

2022 Annual Report



NCEL

National Caucus of
Environmental Legislators

A Message From NCEL's President

National Caucus of Environmental Legislators - 2022 Annual Report



“During 2022, NCEL was able to hold more in-person events, and once again I saw how important it is for us all to be able to meet and exchange ideas.”

Beth Kerttula

NCEL President
 Former Alaska House Minority Leader
 Former Director, National Ocean Council

State legislators who work on environmental issues are notoriously over-worked, underfunded, and outspent by well-funded polluters. At times it seems that everything is against you. But time and again, I have seen you turn that tide to bring the truth out, to work for justice, and to lead on climate solutions, ocean protection, clean energy, and many more critical issues. I am inspired by your work. It is what keeps me at NCEL, to help keep our commitment to support you.

During 2022, NCEL was able to hold more in-person events, and once again I saw how important it is for us all to be able to meet and exchange ideas, legislation, and plans on how to move our states, and indeed the country and planet, forward on critical environmental issues. This is the heart of NCEL - enabling YOU, the champions, to do your work. I am happy to report that NCEL has expanded our capacity to connect you, to provide key expertise, and to support your efforts in many other ways.

If I, or anyone at NCEL can ever be of service to you, please contact us. We respect your time and effort, and will always try our best to help.

This year I look forward to meeting more of you at our forums and workshops across the country, and to working with you at NCEL to help save the future of our planet. It is just that important, and you are the leaders who will get us there. My best to you all for a productive and rewarding year!

NCEL 2022 National Forum | Denver, CO



Board of Directors

- The Honorable Beth Kerttula** (President)
Former State Representative, Alaska
- The Honorable Chris Lee** (Vice President)
State Senator, Hawaii
- The Honorable Devin Carney**
State Representative, Connecticut
- The Honorable Jackie Dingfelder**
Former State Senator, Oregon
- The Honorable Alissa Keny-Guyer**
Former State Representative, Oregon
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- David Hochschild**
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- The Honorable Brian Kavanagh**
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State Representative, Washington
- The Honorable Nan Orrock**
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Sustainability Director, City of Atlanta
- J.R. Tolbert**
VP State Policy, Advanced Energy Economy
- The Honorable Alex Valdez**
State Representative, Colorado

A Message From the Executive Director

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Dylan McDowell
Acting Executive Director

“The work we do at NCEL is creating a world where all communities have clean air and water, biodiversity is thriving, and development is sustainable.”

NCEL continues to be the best opportunity for state legislators to learn about environmental solutions and connect with other leaders across the country. Our team provides lawmakers with the latest information and coordinates shared action for a better world.

In 2022, we grew our staff and program offerings. We launched an interactive bill tracking map and expanded our resource library to provide easy access to policy trends. We held 60 events on topics ranging from decarbonizing economies to protecting pollinator species, reducing plastic pollution, and expanding coastal restoration. Most importantly, we continued to showcase the incredible work happening at the state level and the elected officials that are striving for positive environmental change.

Throughout this work, our staff is committed to ensuring environmental justice is woven into the issues we work on, whether it's policies supporting a just transition, equitable access to nature, or removing harmful chemicals from drinking water. We continue to prioritize internal conversations and learning opportunities around diversity, equity, and inclusion to truly become a workplace that embodies these values.

As we end 2022 and begin 2023, I am proud of the fact that the work we do at NCEL is creating a world where all communities have clean air and water, biodiversity is thriving, and development is sustainable. Thank you for your continued support!

NCEL Staff



Jeff Mauk
Executive Director
(On Sabbatical)



Rory Anderson
Digital
Coordinator



Taylor Anderson
Communications
Manager



Kate Burgess
Conservation
Program Manager



Logan Christian
Wildlife and
Habitat Coordinator



Ava Gallo
Climate and
Energy Coordinator



Justin Gulino
Conservation
Associate



Mara Herman
Environmental Health
Program Manager



Gabrielle Houston
Project Manager for
Zero Waste and Circular
Economy



Ashley Kellner
Operations Manager



Dylan Macy
Communications
Associate



Julia Meltzer
Environmental Justice
Intern



Salvatore Messina
Development
Officer



Ruth Musgrave
Conservation
Senior Advisor



Carlos Ochoa
Ocean Program
Manager



Clara Summers
Climate and Energy
Program Manager



Angela Yuan
Project Manager for
Sustainable Agriculture
and Water

About NCEL

National Caucus of Environmental Legislators - 2022 Annual Report



Mission

The **National Caucus of Environmental Legislators** empowers a nonpartisan network of legislative champions to protect, conserve, and improve the natural and human environment.

Vision

State leadership advances a clean and healthy environment for all.

