

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF OUR POWER





Monica Atkins, Climate Justice Alliance Co-Executive Director – Photo by Brooke Anderson

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

White supremacy and capitalism are the undercurrents of climate change and continue to exacerbate the climate crisis, especially in these challenging times. This year, we have striven to keep our communities, families, and each other safe during an ongoing global pandemic, wars, a growing empowered right wing, voter suppression, and a general neoliberal push to support false solutions in exchange for our communities' wellbeing. Our work continues to be to make Just Transition real on the ground by ensuring true liberation for both people and planet; we simply can't afford to sacrifice one for the other. Environmental and climate justice is about ensuring both.

In Jackson, Mississippi, the water crisis and state of emergency has been ongoing after a water treatment plant broke down during record rains and flooding over the summer of 2022. The result

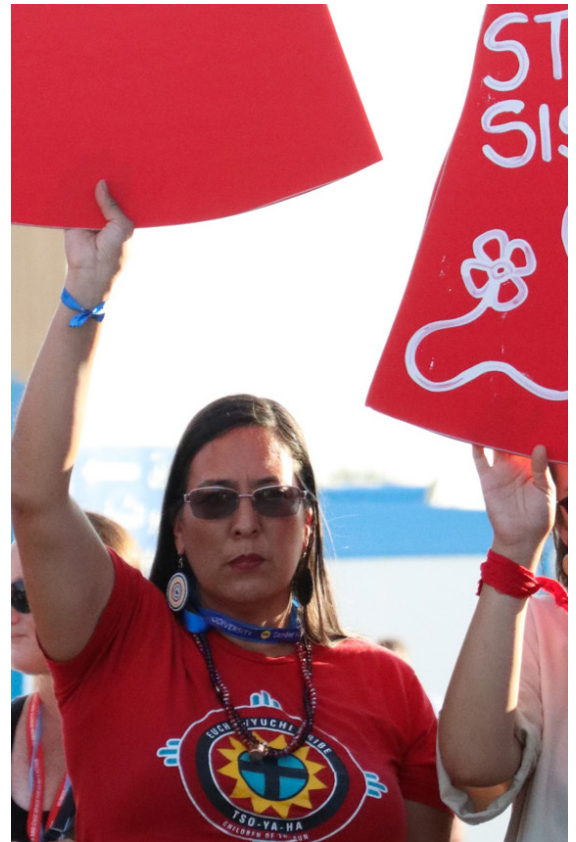
for many was having to live with contaminated water. CJA member Cooperation Jackson, and others in the community immediately stepped up, providing direct support to communities through water delivery and resource distribution. This is but just one example of how frontline communities ensure a Just Recovery, whether they originate directly from the extractive economy or happen alongside droughts, wildfires, hurricanes and other climate disasters. CJA members have also shown up to build exciting community-owned renewable energy projects and beat back dangerous federal legislation that would further harm those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

As we continue onward in the fight for climate justice in our communities, we invite you to take this moment with us to reflect on the past year, and ensure we continue to learn from

our ancestors and glean the important lessons that help us continue their legacy of renewal, rejuvenation, and adaptation in fighting the bad and building the new. After all, we are the ones we have been waiting for. We are our ancestors' wildest dreams! Now is the time for us to really take this in, and nourish and care for ourselves and our members so that together our movement continues on for another ten years, even more powerfully than imagined.

As you turn the pages, we invite you to also look ahead in anticipation of Climate Justice Alliance's 10-year anniversary in 2023 and reflect on the multitude of accomplishments our growing membership of 89 urban and rural frontline communities, organizations and movement support networks have achieved this past year. We hope you find inspiration and rejuvenation from them as we celebrate the power of this leaderful movement and political home we call CJA, and move closer every day toward realizing a Just Transition.

In solidarity,
Bineshi, Monica, and Marion



Top: Ozawa Bineshi Albert, Climate Justice Alliance Co-Executive Director – Photo by Meron Tebeje
Bottom: Marion Gee, Climate Justice Alliance Co-Executive Director – Photo by Hendrik Voss.



August 7th, 2014 – CJA’s first National Our Power Convening in Richmond, CA – Photo by Farhad Ebrahimi

FRONTLINES OF CRISIS, FOREFRONT OF CHANGE: A 10-year Retrospective

In 2023, Climate Justice Alliance turns 10.

