energy-efficient changes in their homes, homeowners save money and help Michigan build toward a more sustainable future. The Governor also signed [Senate Bills 353, 880, and 881](#) (sponsored by state Senators Veronica Klinefelt, Sam Singh, and Rick Outman), which will help lower utility bills by increasing eligibility and funding for the Michigan Energy Assistance Program.

A focus in 2024 was implementing the ambitious 2023 Clean Energy Legislation. On January 24, 2024, Governor Whitmer celebrated the 2023 climate and clean energy legislative wins during her [2024 State of the State address](#):

“To protect every breath you take and our Great Lakes, we enacted a historic clean energy package. Together, we will reach 100% clean energy by 2040, lower the cost of household utilities by an average of \$145 a year, and create thousands of good-paying jobs, backed by the strongest labor standards in the country. We will make more American energy employing American workers.”

The 2023 Clean Energy Legislation balanced reliability and affordability while allowing the state to protect our land, air, and water for current and future generations, meet our energy-related climate goals, shore up energy independence, protect private property rights, support family-sustaining jobs, and lower energy costs while making Michigan more competitive for federal funding and private sector investment. Legislation to clean the electric grid, covering some of the most important components of the Plan, helps make Michigan a national clean energy leader and ensures our state's ambition meets the urgency of the climate crisis. In 2024, State of Michigan departments helped to implement the 2023 Clean Energy Legislation. The following is a summary of major actions taken since the legislation passed.

Public Act 235 of 2023 (sponsored by Senator Geiss): Adopts 100% clean energy, renewable energy, storage standards, expands the distributed generation cap.



Progress in 2024: The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) set up a [Clean Energy Standard](#) workgroup, [Statewide Energy Storage Target](#) workgroup, [Renewable Energy Standards and Plans](#) workgroup, and [Distributed Generation and Interconnection](#) workgroup to implement Public Act 235 of 2023/SB 271. Through these workgroups, the MPSC is in the process of implementing the requirements, which include: establishing formats and guidelines for the Clean Energy Plans by January 1, 2026; Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) must begin filing annual storage reports no later than Dec. 31, 2024; electric providers must file amended renewable energy plans by February 27, 2025, to include a forecast of resources that will be needed to comply with the standard; and the MPSC must review interconnection standards and utility programs.

Public Act 231 of 2023 (sponsored by Senator Shink): Embeds climate, workers, and justice in Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), expands participation at MPSC.



Progress in 2024: The MPSC set up the [Integrated Resource Planning Process](#) workgroup as well as two workgroups to explore opportunities to improve [Commission Accessibility](#) and improve the [Rate Case Process](#).

Public Act 229 of 2023 (sponsored by Senator Singh): Expands energy waste reduction (EWR) leadership, boosts low-income programs.



Progress in 2024: The MPSC set up the [Energy Waste Reduction Standards and Plans](#) workgroup to develop a framework for the updated EWR programs and prepare for filing new customer energy optimization plans by January 2025.

Public Act 232 of 2023 (sponsored by Senator Singh): Creates Office of Community and Worker Economic Transition.



Progress in 2024: LEO launched [the Community & Worker Economic Transition Office](#) in late 2023 and the team grew throughout 2024. The Transition Office aims to roll out proactive strategies to reduce risks and increase economic impacts for the workers, communities, and businesses impacted by the transition to renewable energy and a manufacturing shift from internal combustion engine vehicles to electric vehicles (EV).

Public Act 233 of 2023, Public Act 234 of 2023 (sponsored by Representatives Aiyash and Puri): Streamlines renewable siting, supports host communities.



Progress in 2024: The MPSC set up the Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Facility Siting workgroup. Throughout 2024, the MPSC conducted public engagement sessions to gather input on the implementation of PA 233, which went into effect on November 29, 2024. The [MPSC approved the application process for renewable energy and energy storage siting](#) on October 10, 2024.

The following table explains how the 2023 legislation Governor Whitmer signed into law helps reach MI Healthy Climate Plan recommendations.

MI HEALTHY CLIMATE PLAN LEGISLATIVE WINS

MI Healthy Climate Plan Recommendation	2023 Clean Energy Legislation
Meet a goal of 100% clean energy no later than 2050.	Requires 80% clean energy by 2035 and 100% by 2040.
Set a 50% renewable energy standard by 2030.	Commits to 50% renewable energy by 2030 and 60% by 2035.
Increase options for customer-driven renewable energy, such as rooftop solar and voluntary green pricing programs.	Increases the cap on distributed generation resources like rooftop solar from 1% to 10%.

MI Healthy Climate Plan Recommendation	2023 Clean Energy Legislation
Statewide storage target to deploy 4,000 MW of grid-scale storage by 2040, with an interim goal of 2,500 MW by 2030	Establishes an energy storage mandate of 2,500 MW by 2030.
Address barriers to siting renewable energy.	<p>Streamlines the siting process for large-scale wind, solar, and storage projects.</p> <p>Clarifies solar energy taxation, allows local governments and commercial solar energy developments to opt into payments in lieu of taxes (PILT).</p> <p>Guarantees farmers can utilize their properties as they see fit, including to host solar projects.</p>
Achieve at least 2% annual electric energy efficiency savings by increasing the current energy waste reduction target for electric utilities.	<p>Increases Michigan’s Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) standard to 1.5% and sets a goal of 2% for electric utilities (with corresponding increases for natural gas utilities).</p> <p>Requires low-income programming with increasing minimum spend levels that ramp up to 25% by 2030.</p> <p>Requires MPSC assess energy efficiency every four years.</p>
Restore the energy waste reduction target for municipal and cooperative electric utilities.	Reestablishes energy waste reduction standards for municipal and cooperative utilities.
Incentivize energy efficient appliances that yield immediate energy cost savings.	<p>Creates new opportunities for efficient electrification, fuel switching, and whole home improvement.</p> <p>Requires MPSC assess electrification every four years.</p>
Calls for additional funding for the Utility Consumer Representation Fund, managed by the Utility Consumer Participation Board (UCPB) , to support ratepayer advocates in their interventions at the MPSC.	Doubles UCPB funding, expands the number of cases the UCPB can intervene in, and prioritizes UCPB grants in environmental justice communities and communities with high energy burden.
Adopt and promote property assessed clean energy programs (PACE).	Expands the eligibility of properties and projects for Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing.

MI Healthy Climate Plan Recommendation	2023 Clean Energy Legislation
<p>Expand on the efforts of the MPSC to conduct an environmental justice and health impact analysis as part of Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) so the potential community impacts of utility investment decisions are more fully considered.</p>	<p>Allows the MPSC, for the first time, to consider climate, affordability, and environmental justice in utility IRPs.</p> <p>Expands EGLE’s IRP advisory opinion to include new evaluations including the potential impacts of the IRP on EJ and public health.</p> <p>Requires MPSC EJ impacts and programs every four years.</p> <p>Requires the MPSC to conduct an EJ analysis on the siting of any proposed new, abated natural gas facility and requires the utilities to undertake a similar analysis on fossil fuel peaker plant retirements to ensure community impact is taken into consideration in addition to economics.</p>
<p>Provide support and best practices to communities addressing economic transitions from closures of fossil fuel facilities and other large industrial operations.</p>	<p>Creates the Office of Worker and Community Economic Transition within the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to assist workers, communities, and employers during the transition to clean energy and electric vehicles.</p>
<p>Strengthen and create workforce development, job training, pre-apprenticeship/ apprenticeship, joint labor management training, and other such programs for in-demand clean energy jobs. Ensure these programs are federally certified by the Department of Labor where applicable.</p>	<p>Requires all projects approved in IRPs and renewable siting cases pay workers prevailing wage, enter into project labor agreements, and utilize Department of Labor certified apprenticeships.</p>
<p>Incentivize workforce development and training for workers experiencing energy-related employment transitions and those in underrepresented or disproportionately impacted communities.</p>	<p>Encourages diverse workforce development and hiring from environmental justice and low-income communities for EWR programs.</p>

Climate in the State Budget

On February 7, 2024, Governor Whitmer’s [Executive Budget](#) recommendation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 supplemental budget and the FY 2025 budget included over half a billion dollars in investments to combat climate change and support the MI Healthy Climate Plan.

In June, the budget passed the legislature, tracking to the Governor’s initial vision. The budget closely followed the Plan’s Roadmap to 2030, covering nearly each focus area of the MHCP: just transition, energy, transportation, built environment, industry, natural and working lands, and other climate-related investments.



COMMIT TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND PURSUE A JUST TRANSITION

The Plan prioritizes EJ as necessary to drive better health outcomes, good jobs, and economic prosperity for all Michiganders. The Plan includes goals to ensure that at least 40% of state funding for climate-related and water infrastructure initiatives benefit disadvantaged communities and that Michigan fosters a just transition for all workers through proactive engagement, job training, and workforce development. The budget includes about \$13.3 million for justice-related climate initiatives:

- \$8.6 million to provide technical assistance, capacity building, training and education, support services, and pilots to support communities and workers experiencing economic transition.
- \$2.5 million to support the [Community & Worker Economic Transition Office](#)’s efforts to ensure that communities, workers, and employers impacted by transitions have the support they need to proactively prepare for, benefit from, and shape Michigan’s future economy.
- \$2.2 million to increase funding for the Utility Consumer Participation Board, as directed by the recently signed clean energy laws.

CLEAN THE ELECTRIC GRID

The Plan sets a goal of generating 60% of the state’s electricity from renewable resources, as well as limiting the consumer cost of powering and heating homes to not more than 6% of annual income for low-income households. The combined FY 2024 supplemental and the FY 2025 budget includes approximately \$329.8 million related to the energy sector:

- \$156.2 million for the [MI Solar for All program](#), a program to lower the cost of community-serving and rooftop solar for thousands of low-income and disadvantaged community households across the state, saving eligible households 20% on their utility bills and providing additional meaningful benefits.

- \$150 million to support the restart of a critical clean energy asset that provides 800 MW of clean energy.
- \$5.8 million to support the implementation of Michigan’s landmark clean energy laws.
- \$5 million to support Michigan Saves, Michigan’s nonprofit Greenbank, in offering credit enhancement tools intended to incentivize lending at lower rates and under better terms for clean energy and water improvements.
- \$5 million to support the acquisition and construction of renewable energy and electrification infrastructure projects.
- \$3 million to support the deployment of a community-serving solar array in the City of Grand Rapids.
- \$1.9 million to support the development and implementation of a Class VI well program for carbon capture and storage technologies.
- \$1.6 million to develop, research, and improve air quality and reduce localized pollution and health impacts.
- \$1 million to conduct an EWR and demand response study, as outlined in the recent clean energy laws.
- \$363k to help small agricultural businesses make their farms and businesses more energy efficient or power their facilities with clean energy.