Why States Matter

States are often referred to as the laboratories of democracy. Many of America's landmark federal laws originated as, or were inspired by, state policies. Empowering state legislators can ensure groundbreaking environmental policies not just for states, but also the nation, making NCEL's mission crucial.

How We Work



Research

Provide facts, resources, and connect legislators with scientific research on current environmental issues.



Educate

Connect legislators to leading experts and their legislative colleagues to stay informed about environmental issues.



Convene

Founded by and for state legislators, we bring together legislators within states, regions, and across the country.



Empower

Foster collaboration across state lines to promote multi-state learning and action.



NCEL's 2022 Impact

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60
events
hosted



10+ new fact sheets
and other digital
resources created.



100+ legislators from **35**
states and territories attended
NCEL's annual **National Forum**.

5

nationwide
sign-on
letters with **480+**
total signatories.



146
media hits

Delegations of state
legislators sent to
COP15 & COP27
to highlight state leadership.



10

Issue-
Based
Working
Groups

38 **State**
Leads

State Leads
across 33 states
and territories.



Visit Us Online

To learn more about NCEL's year round
impact, be sure to visit our website,
ncelenviro.org.

2022 Legislative Highlights



23 states enacted
legislation supporting
low-carbon
transportation.



24 states enacted
legislation to prevent
plastic pollution.



10 states enacted
legislation to improve
flood resilience.



7 states enacted
legislation advancing
offshore wind energy.



7 states enacted
legislation to improve
outdoor engagement
opportunities.



6 states enacted
legislation to **protect**
pollinator species.



4 states enacted
legislation to facilitate a
bold **pathway to clean**
energy.



Climate & Energy

NCEL assisted lawmakers to advance a range of bold and equitable climate solutions in 2022. The Bold Decarbonization Working Group met regularly for learning opportunities on topics ranging from low-carbon transportation, green banks, and [Washington's Climate Commitment Act](#). NCEL hosted 22 climate-focused events, such as the first [New England Climate Convening](#) and [Southern Regional Environmental Legislators Conference](#). We expanded opportunities for legislators to take climate action through the power grid, including organizing lawmakers to speak out against climate-harming policies in [New England](#) and the [Mid-Atlantic](#). And more states focused on climate justice, such as [Maryland](#), which passed a landmark law setting one of the nation's most ambitious emission reduction goals while advancing environmental justice priorities.



Conservation

The conservation and revitalization of the nation's biodiversity garnered new attention from states in 2022. In May, [365 NCEL members](#) from 48 states and territories sent a letter to the Biden Administration requesting a coordinated federal strategy to address the rapid decline in wildlife and ecosystems. In addition to supporting lawmakers' work on biodiversity, habitat connectivity, pollinators, and other wildlife protections, NCEL continued its work to boost equitable nature access. Legislators from [28 states](#), including many members of NCEL's [Outdoor Working Group](#), championed bills to improve outdoor access and equity.



Environmental Health

Many states continued with focuses on reducing plastic pollution, cumulative pollution exposure, and the use of toxic chemicals in 2022. NCEL provided more shared learning opportunities its Plastic Pollution Working Group on a range of zero-waste solutions. NCEL members in [Colorado](#) sponsored landmark Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation, making it the third state to hold producers accountable for end-of-life management of plastic packaging. NCEL's Mississippi River Legislative Caucus expanded its ability to convene lawmakers around solutions to improve the health of the river, including an immersive [river tour](#) in June and the return of the annual [MRLC Forum](#) in September.



Ocean

To meet the increasing demand for ocean-based solutions, NCEL launched a new program dedicated solely to ocean policy topics such as the offshore energy transition, coastal resilience, and marine wildlife protection. Members of NCEL's Coastal Working Group, comprising 18 coastal states, continued to convene to learn from one another and present on the ocean-based solutions they're advancing, including at NCEL's legislator-led panel during [Capitol Hill Ocean Week](#).

One Big Thing: Federal Engagement

Throughout the year, NCEL facilitated collaboration between the state and federal levels to advance equitable environmental action. In response to historic federal investments from the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) and [Inflation Reduction Act](#), NCEL staff created briefing books and hosted events on the ways states can leverage these federal funds for environmental priorities. We connected state and federal officials by hosting events with the U.S. Department of Transportation and White House Council on Environmental Quality and sent a group of state legislators to the White House in December to discuss 2023 legislative priorities.



NCEL members visit the White House to discuss 2023 legislative priorities | Washington, D.C.

NCEL 2022 National Forum

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State Legislators from 35 States Convene in Denver to Discuss Environmental Policy

On July 29 and 30, over 100 state legislators from 35 states convened in Denver, Colorado for the in-person return of NCEL's [National Forum](#). The Forum provides state lawmakers the opportunity to collaborate on policy solutions related to climate, energy, conservation, and environmental health.