Although many of us weren’t using the word “climate” to describe our community-driven work 10 years ago, we were fighting the impending climate crisis through our relentless confrontation with the very industries driving climate change. Back then the concept of climate justice was just emerging from environmental justice communities— places that share legacies of racism, classism, exploitation, extraction, pollution and poisoned ecosystems, and the resulting devastating health impacts. Our communities’ status as sacrifice zones is a product of the dig, burn, dump economy, driven by greed and prioritization of profits, above all else.

It is our environmental justice leaders, with lived experience emerging from civil rights struggles, who set the path for the current climate justice movement of today. For decades, we have been calling for the most impacted communities to be centered and leading, demanding that root causes be addressed. And in 2013, after a more-than-three-year alignment process, the [Climate Justice Alliance was born](#).

It is impossible for words to capture the wisdom and inspiration of our grassroots leaders who’ve led the evolution of the climate justice movement over the last decade. But, words can



March 29th, 2019 - Living Our Power Member Convening in Albuquerque, NM - Photo by Hendrik Voss

reflect the depth and breadth of the progression and maturation that has occurred during these pivotal years.

Highlights of CJA's first decade:

From 7 Pilot Communities and 40 Members to

In the early days of CJA, we had approximately 40 members and 7 pilot communities forging Just Transitions at the local level, anchored by 8 grassroots organizations in Eastern KY; Detroit, MI; Richmond, CA; Black Mesa, AZ; Jackson, MS; San Francisco, CA; and San Antonio, TX. We now have [48 Our Power Communities](#) — our grassroots, base building members — and a total of [89 members](#) across 29 states, Indigenous territories, Guam and Puerto Rico. Over the last few years we have also experimented with several models for regional organizing. At this point, we organize our membership within nine regions (see pgs 13-16), each anchored by an elected member “convener” to guide CJA work, while building relationships and power in the region.

From Visions of a Just Transition to

In addition to grounding our work in the [Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing](#), our work is guided by the [Just Transition framework](#) and our [Just Transition principles](#). The brilliance of our grassroots leaders has also shaped other core resources that have influenced the climate justice movement, such as the [People's Solutions Lens](#); [A People's Orientation to a Regenerative Economy](#): Protect, Repair, Invest, and Transform; and the [THRIVE Agenda](#). Over the last 10 years, our members have brought these principles and frameworks to life by building out myriad iterations of local, living, regenerative economies grounded in justice, equity, and respect for ecological boundaries. Responsive to the conditions in their local communities, these solutions range from community-controlled renewable energy to relocalized food systems, safe and affordable housing, equitable transportation, and zero waste projects; and from worker-owned cooperatives to community land trusts to local non-extractive loan funds, and more. Also, it is the foundation of the decades-long environmental justice movement and the



June 1st, 2016 – Growing our Power Member Convening in St. Louis, MO – Photo by Jaron Browne

power of grassroots organizing that has made possible the significant local-to-federal policy shifts we've seen in recent years, such as the Portland Clean Energy Fund, the New Jersey Environmental Justice Law, and the federal Justice40 Initiative.

From Building the Bigger We to

Over the last decade, Climate Justice Alliance has worked to [Build the Bigger We](#) by helping to build and coordinate movement formations that respond to frontline organizations' needs and elevate their work to Fight the Bad, Build the New, Change the Rules, Change the Story, and Move the Money. Some of these formations include: our [Black Caucus](#), [Creative Wildfire](#), [Communicating Our Power](#), [It Takes Roots](#), [United Frontline Table](#), and [Green New Deal Network](#).

From Translocal Organizing to

Across the alliance, our grassroots members lead organizing strategies at the local level with a shared unifying vision, strategies, and frames that build momentum for change. Throughout

the years, we've co-led larger mobilizations to bridge translocal to national and international strategies and movement building, such as: [Our Power Convenings](#), [People's Climate March\(es\)](#), [Solidarity to Solutions](#), [Black 2 Just Transition](#), and [delegations to Capitol Hill](#) and to [global U.N. climate meetings](#).

From Climate Disasters, Pandemic, and Political Shifts to

As storms, flooding, wildfires, and drought become more volatile and frequent; the covid-19 pandemic brings unpredictability, untold stress, and unimaginable grief and loss; and we witness increased instability in social and political systems and infrastructure, our members ground in people-to-people solutions and rapid response strategies that center well-being — from [Just Recovery solidarity brigades](#) to [mutual aid support networks](#).