ELECTRIFY VEHICLES AND INCREASE PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Plan calls for the infrastructure necessary to support two million electric vehicles on Michigan roads by 2030, along with increasing access to clean transportation options – including public transit. The combined FY 2024 supplemental and the FY 2025 budget includes approximately \$198.6 million for mobility upgrades:

- \$30.2 million to deploy EV charging infrastructure and fill gaps across the state. This will complement federal funding and support the installation of chargers at multi-family homes and fleet parking lots to support commercial fleet transitions.
- \$22.3 million to support the construction of hydrogen fueling stations for heavy-duty vehicles.
- \$118 million to increase resources for transit and intermodal transportation.
- \$11 million to develop a real-world prototype “Truck Stop of the Future,” enabling companies to transition their fleets to low-carbon or zero-carbon technologies and future-proof their businesses.
- \$6 million to expand the Michigan Mobility Funding platform, a program that provides grants to mobility and electrification companies.
- \$4.5 million to support an inductive charging pilot for EVs.
- \$3 million to expand shared streets and spaces.
- \$3 million to incentivize the purchase of e-bikes.
- \$693k to support the transition of vehicles and equipment that currently utilize diesel to cleaner fuels or electricity.

REPAIR AND DECARBONIZE HOMES AND BUSINESSES

The Plan includes reducing emissions from heating Michigan homes and businesses by 17%, along with increasing investments in building repair and improvement to lower costs for working families and small businesses. The combined FY 2024 supplemental and the FY 2025 budget directed approximately \$6 million to this sector:

- \$5 million to help low-income households with pre-weatherization and to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, reducing utility bills.
- \$1 million for the development of a mass timber – a sustainability building material – market in Michigan.

DRIVE CLEAN INNOVATION IN INDUSTRY

The Plan includes recommendations to encourage clean innovation hubs, triple Michigan’s recycling rate, and cut food waste in half. The combined FY 2024 supplemental and the FY 2025 budget included approximately \$5 million for industrial decarbonization efforts:

- \$5 million to provide grants to communities for waste diversion programs, including circular economy initiatives, composting, and recycling.

PROTECT MICHIGAN’S LAND AND WATER

The Plan includes protecting 30% of Michigan’s land and water to naturally capture GHG emissions supporting farmers’ best management practices to improve soil health, store carbon, utilize other GHG emissions, and protect water quality; and funding programs to encourage the purchase of Michigan-grown and -raised products, address food insecurity challenges, and counter supply chain issues. The combined FY 2024 supplemental and the FY 2025 budget for natural and working lands includes about \$10.5 million:

- \$10.5 million to make Michigan’s agriculture sector more resilient to climate change, support regenerative agriculture, enhance soil health, and promote Michigan-grown products.

ADDITIONAL CLIMATE INVESTMENTS

The combined FY 2024 supplemental and the FY 2025 budget includes approximately \$15.3 million in other climate-related investments:

- \$5 million to support the plugging of marginal [conventional wells](#), protecting water resources from contamination and reducing methane emissions.
- \$10.3 million to deploy climate-resilient infrastructure and green infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of climate change on communities.

Climate-Related Federal Funding

Two years after the passage of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Michigan continues to secure funding to create a brighter future for Michiganders. According to a [2024 Climate Power report](#), Michigan is leading all other states with 62 new projects announced since the passage of the IRA in 2022. These new clean energy projects have spurred an estimated \$26 billion in new investments and helped create or move forward over 21,000 good-paying clean energy jobs in the state.

A 2024 [report](#) from [5 Lakes Energy](#) projects that Michigan’s historic 2023 clean energy laws, combined with the IRA, will drive significant economic growth and cost-savings in the state. According to the report, by 2030, the nation-leading package and federal investments will drive household energy bills down by \$297 a year, save \$7.3 billion in public health costs, and make progress towards the MI Healthy Climate Plan.

The Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO) has developed a cross-department approach to identifying and pursuing all federal funding opportunities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and IRA. In partnership with the MIO, EGLE and its OCE identify, evaluate, and track federal funding opportunities that align with the goals of the Plan. Additionally, the MIO Technical Assistance Center works with communities across the state to develop and submit projects for federal funding, ensuring that federal dollars are available even for communities that may lack the resources traditionally needed to obtain federal funding. In 2024, federal funding secured across Michigan to further implement the MI Healthy Climate Plan includes but is not limited to:

- **\$156.2 million** in funding from the EPA’s Solar for All program to launch the [MI Solar for All program](#). MI Solar for All will lower the cost of community-serving and rooftop solar for thousands of low-income and disadvantaged community households.
- **\$129.1 million** in funding from the EPA’s CPRG competitive Implementation Grant program to launch the [Renewables Ready Communities Program](#) to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy like wind, solar, and storage.
- **\$87 million¹** in funding from the EPA’s [Community Change Grants program](#), including approximately \$4.4 million in state matching funds, to Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, EcoWorks, Kalamazoo County, Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA) for a variety of climate resiliency and clean energy projects.
- **\$25 million** in funding from the EPA’s Clean Ports Program, including \$1 million in state matching funds, to [Wayne County/Detroit Port Authority to decarbonize port operations in Southwest Detroit](#). This investment will grow Michigan’s maritime economy while reducing air pollution from Michigan’s port operations.



¹ Amount is subject to change based on additional awards from the EPA and funding received by the Tribes in Michigan from the MTERA award.

- **\$24 million** from the [EPA's Clean School Bus Program](#) to support purchases by 27 Michigan public schools and school districts, including 97 electric buses.
- **\$3 million** in funding from the EPA's Clean Ports Program to EGLE to launch the [MI Clean Ports Program](#) to provide grant funding and technical assistance, helping ports with emissions inventories, planning efforts, community engagement, and more.
- **\$1.5 billion** conditional commitment for a loan guarantee from the [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\) Loan Programs Office](#) to restart the Palisades Nuclear Plant in Southwest Michigan.
- **\$50 million** from the [DOE for Nel Hydrogen](#) to create a clean energy facility in Metro Detroit.
- **\$35.7 million** from the [DOE's Transmission Siting and Economic Development \(TSED\) Grant Program](#). The funding will provide Michiganders with improved access to reliable, clean energy while creating life-changing, high-paying jobs, and reducing costs for Michigan families.
- **\$27 million** awarded by the [DOE and the U.S. Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#) to support energy efficiency and EV infrastructure projects, including lowering energy costs for Michigan residents and expanding access to EVs.
- **\$22.2 million** awarded from the DOE to advance [Michigan-backed Clean Hydrogen Hub](#). The funding will advance the next phase of planning and development of regional supply chains for the production, distribution, and use of hydrogen trucks and heavy-duty vehicles.
- **\$1.9 million** in funding from the DOE's [Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement](#) to improve planning, siting, and permitting processes for large-scale renewable energy facilities.
- **\$900,000** in funding through the DOE [Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers \(SERC\) grant](#) to be implemented by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, and the Washtenaw Office of Community and Economic Development to introduce advanced energy efficiency measures in low-income households across the state.
- **\$67 million** from [DOT to the Michigan Department of Transportation \(MDOT\)](#), in collaboration with the City of Detroit and Norfolk Southern Corporation to upgrade the Livernois Intermodal Facility (IMF) to cut emissions, improve efficiency, support supply chains, lessen environmental impacts on surrounding neighborhoods, and advance environmental sustainability across the state.
- **\$50 million** in federal funding from the DOT's [Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-saving Transportation \(PROTECT\) program](#).
- **\$26 million** awarded from the [DOT's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure \(CFI\) Program](#) to support expanding public access to EV charging stations across the state. The CFI grants will help Michigan achieve its goals for sustainable, equitable growth by reducing GHG emissions and supporting a resilient clean energy future.

- **\$23 million** from the DOT’s [National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\) Formula Program](#) to bolster the state’s EV charging infrastructure and make EVs more accessible. The funding includes 41 planned charging stations in every region across the state, from Detroit and Sault Ste. Marie to Benton Harbor and Lansing.
- **\$1.8 million** from the DOT’s [Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program](#) grant to repair or replace broken EV chargers across the state.
- **\$9.1 million** from the U.S. Department of Treasury, and \$500,000 matching grant from the [Make It in Michigan Competitiveness Fund](#) to launch the [Michigan Auto Supplier Transition Program](#) to support critical steps to help communities, businesses, and workers benefit from a clean energy future.
- **\$42 million** in grants and loans from the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) to bring safe, reliable drinking water systems, state-of-the-art infrastructure and economic growth to the state’s rural communities. This funding, as a part of President Biden’s *Investing in America* agenda, will support projects to expand access to drinking water, sanitary waste disposal, and stormwater drainage while ensuring water infrastructure is sustainable and more resilient to the impacts of climate change and severe weather.

CREATING THE MICHIGAN CLIMATE INVESTMENT ACCELERATOR TO HELP SECURE FEDERAL FUNDING

In addition to directly securing federal climate funding, the State of Michigan is working to bring climate-related funding to Michigan in partnership with non-state entities as well. Specifically in 2024, the State of Michigan targeted the EPA’s [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund \(GGRF\)](#), which is a \$27 billion investment to mobilize financing and private capital to address the climate crisis. The GGRF consists of three prongs – the National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF), Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA), and Solar for All (SFA).



On November 1, 2024, the State of Michigan launched the [Michigan Climate Investment Accelerator](#), designed to accelerate the development and deployment of climate-focused investments in Michigan. The Accelerator will help community lenders like community development finance institutions (CDFI), credit unions, and green banks across the state secure funding from the GGRF. The program

aims to attract millions of dollars to finance the development of clean energy projects for consumers, businesses, nonprofits and local governments throughout Michigan, offering families and businesses more access to financing for clean energy technologies, good-paying jobs, lower energy costs, and support for the implementation of the MI Healthy Climate Plan. The accelerator includes two strategies to unlock federal and private investments:

1. **Michigan Climate Investment Fund (MCIF):** Funded by the Make It in Michigan Competitiveness Fund, \$11 million will be available to support community leaders in securing federal funds for Michigan communities. The fund will provide \$10 million in matching grants for community lenders and \$1 million in technical assistance to help community lenders build capacity to apply for the CCIA.
2. **Michigan Climate Investment Hub (Hub):** The Hub located at Newlab at Michigan Central in Detroit is a public-private partnership that will foster partnerships among the State of Michigan, GGRF awardees, private investors, commercial lenders, community lenders, community organizations, philanthropic organizations and local governments. The Hub was created through philanthropic support from the Kresge Foundation and aims to position Michigan as a priority market for GGRF investment and facilitate the development of investment-ready projects.



Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II with White House and EPA officials, National GGRF awardees, Michigan community lenders, Michigan Infrastructure Office, and EGLE's OCE at the November 1 MCIA launch.

Cross-Cutting State Activities Supporting Implementation of the Plan

The following are brief summaries of just some of the cross-cutting work that EGLE is doing on behalf of the state of Michigan to coordinate and drive the implementation of the MI Healthy Climate Plan through **mobilization**, **strategic initiatives**, and **coordinating networks and stakeholders**. This is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather illustrative of the many actions being taken across the state toward reaching a carbon neutral Michigan.

CLIMATE EQUITY AND A JUST TRANSITION

Principles of environmental justice and climate equity are woven throughout the state's activities to implement the Plan, which calls for a commitment to 40% of the benefits of climate-related funding to go to disadvantaged communities, in alignment with federal obligations. EGLE's OCE, in partnership with EGLE's Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate (OEJPA), regularly meets with both the MAC-EJ and tribal nations across Michigan to provide updates and gather input on activities to implement the Plan.