This year's National Forum was framed around NCEL's dedication to ensuring a healthy environment for all, opening with a session focused on centering health in environmental policy led by NCEL Program Managers. Other session topics included reversing the decline of biodiversity, expanding the U.S. offshore wind industry, creating renewable-friendly utility policy, protecting communities from toxic chemicals, and much more. Legislators heard from a range of environmental experts, as well as fellow lawmakers such as Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon, Rep. Debra Lekanoff, and Sen. Reuven Carlyle who were influential in securing the passage of [Washington's landmark cap-and-invest bill](#).

During the Forum weekend, NCEL partnered with REI's Denver Flagship Store to host our 25th Anniversary Celebration. Attendees enjoyed an evening of food, music, and conversation while hearing remarks on the history of NCEL and visiting with partner brands in the outdoor recreation industry. Here's to another 25 years of NCEL!

2022 Rising Environmental Leader Award



Madinah Wilson-Anton
State Representative
Delaware



Kayla Young
State Delegate
West Virginia



2022 Environmental Achievement Award



Steve Englebright
State Assemblyman
New York



2022 Environmental Activism Award



Natalie Murdock
State Senator
North Carolina



2022 Forum Sponsors



NCEL on the International Stage

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Global Issues, Local Solutions

At NCEL, it is our belief that addressing global environmental issues begins with strong local solutions. That is why we were thrilled to expand our international presence in 2022. NCEL sent delegations of state legislators to two United Nations Conferences to uplift the strong work of U.S. states and to learn from policymakers around the globe also working to tackle climate change and the biodiversity crisis.



COP27 United Nations Climate Change Conference Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt | Nov. 2022

For the second year, NCEL sent a delegation of staff and state legislators to the [United Nations Climate Change Conference \(COP27\)](#) to exchange ideas with the world's climate leaders and showcase the leadership of U.S. states in addressing the climate crisis. While in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, NCEL's delegation took part in six events, including NCEL's headline event on how states are addressing climate change and planning to implement new federal funding for environmental priorities. Other highlights included meeting with a delegation of Argentinian subnational leaders, a delegation of mayors and county officials from ICLEI, and top U.S. climate officials such as National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi.



COP15 United Nations Biodiversity Conference Montreal, Canada | Dec. 2022

In December another delegation of NCEL staff and state legislators joined leaders from across the world at the [United Nations Biodiversity Conference \(COP15\)](#) in Montreal. Bringing the U.S. state perspective to international biodiversity talks is particularly important, as the U.S. is [one of the only nations](#) without a federal strategy to combat biodiversity loss and one of the two UN member states that has not ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity - the landmark international agreement to protect nature. While at COP15, NCEL's legislator delegation worked to show that despite federal inaction in the U.S., [states are leading the charge](#) on land, water, and wildlife protection.

2022 Financials

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Continued Growth

NCEL continues to grow its budget sustainably year-over-year. In 2022, NCEL reached our first \$2 million budget, while remaining in the top 20% of nonprofits for revenue. We intend to grow our budget and our impact even further in the coming years.

NCEL operates on an accrual accounting basis. As such, grants received in late 2021 to fund work throughout 2022 are not reflected in the revenue figure below. These funds, as planned, covered the difference between 2022 revenue and expenses.

NCEL's 2022 Revenue:

\$2,042,711

Grants \$1,905,200
Event Sponsorship \$112,615
Individual Contributions: \$24,896

Program Expenses \$1,786,833

Climate and Energy \$530,388
Conservation \$459,371
Environmental Health \$548,489
Annual Forum \$248,584

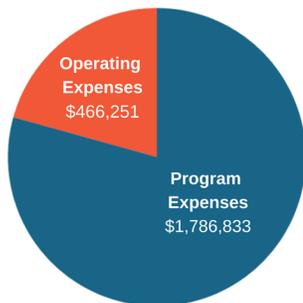
General and Administrative \$297,225

Fundraising \$169,296

NCEL's 2022 Expenses:

\$2,253,354

Expenses for NCEL's new Ocean program are included in the Climate and Energy program expenses for 2022.



79% of expenses went directly to **informing, convening, and collaborating with state legislators.**

Supporting NCEL's Work

Each year, an increasing number of environmental legislators and advocates are choosing to support NCEL's work with tax-deductible donations. Donations are critical in ensuring NCEL's systems and staff capacity can continuously grow at pace with the increasing number of legislator requests for assistance we receive each session on an ever-widening range of policy topics.

While recurring monthly donations starting at \$15 a month provide us with an incredibly valuable sense of flexibility in project planning, donations of any size and frequency are greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a donation or receive more information, please visit ncelenviro.org/donate or contact NCEL Development Officer, [Salvatore Messina](#).



Stay Connected With Us!

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 ncelenviro.org

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