From Calls to Fund the Grassroots and Divest From the Extractive Economy to

Through our resource mobilization strategies, we've built out the [Our Power Loan Fund](#) to support Just Transition projects through lending



June 5th, 2014 – Our Power Youth Convening in Detroit, MI

that supports community control of capital; supported the creation of [Seed Commons](#) as a financial cooperative, of which we are a member; accompanied the development of local loan funds among our members; stewarded the launch of [Fund for Frontline Power](#), a fully grassroots-governed fund that supports grassroots-led climate solutions; directly influenced the movement of more than \$100 million in new funding to grassroots environmental justice organizations; and designed a [campaign to philanthropy](#) to move \$100 million from the extractive economy to regenerative economies.

From Fighting Extreme Energy to

In CJA's early days, we focused a lot on fighting dirty energy, including coal, gas, oil, and fracking — from extraction and refining to transporting and dumping. As we grew, our focus broadened to encompass a multitude of other industries responsible for the climate crisis, such as industrial agriculture; manufacturing and plastics; transport of goods via highway, rail, and air; and others. And, our opposition has complexified as corporate greenwashing and false solutions have proliferated and compelled us to fight back against [techno-fixes](#)

and [market-based schemes](#) that are unproven, hold known and unknown risks, utilize exorbitant resources, continue to harm our communities, and perpetuate the concentration of wealth and power.

This brief retrospect barely does justice to the energy, time, and heart that has gone into building deep alignment within the alliance over the last decade. These years have been evocative, generative, and definitive. The fight and challenges ahead will demand more of us. More clarity, more cohesion, more unified vision. With toughened resolve and sharpened tactics, we're looking forward to the next 10 years being even more transformative.



Illustration by Maisie Richards & Lokotah Sanborn

DEAR FUTURE CJA FAMILY...

Since our alliance is officially turning 10 years old, we're taking the opportunity to ponder where we'll be in another decade by writing ourselves a love letter.

To our Future CJA Family: We hope you are strong in heart and spirit. As we write this, we reflect on how 2022 presented new opportunities, challenges and threats to our work, but we stood strong. We were excited to explore a shared leadership model and establish new forms of governance committed to self-transformation and receptive to offerings from the larger “We”. The alliance has gained significant attention, both desired and sometimes unwelcomed, further rooting CJA as the center of gravity in the climate justice movement. Close relationships with experts

and allies kept us grounded in our mission while we responded to deceptive and invasive policy changes that impact our communities. The lessons learned from the push by the Biden Administration to pass the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and our work to defeat Manchin’s dirty side deal will stay with us far into the future.

We hope the many lessons that we have learned shape the way we exist in 2033. Now more than ever, our members are calling for bold action that pushes elected officials to do the very most possible to solve the climate crisis while also



October 13th, 2022 – Our Power Communities Summit in San Antonio, TX – Photo by Greg Harman

creating spaces of rest and healing for frontline communities who often dedicate their entire lives to environmental justice. In order to sustain our movement, we must identify and create sanctuaries for folks to reconnect with the land and people. Through the next 10 years we imagine scaling out the work of healers, mediators, and culture bearers to help build out these spaces for our people. We know the decade ahead will not be easy but we are eager to double down on our Just Transition and Just Recovery work and prepare for what we know is coming. We will be ready to show up and throw down for our members when they need us.

When we imagine our beautiful alliance in 2033, our hope is that we've fully embodied our role as a grassroots-built, grassroots-led national alliance. CJA will deeply know itself, when and where it is capable of serving its membership, and how to strategically respond to national policy developments at the rate and speed

required to meet the political moment. We will have made Just Transition real on the ground, accumulated community wealth, and established an intergenerational throughline in our work that embraces and encourages mentorship, collective learning, and shared knowledge. By 2033, CJA will be thriving and no longer organizing for a seat at the table, because we will already be there!

We know we will win because we've already begun to see the seeds of change sprout in our communities. CJA looks forward to continuing to uplift and support grassroots work, and model the pathway forward for a regenerative future.

Sending love from the frontlines,

CJA's Board of Directors
(2022 edition)

OUR MEMBERS

CJA has **89** members across **29** states,
Indigenous Territories, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

15 Alliances or Networks

48 Our Power Communities

26 Movement Support
Organizations



Photo by Frank Blazquez



Photo by Malena Mayorga

CJA'S OUR POWER COMMUNITIES

What's an Our Power Community?