EGLE launched two specific initiatives in 2024 that demonstrate a commitment to climate equity and a just transition – the Michigan Justice40 Accelerator and the Climate Justice Challenge:

Environmental Justice Impact Grants

Launched in December, [Michigan’s Environmental Justice Impact Grants](#) provided 43 awards to community-based organizations, local governments, Tribes, schools, and childcare centers for equity and place-based grants to improve public health, monitor pollution, enhance indoor air quality for children, and more. The grants, made possible by a \$20 million investment in Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s bipartisan Fiscal Year 2024 budget, were designed to reduce environmental burdens in communities with EJ concerns. Many awards included climate solutions, including tracking emissions, making energy efficient home upgrades, replacing appliances, planting trees, and more. EGLE’s OEJPA received 189 applications with nearly \$80 million in requests for grant funding, illustrating the demand for investments in communities across the state.

Justice40 Accelerator for Michigan

Michigan’s new [Justice40 Accelerator program](#) launched in October with 25 selected community organizations. The 12-month cohort program is designed to build capacity and provide funding, training, and technical support to organizations serving under-resourced and underserved communities statewide. The cohort will receive \$25,000 participation stipends, one-on-one support from Accelerator staff, technical assistance tailored to the organization’s needs, workshops on applying for government grants, peer-to-peer learning sessions, and informational sessions with government agency officials. The MI Justice40 Accelerator was created to support communities and organizations facing significant barriers to applying for federal and state funding. The program aims to support climate vulnerable and EJ communities by strengthening community-based organizations and advancing clean energy and resilience. The MI Justice40 Accelerator is a partnership of EGLE’s OCE and OEJPA and contracted nongovernmental organizations the [Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition](#) (MEJC) and [Elevate Energy](#).

MI Justice40 Accelerator 2024-25 Cohort Members

Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Detroit	Friends of Rouge Park
Avalon Village, Inc.	Growing Hope, Inc.
B.A.S.S., Inc. (Building Assets to Strengthen Society)	Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
Benton Harbor Community Development Corp	Keweenaw Community Foundation
Climate Crew Collective	N.E.W L.E.A.F. Detroit (No Earth Wasted - Living Ecological Awareness Farm)
Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance	One Love Global, Inc.
Community Collaboration on Climate Change (C4)	Soulardarity
Concerned Residents for South Dearborn	The Hispanic Service Center of Imlay City
Detroit Black Community Food Sovereignty Network	Urban Development Corporation
Detroit Dirt	Washington Heights United Methodist Church and Community
Detroit Justice Center	We Want Green, Too
Dream of Detroit	Young, Gifted & Green
Flint Community Lab	



“Environmental justice means equity, representation. Not just being in the room but being a strong voice in the conversation. It gives us power. It gives us more agency so we can support ourselves. Nothing for us, without us. The MI Justice40 Accelerator serves as a bridge, connecting grassroots organizations to larger opportunities. It provides agency to local organizations. The program will allow us to educate the next generation of climate leaders in our communities. It is imperative that we give our kids this opportunity.”

Nyesha Clark-Young is the Director for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for Saginaw’s Community Alliance for the People (CAP) and the Michigan Health Improvement Alliance (MHIA). The MHIA is a member of the inaugural MI Justice40 Accelerator.



“The MI Justice40 Accelerator will help us to know what funding opportunities are available to help support the needs of our Tribal communities. We hope to build capacity within ITC and for the Tribes - creating programs and projects to upgrade infrastructure, restore critical habitat, and reduce pollution within these historically underserved communities. Investing in the environmental justice initiatives shows that the State is trying to bridge that historical gap. These investments will also allow these communities to combat the effects of energy and fuel costs and the effects of climate change.”

Bill Bernier is the Environmental Services Director for the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan. The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan is a member of the inaugural MI Justice40 Accelerator.

Climate Justice Challenge to support EPA Community Change Grants

The EPA took applications for the \$2 billion Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants (CCG) program throughout 2024. To maximize the impact of this funding on EJ and climate equity in Michigan and help meet the goals of the MI Healthy Climate Plan, EGLE’s OCE and OEJPA, along with the MIO) created the Climate Justice Challenge (Challenge). Funded by the State’s Make It in Michigan Competitiveness Fund, the Challenge made available up to \$11 million in matching grant and technical assistance funding to community-based organizations applying to the EPA’s CCG program. The Challenge breaks down barriers to accessing the CCG by helping applicants access and navigate the grant application process through \$1 million in technical assistance through the MIO Technical Assistance Center and by providing a 5% match grant award to successful applicants in Michigan to expand program impact or increase organizational capacity to manage the EPA award. In December and July 2024, the EPA announced the first two rounds of CCG awards, distributing close to \$1.6 billion in grant funds. Tribal, local governments, and nonprofits in Michigan received approximately \$87.9 million in CCG grants. The five entities – the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, EcoWorks, Kalamazoo County, and Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association – will also receive match funding from the Challenge.

MI Solar for All

In April 2024, the EPA awarded the State of Michigan \$156.2 million in one-time, competitive federal funding for the [MI Solar for All program](#). In its application to the EPA's Solar for All program, EGLE proposed to design and deploy residential rooftop and community-serving solar projects to serve approximately 16,300 low-income and disadvantaged community (LIDAC) households across the state to provide an average 20% reduction on electricity bills. Michigan will collaboratively establish criteria for financial and technical assistance that best serves Michigan's LIDAC households and maximizes the use of complementary public and private funding sources to support residential rooftop and community solar installation, as well as storage and enabling upgrades for homes in need.

In October 2024, EGLE welcomed Dr. Joy Wang as the Director of the MI Solar For All program (MISFA). Dr. Wang will be responsible for managing and implementing MISFA throughout the state of Michigan. A Planning Consultant RFP was released on October 16 with proposals due November 19, 2024.

Looking ahead to 2025, MISFA plans to host and support community engagement sessions and stakeholder convenings, develop and refine program eligibility and prioritization criteria, develop an application platform, and finalize program design. Through collaborative planning, EGLE and many other state and local partners will ensure the maximization of complementary public and private funding sources to support residential rooftop and community solar installations, energy storage, and enabling upgrades for eligible households. This strategy will increase the impact of the MISFA program, helping more families in need and ensuring Michigan remains a national leader in bringing federal climate and energy dollars back to Michigan. The State of Michigan hopes to launch applications and projects in 2026. Interested residents and stakeholders can find additional information and sign up for future updates on the [EGLE Funding Opportunities website](#).

“Expanding access to renewable energy is critical, particularly for our low-income and environmental justice communities, to reducing pollution, protecting our world-class natural resources, and lowering energy costs for families.”

– EGLE Director Phil Roos

BUILDING CLIMATE CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Through the [Catalyst Communities](#) program, EGLE works with communities across the state to align priorities around the MI Healthy Climate Plan. EGLE's 2024 Michigan Sustainability Conference, held on October 3-4 in Novi, featured a Pre-Conference Catalyst Communities Workshop to discuss Federal Direct Pay options available to tax exempt entities to receive payment for municipal/county clean energy projects. EGLE also held technical assistance and resource-sharing sessions during the 2024 MI Healthy Climate Conference held on May 16 – 17 in Lansing.

The EGLE-backed [Michigan Green Communities](#) (MGC) Challenge is an annual benchmarking program that helps communities measure their progress toward sustainability, including climate mitigation and adaptation goals. The 2024 MGC Challenge Reporting Period was open between January 1 and May 1, 2024. The 2023 Challenge saw a 31% increase from 2022, recognizing 63 Michigan communities for sustainability accomplishments. Local governments participating in the Challenge receive free technical assistance and peer learning opportunities through the MGC Accelerator Cohort and [Catalyst Leadership Circle](#) (CLC).

MI HEALTHY CLIMATE CORPS



The OCE partnered with the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) to create the MI Healthy Climate Corps (MHC Corps) in 2022 as part of Michigan’s strategy to help implement the Plan, build local capacity for climate action, and build the next generation of climate leaders in Michigan. After a year of planning, the MHC Corps launched in March 2024 with 30 members serving at organizations across the state. These organizations included 11 nonprofits, 13 local government agencies, four state agencies, and one academic institution with members supporting projects addressing all pillars of the Plan (see table below). The first cohort served for seven months, ending their service in November 2024. The same week that the first cohort concluded, the second cohort of the MHC Corps began their 11-month term of service. This second cohort includes 31 members serving at 10 non-profits, nine local government agencies, nine state agencies, three academic institutions, and one organization supporting Tribes. The [Community Economic Development Association of Michigan](#) (CEDAM) is contracted to run the MHC Corps program.

Visit Michigan.gov/MHCCorps and explore the interactive “[Meet the MI Healthy Climate Corps members](#)” map to learn more about the MI Healthy Climate Corps members and their projects.

MI Healthy Climate Corps Cohort 1 – Service Locations

Antrim Conservation District	League of Michigan Bicyclists	Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan
City of Detroit	Let’s Grow Michigan	SEEDS Ecology and Education Center
City of East Lansing	Marquette County	Spartan Housing Cooperative
City of Kalamazoo	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Office of Climate and Energy	Superior Watershed Partnership
City of Lansing	Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO)	Transportation Riders United
City of River Rouge	Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Village of Elk Rapids
Clean Fuels Michigan	Michigan Saves	Washtenaw County Facilities Management Department
Detroit 2030 District	Oakland County	West Michigan Environmental Action Council
Detroit Future City		
East Bay Charter Township		
The Everly Collective		
Lansing Board of Water & Light		

MI Healthy Climate Corps Cohort 2 – Service Locations

City of Eastpointe	Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, Traverse City	Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Detroit
City of Grand Rapids	Ingham County	Michigan Environmental Council, Marquette
City of Kalamazoo	Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Sault, Ste. Marie	Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity, Traverse City
Community Housing Network, Troy	LEO Community and Worker Economic Transition Office	Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, Grand Rapids
Detroit 2030 District	Let's Grow Michigan, Lansing	Northern Michigan University
DNR, Office of Public Lands	Macomb County Planning and Economic Development	Plaster Creek Stewards, Calvin University, Grand Rapids
Eastside Community Network, Detroit	Marquette County	SEEDS Ecology and Education Centers, Traverse City
EGLE Environmental Support Division	Michigan State University	Superior Watershed Partnership, Marquette
EGLE Office of Climate and Energy	MassTimber@MSU	Washtenaw County Resilience Office
EGLE Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate	Michigan AFL-CIO Workforce Development, Lansing	Wayne County Sustainability and Innovation
Grand Valley Metro Council, Grand Rapids	Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)	



“The MI Healthy Climate Corps was an opportunity to gain practical experience, widen my network, and build relationships with other corps members and organizations doing climate work. The work we do as Corps members helps to build organizational capacity. The partnership (between the State of Michigan and AmeriCorps) shows that our state is passionate about climate work. It tells individuals, organizations, and municipalities that they (the State of Michigan) are trying every way possible to support them - yet another reason why I like to call Michigan a climate leader.”

Julia Cunnien (third from the right) is the Special Projects Manager for Michigan Saves. She served as an inaugural member of the MI Healthy Climate Corps in 2024.

COORDINATED CLIMATE ACTION AT EGLE

Each of EGLE’s 15 offices and divisions have identified at least one “Climate Liaison” from their team to help the OCE coordinate the implementation of the Plan. Facilitated by the OCE, the climate liaisons met monthly throughout 2024 to share information, align activities with the priorities articulated in the Plan, and identify areas for coordination across EGLE.