Our Power Communities (OPCs) are base-building frontline organizations – led by and accountable to people, neighborhoods, or whole communities – that are directly impacted by systemic racism and the industries driving the climate crisis. Our Power Communities are committed to upholding Just Transition principles through a dual strategy of fighting the bad (extractive industries that continue to harm our communities, and false solutions that perpetuate that harm and continue to concentrate wealth and power) while building the new (frontline-led climate solutions and policies that work for people and the planet by centering equity, justice, and respect for ecological boundaries). They are organizing regionally and united by a common goal to create living examples of how communities can put people to work transforming their localities towards a Just Transition, while building out equity-based economic models in right relationship with the Earth and reducing pollution burdens for present and future generations.



Pacific Northwest

★ **Regional Convenor: Oregon Just Transition Alliance**

- Community to Community Development
- Got Green
- Native Movement
- OPAL Environmental Justice of Oregon
- Verde Northwest



West

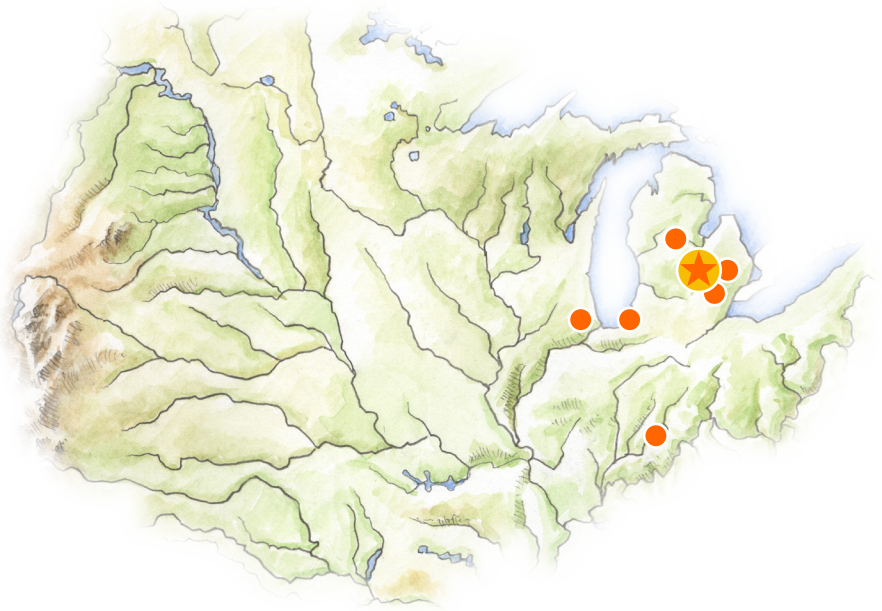
★ **Regional Convenor: Rich City Rides**

- Acta Non Verba
- Asian Pacific Environmental Network
- Communities for a Better Environment
- Community in Resistance For Economic and Cultural Empowerment Urban Farming Cooperative
- Cooperation Humboldt
- Orange County Environmental Justice Education Fund
- People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights
- Urban Tilth

Midwest

★ Regional Convenor: Detroit Black Community Food Security Network

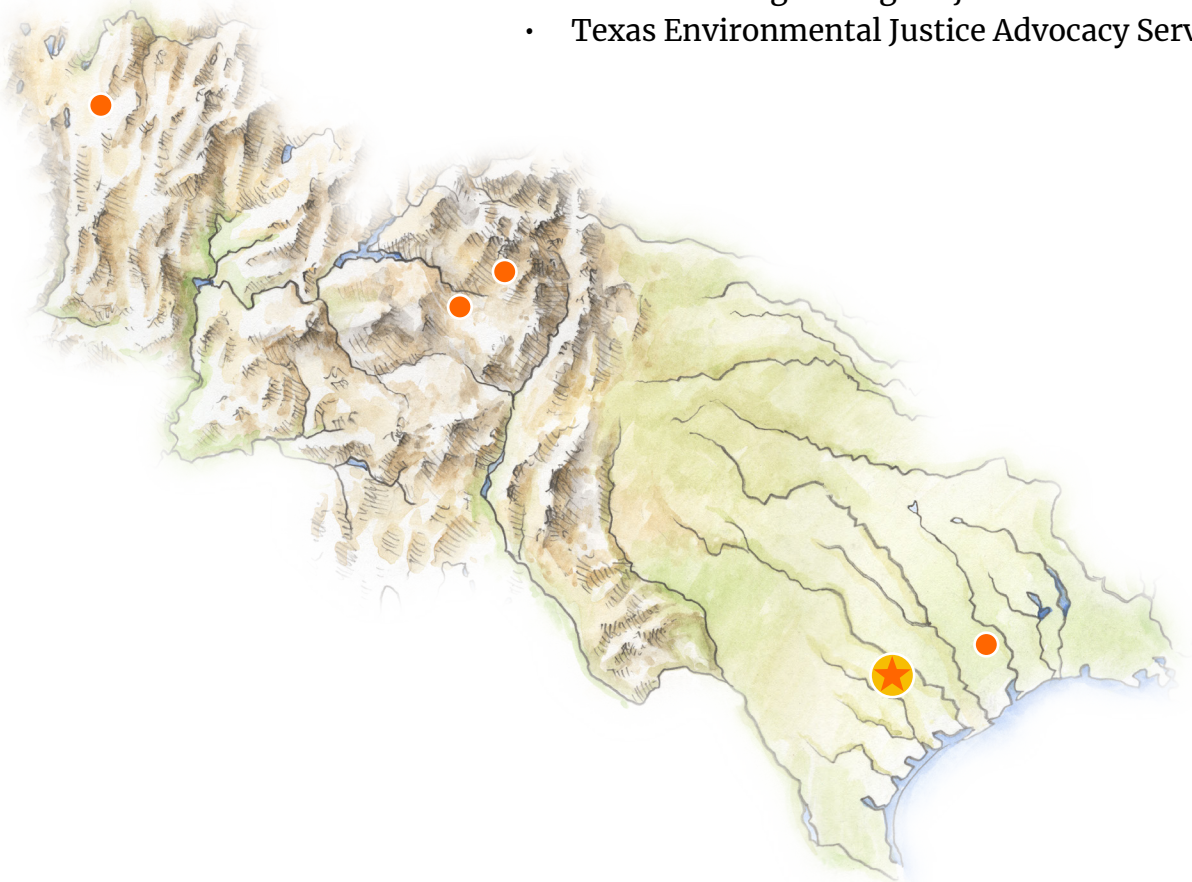
- East Michigan Environmental Action Council
- Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint
- Kheprw Institute
- Just Transition Northwest Indiana
- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
- Soulardarity



South by Southwest

★ Regional Convenor: Southwest Workers Union

- Earthcare New Mexico
- Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
- SouthWest Organizing Project
- Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services



Northeast

★ Regional Convenor: Alternatives for Community and Environment

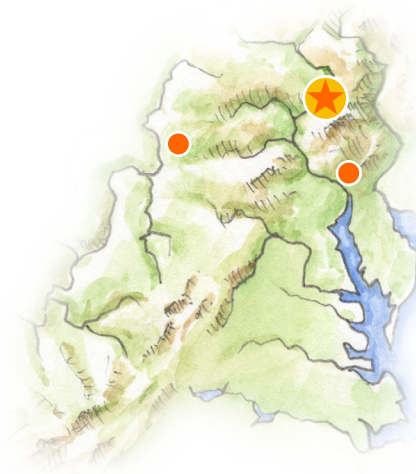
- Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice
- GreenRoots Chelsea
- Ironbound Community Corporation
- New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance
- PUSH Buffalo
- The Peoples Port Authority
- UPROSE