Participants in the voluntary program exchange ideas and further integrate climate considerations into EGLE's work. A sampling of how EGLE divisions and offices advanced climate actions in 2024 include:

Air Quality Division

- Coordinating methane emission reduction efforts with the Materials Management Division and Geologic Resource Management Division.
- Adding high-tech equipment to Air Quality Division's toolbox to help identify methane leaks at landfills.
- Part of interagency maritime strategy workgroup supporting port decarbonization across the state. This is in partnership with EGLE's Office of the Great Lakes.

Materials Management Division

- Developing resources on how to properly cap landfills with future renewables siting in mind and how to site when capped.
- Coordinating efforts with the Air Quality Division and Geologic Resource Management Division on methane emission reduction strategies.
- The Energy Services Section implements many programs related to EVs, EWR, and renewable energy. Both the Renewables Ready Communities Awards and the Michigan Home Energy Rebate program launched in 2024.

Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division

- Developing a division-specific climate action plan to complement the MI Healthy Climate Plan.
- Administering the Methane Emission Reduction Program.

Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division

- Collaborating with other EGLE divisions to create online educational materials on drinking water safety, sampling efforts, and efficiency measures such as regionalization.

Finance Division

- Exploring how to use the Plan and Justice40 definitions in tandem with previously identified overburdened communities for more insight into where and how money is being invested.

Information Management Division

- Developing a story map for the MI Healthy Climate Plan to help visualize the plan and the state GHG inventory data.
- Working with Esri and EGLE's environmental education coordinator to develop a mapping, data-based climate change education portal.

Office of the Clean Water Public Advocate

- Funding water leak detection studies through EGLE's Affordability and Planning grants. These studies identify leaks in municipalities' drinking water distribution system, saving water, money, and energy once repaired.

Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate

- Partnered with the OCE to develop the Michigan Justice40 Accelerator and the Climate Justice Challenge to support applicants to the EPA’s Community Change Grant program.
- Held a community-based EJ resiliency planning pilot in Southwest Detroit.
- Launched an Environmental Justice Impact Grant challenge with several project categories related to climate action.

Office of the Great Lakes

- Created an interagency maritime strategy workgroup to support port decarbonization strategies around Michigan.
- Won a \$3 million EPA grant to launch the MI Clean Ports program which will provide grants and technical assistance, helping ports with emissions inventories, planning efforts, community engagement, and more.

Office of Legislative Affairs

- Meets with the OCE to discuss climate-related legislation.
- Evaluating statutory programs that could hinder or further progress toward Plan goals.

Remediation and Redevelopment Division

- Continuing to work with Materials Management Division, the EPA, and the MDNR on siting of renewables on state-owned brownfields, landfills, and mines.
- Part of EGLE’s CPRG Implementation Grant award to launch a \$10 million Brownfield Renewable Energy Pilot in 2025.
- Collaborating with Information Management Division on needed improvements to EGLE Mapper and/or other state tools used in brownfield renewables siting.
- Regularly meets with a subcommittee of representatives from the Remediation and Redevelopment Division to work on further implementation of the Plan through current programming.

Water Resources Division

- Continued working on the draft “Water Resources Division Climate Change Requirements” plan.

Environmental Support Division

- Hosts the annual MI Healthy Climate Conference, in collaboration with the OCE.
- Leveraging the MI Green Schools program to accelerate climate action within K-12 schools.
- Developing a climate action guide template for K-12 schools.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Collaborative Planning Sessions

The OCE and the OEJPA hosted a collaborative planning session on Tuesday, October 8, to hear from communities with environmental and climate justice concerns. The session focused on ways to integrate justice and equity into climate action planning. Dr. Tony Reames, Associate Professor and Director of the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability Clinic, and Liesl Clark, Director of Climate Action Engagement



at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, led participants through an activity focused on community benefits related to climate action. As a hybrid event, participants had the option to join remotely with virtual breakout sessions.

- The in-person and virtual components yielded the following participation:
- In-Person: 130 registrations and 63 participants.
- Virtual: 270 registrations and 111 participants.

The OCE held three virtual listening sessions in 2024 to gain feedback from the public on the implementation of the Plan:

1. ***Clean the Electric Grid*** on November 20 focused on clean energy deployment, including improving siting for renewable energy and energy storage across Michigan. A total of 406 people registered for the event.
2. ***Electrify Vehicles and Increase Public Transit*** on December 10 focused on state-wide efforts to increase access to EVs and charging infrastructure and supporting just access to public transit and non-motorized transportation options. A total of 300 people registered for the event.
3. ***Repair and Decarbonize Homes and Businesses*** on December 18 focused on the importance of building electrification and fuel-switching, improving the energy efficiency of homes and businesses, and reducing emissions in government and nonprofit facilities. Over 300 people registered for the event,

Webinars



The OCE hosted six webinars in 2024 through the [MI Healthy Climate Webinar Series](#):

1. ***EPA Community Change Grants: Michigan Support*** on January 10 yielded 626 registrations, 298 participants, and 440 views post-recording. This webinar introduced the Community Change Grants and offered Michigan residents an opportunity to learn how frontline environmental and climate justice communities and grassroots groups can benefit from the program, including technical assistance, capacity building, project planning, and partnerships.
2. ***Solar for All Program Overview*** on April 2 yielded 372 registrations, 190 participants and 191 views post-recording. This webinar introduced Michigan residents to the Solar for All program.
3. ***Gearing up for \$20 billion in competitive green financing from GGRF*** on April 17 yielded 529 registrations, 233 participants, and 98 views post-recording. This webinar served as an opportunity for Michigan residents to learn about the EPA's NCIF and CCIA competitions and the ways these programs can support clean energy and green construction projects in Michigan communities.
4. ***Applying for the Environmental Justice Impact Grants and the Michigan Justice40 Accelerator*** on June 12 yielded 582 registrations, 231 participants, and 848 views post-recording. This webinar introduced Michigan residents to the Environmental Justice Impact Grants and the MI Justice40 Accelerator.
5. ***Leveraging federal dollars with Michigan's State Energy Financing Institutions (SEFI)*** on June 20 yielded 372 registrations, 149 participants, and 50 views post-recording. This webinar provided Michigan residents with an overview of the SEFI program and an opportunity to learn how the DOE Loan Programs Office and SEFI can support large-scale decarbonization projects and open new federal financing streams.
6. ***Michigan's \$129.1M Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Award: Creating the Renewables Ready Communities Program*** on August 20 yielded 443 registrations, 183 participants, and 379 views post-recording. The webinar focused on the importance of deploying utility-scale renewable energy and provided Michigan residents with an overview of Michigan's \$129M CPRG award from the EPA, an investment that will help Michigan meet its climate goals as outlined in the Plan.

Requests for Information and Project Ideas

To inform implementation of the Plan and specific programs, the OCE created numerous opportunities for formal input, including the following:

- **Online Survey for Priority Climate Actions:** In winter 2024, the OCE posted draft priority climate actions, as part of the “Implementing the MI Healthy Climate Plan: Michigan’s Priority Climate Action Plan.” The OCE received 64 responses from the public.
- **Request for Information on Using State Energy Financing Institution (SEFI) Funds to Leverage Federal Loans for Clean Energy:** In winter 2024, the OCE requested initial feedback on the potential use of state funds from a SEFI to implement the priorities outlined in the MHCP and the Clean Energy and Jobs Act and Clean Energy Future package and leverage federal funding from the DOE’s Loan Programs Office.

Newsletter Updates

The Michigan Climate Action News & Updates email listserv directly engages with Michigan residents interested in climate-related activities from the State of Michigan. In 2024, the listserv has distributed twelve monthly climate bulletins providing snapshots of the major activities related to climate and implementation of the Plan. Following is the current subscriber count of this and other climate-related listservs.

Email List Name	Current Subscriber Count
Michigan Climate Action News and Updates	6,997
Buildings and Housing Climate and Energy Updates	2,605
Catalyst Communities	5,159
Commercial and Industrial Climate and Energy Updates	13,259
Energy Consumer Tips	4,816
Energy Funding Opportunities	5,371
Energy Policy Roadmap	2,672
Natural Working Lands and Forest Products Climate and Energy Updates	4,945
Transportation and Mobility Climate and Energy Updates	2,501
TOTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS	46,192

Note: The total subscriber count does not account for emails that are signed up for multiple lists. Therefore, the total subscriber count should not be interpreted to represent a total number of unique individuals that have subscribed to climate-related email lists.

The MI Healthy Climate Conference



The OCE held the second annual [MI Healthy Climate Conference](#) on May 16-17 in Lansing. [Governor Whitmer delivered the keynote address](#) to a sold-out conference of 900 attendees, including attendees and speakers from 19 other states, representing the following categories:

- Academia (81 attendees)
- Community members (30 attendees)
- Consultants (107 attendees)
- Federal Government (6 attendees)
- Local Government (102 attendees)
- Manufacturing (21 attendees)
- Nonprofit (220 attendees)
- Service (33 attendees)
- State Government (162 attendees)
- Tribal Government (11 attendees)
- Utility (26 attendees)

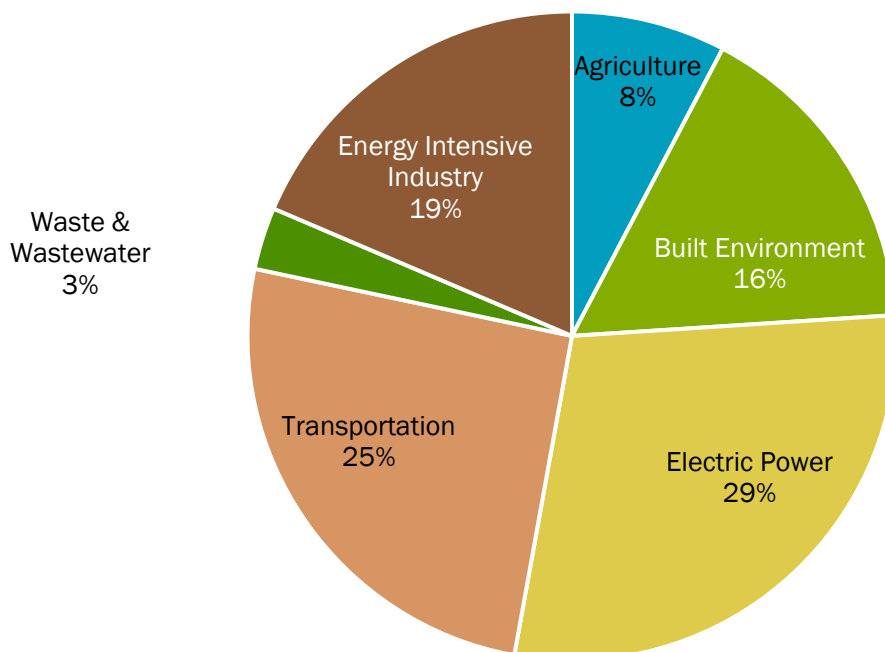
Along with presentations from more than 80 leaders and climate experts, Governor Whitmer and Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist announced three new initiatives including the [Climate Justice Challenge](#), the [Michigan Justice40 Technical Assistance Program](#), and [EGLE and MEDC's new designations](#) as State Energy Financing Institutions (SEFIs).