Mid-Atlantic

★ Regional Convenor: Soil Generation

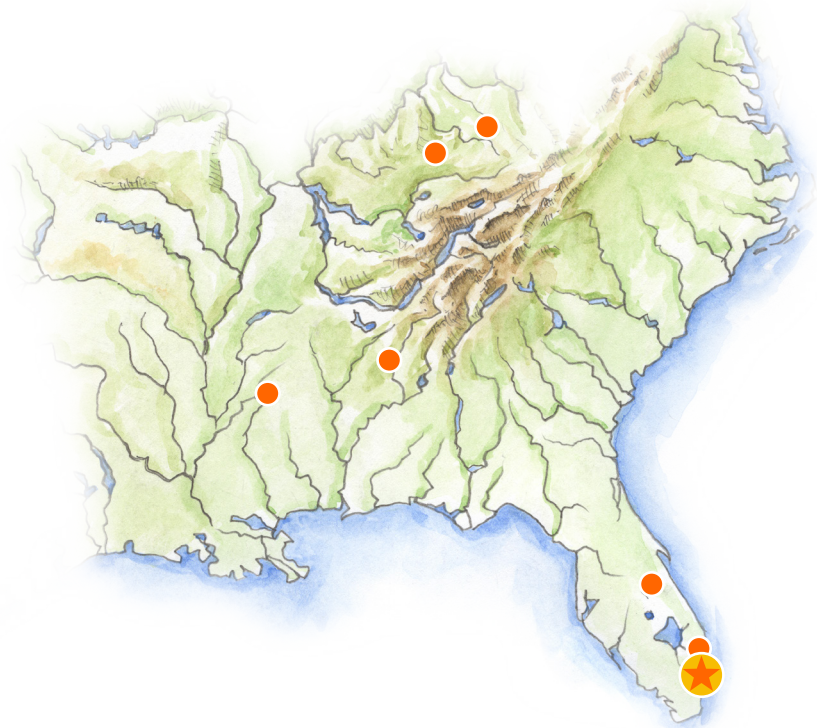
- Center for Coalfield Justice
- Community Housing and Empowerment Connection Inc.



Southeast

★ Regional Convenor: Florida Rising

- Cooperation Jackson
- Farmworker Association of Florida
- Kentuckians For The Commonwealth
- Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition
- Organización Boricuá
- The People's Justice Council
- Seeds of Resistance





Indigenous

- ★ **Regional Convenor:**
**Indigenous
Environmental Network**
 - Native Movement

Pacific

- ★ **Regional Convenor:**
**Micronesia Climate
Change Alliance**

OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

The CJA Board of Directors is elected by our organization's members and must be at least 51% representatives from Our Power Communities. Additionally, to concretize the organization's commitment to centering Black leadership, at least two seats are reserved for Black Caucus representatives. Since this group provides political leadership and assures that the Alliance stays on strategic course toward climate justice, it is critical that it be truly accountable to our grassroots, frontline base in its composition and election. If you're a CJA member and interested in joining the board, [we'd love to hear from you!](#) Check out [the Snapshot on CJA's bylaws](#) to learn more about how CJA is grassroots-led and -accountable.