Sector-Specific Updates and Activities

The Plan includes recommended actions to support EJ and reach the Governor’s climate goals across five sources of emissions: electricity, transportation, built environment, industry, and natural and working lands. Below are brief snapshots of each sector and highlighted activities across Michigan helping to implement the Plan. This is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather illustrative of the many actions being taken across the state toward reaching the specific goals of the Plan.

Across all sectors, ongoing climate planning in the state of Michigan is supported by the EPA’s [CPRG program](#) planning grant. The CPRG program provides \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, Tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing GHG emissions and other harmful air pollution. In 2023, EGLE was named as the lead entity for the State of Michigan and [received a \\$3 million planning grant](#). In 2024, as a part of the CPRG Planning grant, EGLE published “[Implementing the MI Healthy Climate Plan: Priority Climate Action Plan](#)” (PCAP), which updated the state-wide GHG inventory and selected priority emission reduction measures. The PCAP was informed by extensive community engagement throughout 2023. In 2024, the CPRG Planning Grant allowed EGLE to continue climate planning efforts including further emissions analysis and community engagement. The 2021 state-wide inventory, developed with the data available from the EPA’s State Inventory Tool (SIT), is below.

Figure 1: 2021 Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector



Source: EPA SIT and EGLE analysis

ELECTRICITY: CLEAN THE ELECTRIC GRID

Nearly 30% of Michigan’s greenhouse gases come from the electric power sector. The Plan supports strategies to generate 60% of the state’s electricity from renewable resources and phase out remaining coal-fired power plants by 2030 and limiting the energy burden to no more than 6% of annual income for low-income households.

The [MPSC’s Low-Income Energy Policy Board](#) met eight times in 2024, covering topics such as energy affordability, home weatherization systems, home energy security, energy assistance legislation, and the Michigan Energy Assistance Program. In 2024, The [Michigan Energy Assistance Program](#) awarded [\\$54.5 million in grants](#) to provide energy assistance payments and self-sufficiency services to approximately 54,028 low-income households. The grant program runs through September 30, 2026.

The [MPSC awarded nearly \\$21 million in grants](#), including schools, community groups, Tribes and other organizations to fund renewable energy and electrification infrastructure projects in Michigan. The grant program prioritized funding for infrastructure or planning projects that meet one or more of the Plan’s goals to reduce GHG emissions and transition toward economy-wide carbon neutrality.

Increasing renewable energy is essential to meeting the goals of the Plan. EGLE launched the [Renewables Ready Communities Awards](#) (RRCA) in 2024, with funds made available by Governor Whitmer’s FY 2024 budget. The RRCA program aims to accelerate the buildout of large-scale renewable energy projects, like wind, solar, and storage, by providing flexible incentives to local units of government that permit and host the projects. These incentives provide funds for communities to make improvements and offer additional services to their residents, including road and bridge repairs, fire department upgrades, park and playground enhancements, accessibility accommodations and grounds improvements, and energy upgrades. RRCA incentives are additional to the tax revenue and community benefits already received by host communities. To date RRCA has supported enough renewable energy projects to [power 1.5 million households](#).

In April, [EGLE launched the Michigan Renewable Energy Academy](#), in partnership with the University of Michigan’s Graham Sustainability Institute, Michigan State University Extension, 5 Lakes Energy, and the Michigan Association of Planning. The \$1.9 million federal award from the DOE Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Assistance will support local renewable energy planning and deployment, prioritizing local participation and capacity building, to help local and Tribal governments navigate the complexities and harness the benefits of hosting renewable energy facilities.

In July, Michigan was [awarded a highly competitive \\$129.1 million](#) grant from the EPA’s CPRG program to scale the Renewables Ready Communities awards, launch a pilot to build renewable energy projects on brownfields, and further fund the Renewable Energy Academy. Michigan was one of 25 awardees from around the country. The funds enable EGLE to establish the Renewables Ready Communities Program to help overcome barriers to siting renewable energy and help the state reach the goal of 60% renewable energy by 2030. The Renewables Ready Communities Program includes five strategies, listed below. Michigan also reserved \$10 million of the grant award for renewable energy projects in Tribal communities.

1. Expanding the **Renewables Ready Communities Award pilot**, an initiative launched in 2024 with a one-time state investment of \$30 million, that provides financial incentives, on top of tax revenue and community benefits, to local and Tribal governments that approve and host utility-scale renewable energy and energy storage through local processes.
2. Creating the **Brownfield Renewable Energy Pilot** program to provide grants for renewable energy projects on brownfields, incentivizing deployment on brownfields.
3. Strengthening **EGLE’s Renewable Energy Academy** to develop technical assistance for local and Tribal governments to improve planning, siting, and permitting processes for renewable energy facilities and the new Brownfield Renewable Energy Pilot program.
4. Supporting **workforce development programs**, in coordination with LEO, to ensure Michigan has the workforce needed to build enough renewable energy to meet the state’s 2030 goals.
5. Developing a **Renewables Ready Communities Strategic Plan** to ensure a comprehensive strategy for utility-scale and brownfield renewable energy projects to meet the state’s 60% renewable energy by 2030 goals.

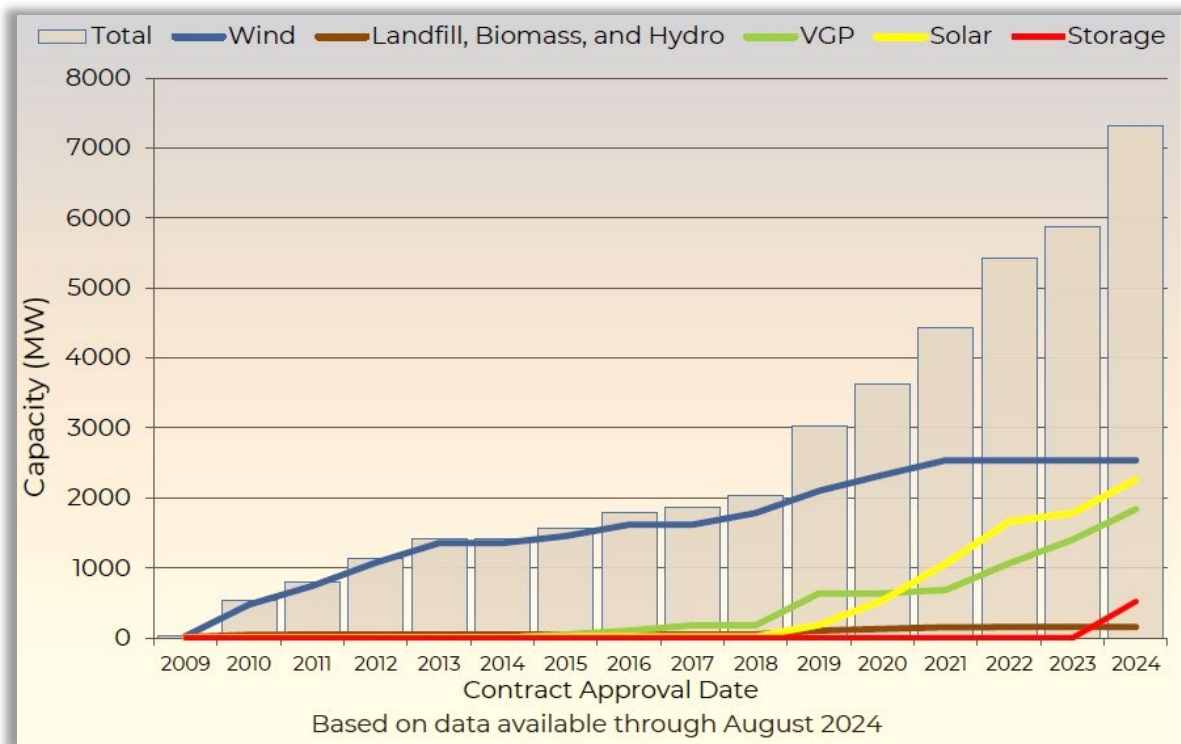
In September, the DOE finalized a \$1.52 billion loan agreement with Holtec International to aid in the [restart of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant](#). The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded over \$1.3 billion in Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program to support the restoration of service at the plant and lower energy costs. These investments will support Palisades in becoming the first successfully restarted nuclear power plant in American history, providing clean, reliable energy for 800,000 homes, and protecting 600 jobs.

Data on Cleaning the Electric Grid

The 2024 MPSC’s “[Status of Renewable Energy, Distributed Generation, and Legacy Net Metering](#)” report finds continued growth in the state’s renewable energy and distributed energy programs, with participation expected to continue to rise as the state implements the changes made to Michigan’s energy laws in 2023. The report finds that electric utilities regulated by the MPSC had approximately 6,000 MW of renewables online at the end of 2023 and that figure is set to jump to more than 8,000 MW by end of 2026 (see Figure 2). The amount of renewable generation in service statewide will exceed that number because utilities not regulated by the MPSC aren’t required to submit renewable energy contracts to the Commission.

Wind remains the largest source of renewable energy in Michigan, accounting for 59% of renewable generation, although solar generation continues to grow rapidly in Michigan, as shown in Figure 2. Michigan’s electric providers were required to meet a 15% renewable portfolio standard by 2021, and all of Michigan’s electric providers met that goal. With the passage of revamped energy laws in 2023, electric providers are now required to meet a 50% renewable portfolio by 2030 and 60% by 2035. The report found significant continued growth in utility voluntary green pricing (VGP) programs. Customer participation more than doubled from 2020 to 2023, from fewer than 40,000 participants to more than 100,000.

Figure 2: Cumulative Commission-Approved Renewable Energy Portfolio Capacity



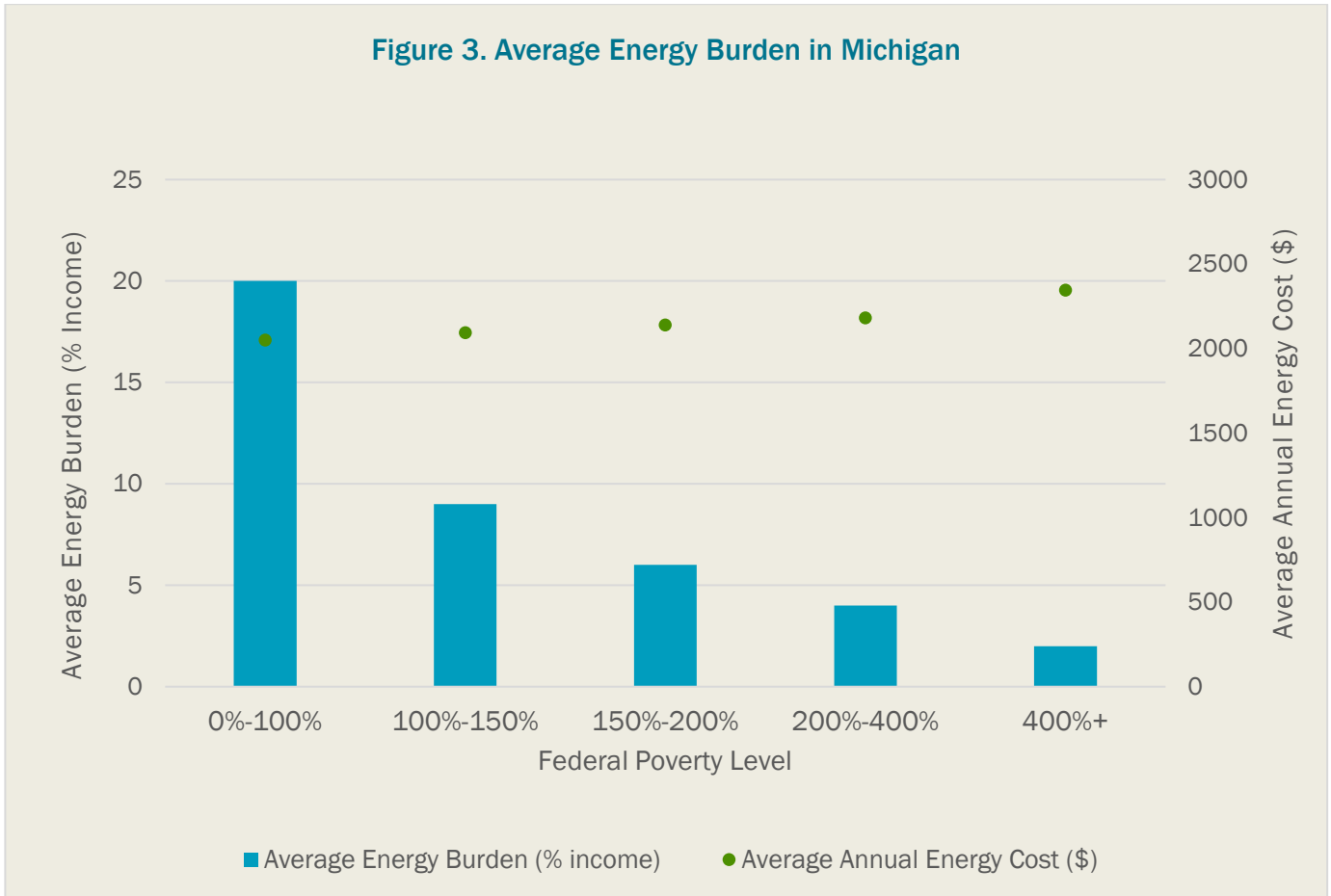
Source: MPSC Report (pg 11) - Status of Renewable Energy, Distributed Generation, and Legacy Net Metering in Michigan, 2024

The average energy burden – or the percentage of a household’s annual income spent on heat and electricity – [is 3% across the state of Michigan](#). However, for Michigan households making 100% or less of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), the average energy burden is 20% despite average annual energy costs being similar across income levels.

Across income categories, the average energy burden between 2023 and 2024 decreased by 3% for households whose income is 0%-100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL); 1% for households whose income is 100%-150% of the FPL; 1% for households whose income is 150%-200% of the FPL; and no change for households whose income is 200%-400% or greater than 400% of the FPL.

Figure 3 shows the average energy burden in Michigan by FPL, along with the average annual energy costs by FPL. Although those who are 400% of the FPL have slightly higher average annual energy costs, their average annual energy burden is much lower than those who are 0-100% FPL.

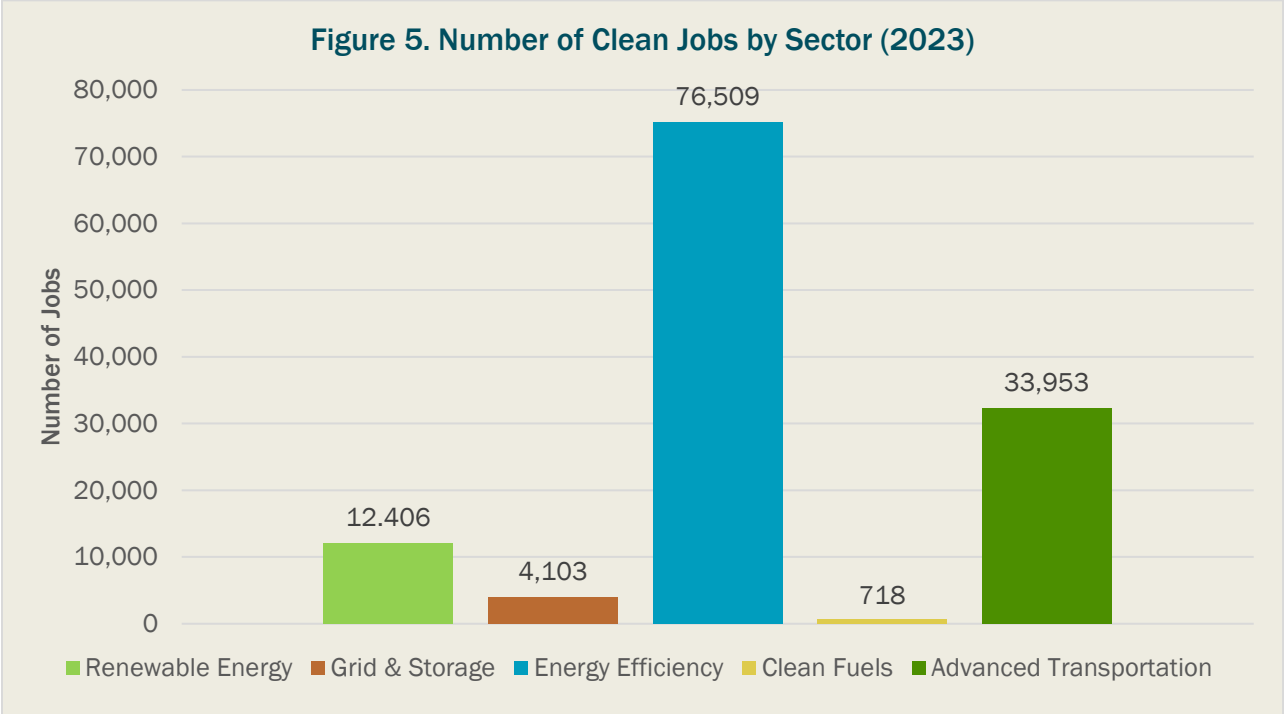
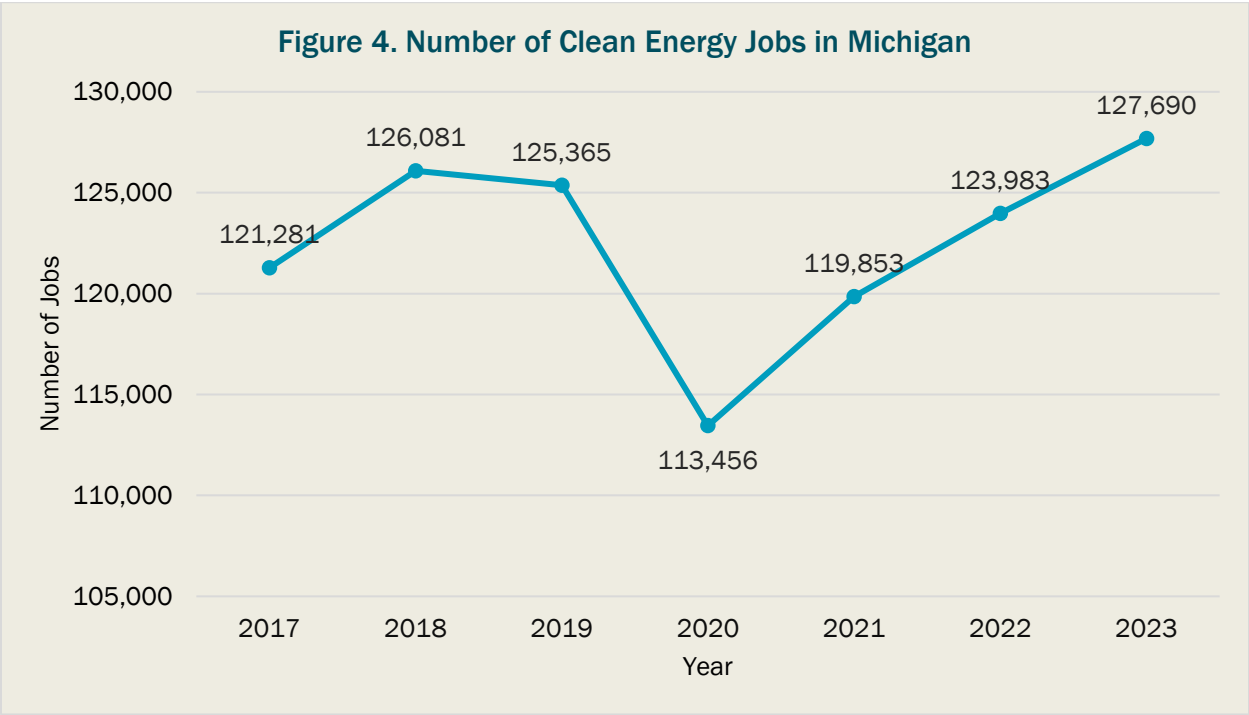
Figure 3. Average Energy Burden in Michigan



Source: DoE’s LEAD Tool

Data on Clean Energy Jobs

Michigan continues to lead the future of clean energy. The 2024 [Clean Jobs America Report](#) ranks Michigan 6th in the nation for clean energy job creation. [Clean energy employed 127,690 Michiganders in 2023](#), increasing 2.9% from 2022 (Figure 4). Following federal climate investments passed in 2022 and landmark state clean energy laws passed in 2023, the industry is poised for more growth. According to the most recent [Clean Jobs Midwest Report](#), 60% of total clean energy jobs in 2023 were in the energy efficiency sector, as shown in Figure 5. The advanced transportation sector created 33,953 jobs, up 5% from 2022. The renewable energy sector showed an increase of 3% from 2022 creating 12,406 jobs in 2023 (Figure 5).



Source: Clean Jobs Midwest

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY: ELECTRIFY VEHICLES AND INCREASE PUBLIC TRANSIT

Twenty-five percent of Michigan’s greenhouse gases come from transportation. The Plan supports strategies to build the infrastructure necessary to support two million EVs in Michigan by 2030 and increase access to clean transportation options.

In May, [school districts in Michigan received a \\$23.98 million federal investment](#) through the EPA's 2023 [Clean School Bus Program](#) rebate competition, funded by President Biden's [Investing in America](#) agenda, to purchase clean-powered school buses. Investments in clean school buses will improve air quality for students and communities, lower costs for schools, accelerate the transition to cleaner mobility solutions, and support the state's progress toward the goals of the Plan. This announcement continues progress started in 2019 when EGLE awarded a \$4.2 million [Fuel Transformation Program](#) grant toward the purchase of Michigan's first electric school buses and charging stations.

In June, EGLE announced a request for proposals for a project to develop a [maritime strategy for the state of Michigan](#) to advance greening, electrification, decarbonization, sustainability and infrastructure within Michigan's maritime sector. In September, [a team from the University of Michigan's Department of Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering](#) was chosen to develop a strategy aligning with the goals of the Plan. The team will engage stakeholders and Tribal nations to determine ways to advance greening, electrification, decarbonization, equity and EJ, infrastructure, and the long-term sustainability, including commercial shipping, ferries, ports, and harbors. The benefits of clean maritime travel are both economic and environmental, as the global market for electric boats and ships is [predicted to grow](#) by 10.4% each year through 2033.

The Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) also published the "[Zero Emission Plan](#)" in June 2024. Executive Directive 2023-5 required DTMB, in consultation with EGLE, the MIO, the MPSC, MDOT, and the Office of Future Mobility and Electrification, to establish policies that promote the immediate use of zero-emission vehicles in the state's fleet. The "Zero Emission Plan" outlines actions to be performed that will ensure directives are met and progress is made to reach target goals, including conversion of light duty vehicles in the state fleet to zero-emission vehicles by 2033, and conversion of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in the state fleet to zero-emission vehicles by 2040.

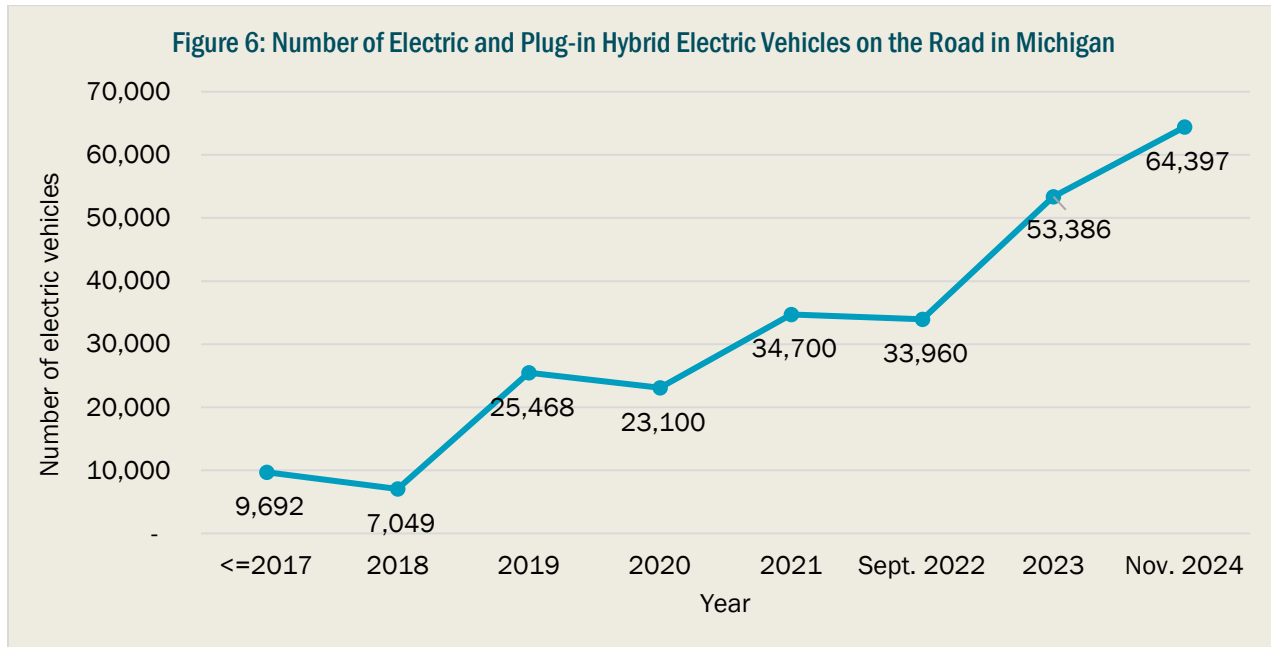
In September, five Michigan cities hosted EV ride-and-drives and informational sessions. The events were part of a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. The five cities were Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, East Lansing, Portage, and Ann Arbor.

In October the Office of Future Mobility Electrification launched the [MI Mobility Fellows Program](#), with support from CEDAM and Wayne State University. The Fellows will support mobility tech startups and founders who are based in Michigan Central's Newlab Detroit and work with transit and economic development agencies throughout Michigan to address mobility and transportation planning challenges.

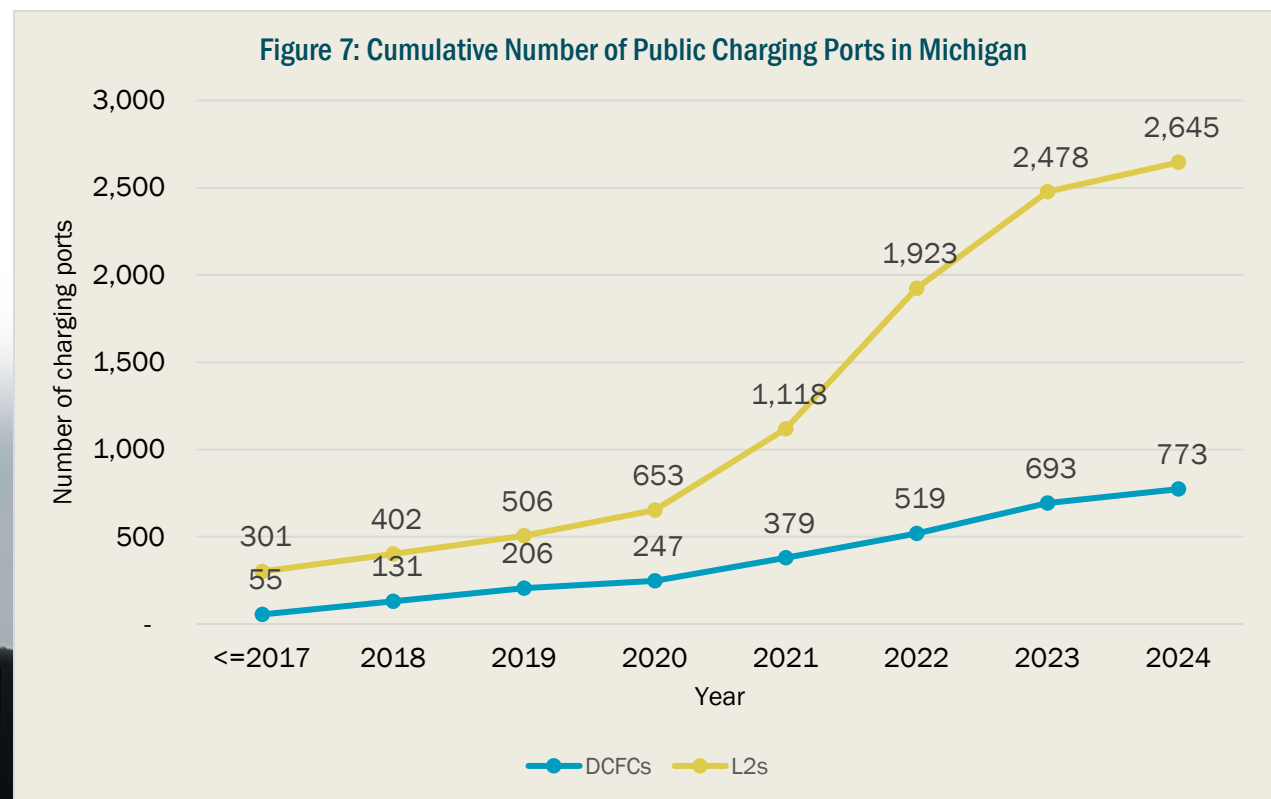
The [EV Jobs Academy](#), announced in 2023 by LEO, is an online resource hub for Michigan residents seeking employment in the EV industry. The EV Jobs Academy provides tuition assistance, apprenticeships, and pathways into relevant careers. In 2024, the EV Jobs Academy continues to serve as a valuable resource for careers in the EV industry.

Data on Electrifying Vehicles

Currently, 64,379 EVs and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) are registered with the State of Michigan, as shown in Figure 6. There are [1,679 EV Chargers](#) with 3,418 ports split between DC Fast Chargers and Public Level 2 stations, as shown in Figures 7. The EV Charger installation within the state rose substantially in the past few years. However, according to the [MI Future Mobility Plan](#), an additional 100,000 EV chargers are needed to fully support two million EVs.



Source: Atlas EV Hub for <=2017 to 2019; AFDC (modeled data) for 2020, 2021; MDOS for >=2022



Source: Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC) and EGLE, Materials Management Division

BUILT ENVIRONMENT: REPAIR AND DECARBONIZE HOMES AND BUSINESSES

Sixteen percent of Michigan GHG emissions come from the built environment. The Plan supports strategies to reduce emissions related to heating Michigan's homes and businesses by 17% by 2030 and increase investments in repairing and improving buildings to reduce costs for working families and small businesses.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) announced in February 2024 that they awarded \$7.4 million in grants to organizations across the state in a third wave of funding for the [Michigan Housing Opportunities Promoting Energy Efficiency program](#) (MI-HOPE). Since October 2022, MSHDA has provided MI-HOPE grants to local government and nonprofit agencies, who distribute support to residents in their communities through an application process. Homeowners can increase the energy efficiency of their homes through repairs and upgrades, such as roof and window replacement, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) modifications, electrical and appliance upgrades, storm door installation and more.

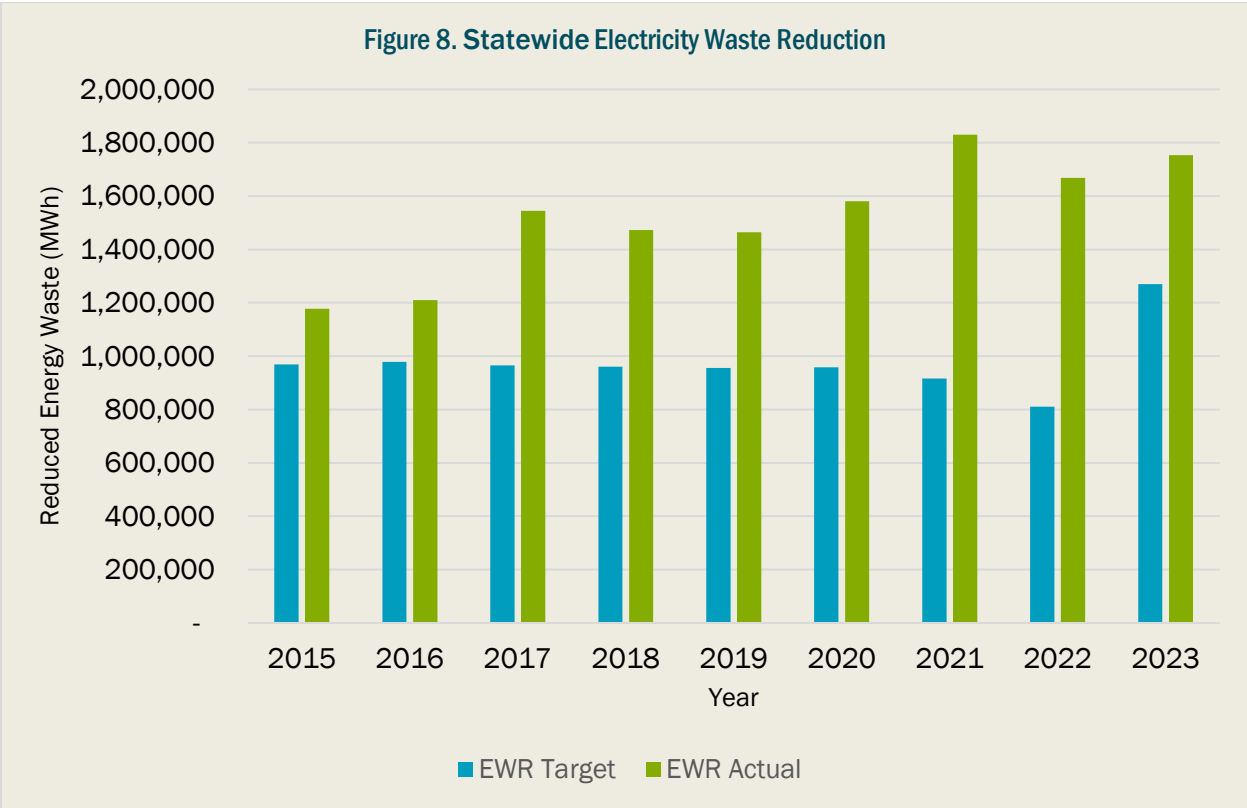
In October 2024, Governor Whitmer announced October as Weatherization Month. [The Weatherization Assistance Program](#), funded by the DOE and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), is administered by the MDHHS. The program provides energy conservation and related health and safety services for eligible low-income households at no cost to the resident, allowing participants to make energy-efficient improvements to their homes. In 2023, the BIL awarded Michigan \$183 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which bolstered ongoing state efforts on weatherization.

That same month, EGLE announced a milestone rollout of [Michigan's Home Energy Rebates \(MiHER\) Programs](#). The MiHER will help Michigan households save thousands of dollars on energy expenses through home energy improvements and new, efficient appliances, as 86% of the energy used in a home comes from heating and cooling spaces, boiling water, cooking, and refrigeration.

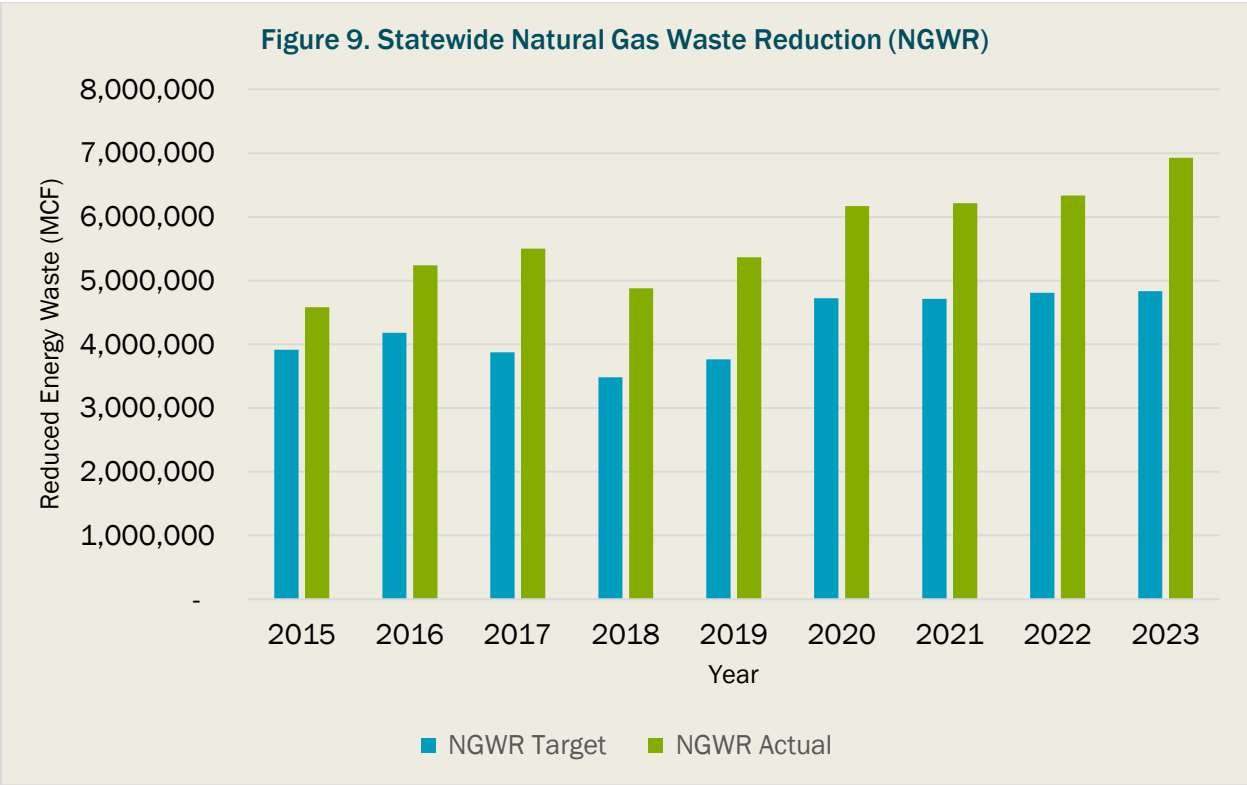
In November, the state launched the [Michigan Climate Investment Accelerator](#), unlocking access to billions in clean energy investment from the IRA. The Accelerator aims to attract billions of dollars to finance the development of clean energy projects for consumers, businesses, nonprofits, and local governments throughout Michigan. The program will help community lenders like community development finance institutions (CDFI), credit unions, and green banks across the state secure funding from the EPA's GGRF. Many of the investments from the GGRF could go towards building electrification and energy efficiency efforts.

Data on Repairing and Decarbonizing Homes and Businesses

The MPSC's latest [Annual Report on the Implementation of PA 295 2023 Utility Energy Waste Reduction Programs](#) found that Michigan's electric and natural gas utilities spent more than \$551 million on EWR programs in 2023, which is estimated to save customers \$1.4 billion over the 12-year lifecycle of the EWR programs and measures (implemented in 2022). For every dollar spent on EWR programs, customers realized savings of \$2.54. Michigan utility companies have consistently outperformed on their annual electricity waste reduction and their annual natural gas waste reduction goals, with electric utility providers achieving 138% and natural gas utility providers achieving 143% of their statutory minimums in 2023. Figures 8 and 9 show the EWR target and actual EWR achieved for electric and natural gas utility programs.



Source: MPSC 2023 Utility Energy Waste Reduction Programs
Annual Report on the Implementation of PA 295



Source: MPSC 2023 Utility Energy Waste Reduction Programs
Annual Report on the Implementation of PA 295

INDUSTRY: DRIVE CLEAN INNOVATION IN INDUSTRY

Nineteen percent of Michigan's greenhouse gas emissions come from energy-intensive industries and 3% come from waste and wastewater. The Plan supports strategies to develop and deploy new, cleaner manufacturing technologies and conduct research and development to reduce emissions from these industries. The Plan also emphasizes the goals to triple Michigan's recycling rate to 45% and cut food waste in half by 2030.

In May, [EGLE launched the joint EGLE-MEDC SEFI Program](#), which calls for large-scale clean energy technology projects to launch in Michigan and encourages economic development for new and existing organizations in Michigan while accelerating progress toward Michigan's goal of reaching 100% carbon neutrality by 2050. This new program has the potential to finance large-scale projects in support of industrial decarbonization along with deployment of other clean energy technologies.

In the summer, EGLE announced [new grants to boost recycling](#) in communities and grow a [more circular economy](#) with awards to businesses and nonprofit organizations. These efforts, among others, have steadily increased Michigan's recycling rate from what was historically the lowest in the Great Lakes region. Michigan's [recycling rate](#) has risen from 14.25% before 2019 to over 23% in 2024. EGLE officials forecast that at its current pace of improvement, Michigan is on track to achieve the state's goal of a 30% recycling rate by 2029.

In September, Governor Whitmer announced that the [DOE will award \\$355 million](#) to help four companies expand the manufacturing of batteries for EV and energy storage in Michigan and create or retain up to 929 permanent positions and support 1,435 construction jobs. This investment is the largest Michigan has received from any competitive BIL program. It will spur battery and advanced manufacturing projects, strengthen Michigan's energy independence, create good-paying jobs, and help the state achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

In 2024, Michigan and the DOE's Argonne National Laboratory [signed a memorandum of understanding](#) designed to bring Argonne's scientific research to support Michigan's clean energy transition such as decarbonized transportation and industrial processes. The partnership focuses on researching, developing, demonstrating and deploying technologies in four areas: industrial decarbonization, battery manufacturing and recycling, workforce development and future mobility systems planning. Investment decisions involving the decarbonization of Michigan's industrial base, which includes manufacturing products such as iron and steel, cement, chemicals, forest products and furniture, will be informed by Argonne's expertise in energy efficiency, industrial electrification, low-carbon fuels, and carbon capture and storage.

Michigan also received a \$9.1 Million from the U.S. Department of Treasury to help small automotive suppliers grow, with a \$500,000 matching grant from the Make It in Michigan Competitiveness Fund. This investment will launch the [Michigan Auto Supplier Transition Program](#) (MASTP) to support the critical steps the state is taking to help communities, businesses, and workers benefit from a clean energy future. The MASTP will help small and diverse automotive manufacturers and aftermarket suppliers secure financing to scale their operations and will serve businesses in their shift from the internal combustion engine auto supply chain to EVs. Services will be provided through educational opportunities and in-depth business health assessments, coaching, and subject matter expert advisory.

In 2024, Michigan won new investments to expand the state's clean energy economy. This included new economic development projects to expand the manufacturing of [EVs and batteries](#), [solar components](#), [energy efficient building materials](#), and more, helping the state create good-paying jobs and support communities. These investments provide the tools needed for decarbonization in Michigan—and across the globe.

NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS: PROTECT MICHIGAN'S LAND AND WATER

Eight percent of Michigan's GHG emissions come from the agriculture sector. The Plan supports strategies to protect 30% of Michigan's land and water by 2030 to naturally capture GHG emission, maintain and improve access to recreational opportunities for all Michiganders, and protect biodiversity, as well as ways to leverage innovative strategies to support climate-smart agriculture.

This year, MDARD announced their [Regenerative Agriculture Program](#) to support the adoption and expansion of regenerative agriculture practices to restore healthy soils and protect Michigan's natural resources. In October, MDARD [announced the selection of Dr. Laura Johnson](#) as the department's Chief Science Officer within the newly created Office of Agricultural Science and Research. This position aims to elevate the role of science in the development of programs and policies to improve climate resiliency.

MDARD also announced a [\\$4 million research grant with the University of Michigan](#). The funds will focus on soil health research to address water quality challenges and improve outcomes within Michigan's portion of the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). The grant also funds work to increase adoption of climate-smart regenerative agriculture practices and conduct water quality monitoring studies in the WLEB.

In September, the MDNR [announced their Michigan the Beautiful initiative](#) to conserve, restore and connect at least 30% of Michigan's lands and waters by 2030. The initiative seeks to engage with residents, organizations, and local units of government to collaboratively address climate change, inequitable access to the outdoors and the loss of wildlife and habitat.

Conclusion

The MI Healthy Climate Plan lays out a pathway for Michigan to reach 100% carbon neutrality by 2050 to avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis, create good-paying jobs, and build a healthier and more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable Michigan for all Michiganders. Michigan is committed to the implementation of the Plan, working towards the 2030 goal of reducing GHG emissions by 52% from 2005 baselines in an equitable manner. EGLE, through the Office of Climate and Energy, continues to coordinate its implementation in concert with state departments and agencies, Tribal and local governments, and key stakeholders. The Council on Climate Solutions and Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice will continue to provide advice, feedback, and guidance along the way. Together, we will continue to build a more equitable, just, healthy, and prosperous future and ensure that the benefits of this transition are enjoyed by all Michiganders.