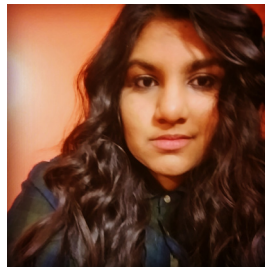
Board of Directors



Elizabeth Yeampierre
(Co-Chair)
UPROSE



Mateo Nube
(Co-Chair)
Movement Generation



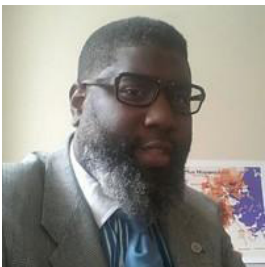
Aghilah Nadaraj
Kheprw Institute



Christine Cordero
Asian Pacific
Environmental Network



**Darryl Molina
Sarmiento**
Communities for a Better
Environment



Dwaigh Tyndal
Alternative for
Community &
Environment



Jaron Browne
Grassroots Global Justice
Alliance



Jayeesha Dutta
Another Gulf Is Possible
Collaborative



Jesus Vásquez
Organización Boricúa



Kirtrina Baxter
Soil Generation



Lisa Abbott
Kentuckians For The
Commonwealth



Maria Lopez-Nuñez
Ironbound Community
Corporation



Sharon Lewis
Connecticut Coalition for
Environmental Justice



Tom Goldtooth
Indigenous
Environmental Network

Staff Members

Executive Team



Marion Gee
Co-Executive Director



Monica Atkins
Co-Executive Director

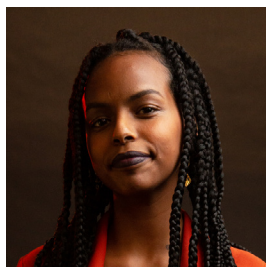


Ozawa Bineshi Albert
Co-Executive Director

Communications Team



Hendrik Voss
Digital Media
Coordinator



Meron Tebeje
Frontline
Communications
Coordinator



Olivia Burlingame
Communications
Director

Resource Mobilization Team



avry jxn
Resource Mobilization
Co-Director



Holly Baker
Resource Mobilization
Strategist



Luis Gonzalez
Funder Relations
Coordinator



Mark Chavez
Resource Mobilization
Co-Director

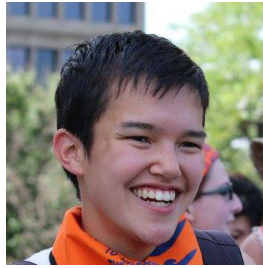
Eco-Political Team



Anacua Garcia
Regional Organizer



Carlos Torrealba
Member Mobilization
and Engagement
Organizer



Chloe Henson
Interim Regional
Organizing Manager



Esteban Arenas-Pino
Policy Associate



Ofelia Sanchez
Regional Organizer



Shantell Bingham
Organizing Director



Yuki Kidokoro
Political Education and
Leadership Development
Director



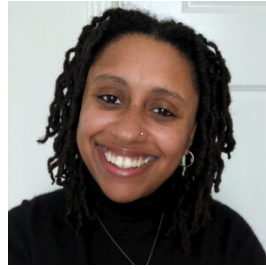
Radical Operations Team



Andrew Hughes
Finance Manager



Chris Caraballo
Executive Assistant



Destinee Thornton
Accounting Coordinator



Haleigh Diaz
Executive Assistant



Heather Thiry
Interim Director of
Operations and Finance



Karina Gonzalez
Logistics Coordinator



Veronica Moreno
Tech and Database
Coordinator

Reinvest in Our Power Team



Dominic Hosack
Part Time Project
Steward



Jolene Mafnas
Reinvest Campaign
Organizer



Lauren Ressler
Reinvest Project
Co-Director



Lupe Romero
Reinvest Project
Co-Director

Note: If you want to get in touch with a staff member, our emails are [first name]@climatejusticealliance.org.

A SNEAK PEAK AT 2023

The next few years will be critical in addressing the worsening climate crisis. In 2023, CJA plans to double down on getting organized, developing our political leadership within the alliance, moving money to a Just Transition, and uplifting the work of frontline communities who are implementing real solutions to climate change and our current climate emergency on the ground.



\$100 Million Reinvest Campaign Launch

For years, CJA has pushed for ways to move money out of the extractive economy into the Just Transition work that frontline communities are building on the ground. This led members to plan the [launch of a reinvest campaign](#) that will demand a down payment of \$100 million be moved out of philanthropic investments in the stock market and towards Just Transition work on the ground. Look out for the announcement in 2023.



Political Leadership

Part of our work includes ensuring that members have access to the political education and tools they need to support their work. To that end, we'll be focusing on building out our political education and leadership development program for members of the alliance to learn, share, and practice together.



Build Out of Regional Organizing

From midterm elections to Supreme Court decisions, this year has made clear the importance of on-the-ground organizing. CJA members have recognized this, and have spent years building up a regional structure that can facilitate more coordinated translocal strategies. We'll continue to strengthen this work by organizing and resourcing our regions, as well as developing shared campaign plans.

Uplift Real Solutions

It can be difficult to keep up with the ever-changing world of climate solutions, and not all “solutions” are inherently equitable or just. CJA is committed to uplifting the real solutions of our members – those that center equity, justice, and sustainability – through our communications efforts and programs like [Communicating Our Power](#) and our [Stories from Home: Moving the Just Transition](#) podcast.



Center Black Narratives

While Black leadership within the environmental justice movement helped birth the climate justice movement we see today, work to recenter and amplify this narrative is ongoing. Over the past year, the [Black Caucus](#) has been working to refocus our collective memories through building narrative power in the form of a mini documentary. The upcoming short film tells the stories of Black frontline communities across the US fighting back against big polluters, cultivating food sovereignty, and leading on Just Recovery efforts.



Food and Water Solidarity Brigades

As the climate and environmental crises threaten food sovereignty and water security for frontline communities, our base building organizations are designing pathways for community resilience. During 2023, CJA’s Black Caucus plans to deliver community-controlled and -operated water sanitation and filtration systems in Jackson, Mississippi. In addition, there are plans to cultivate deeper food sovereignty in Richmond, California by CJA member, Urban Tilth, that recently acquired more land to expand their urban farm operations.





Photo by Hendrik Voss

CREATING THE FUTURE WE NEED

Over the last year, CJA focused heavily on further developing the structures and processes that come with being a new 501(c)3 organization, while supporting our members to challenge harmful industries in their communities and building alternatives that create strong communities. The following pages are a celebration of just a few things CJA and our members were able to accomplish in 2022.

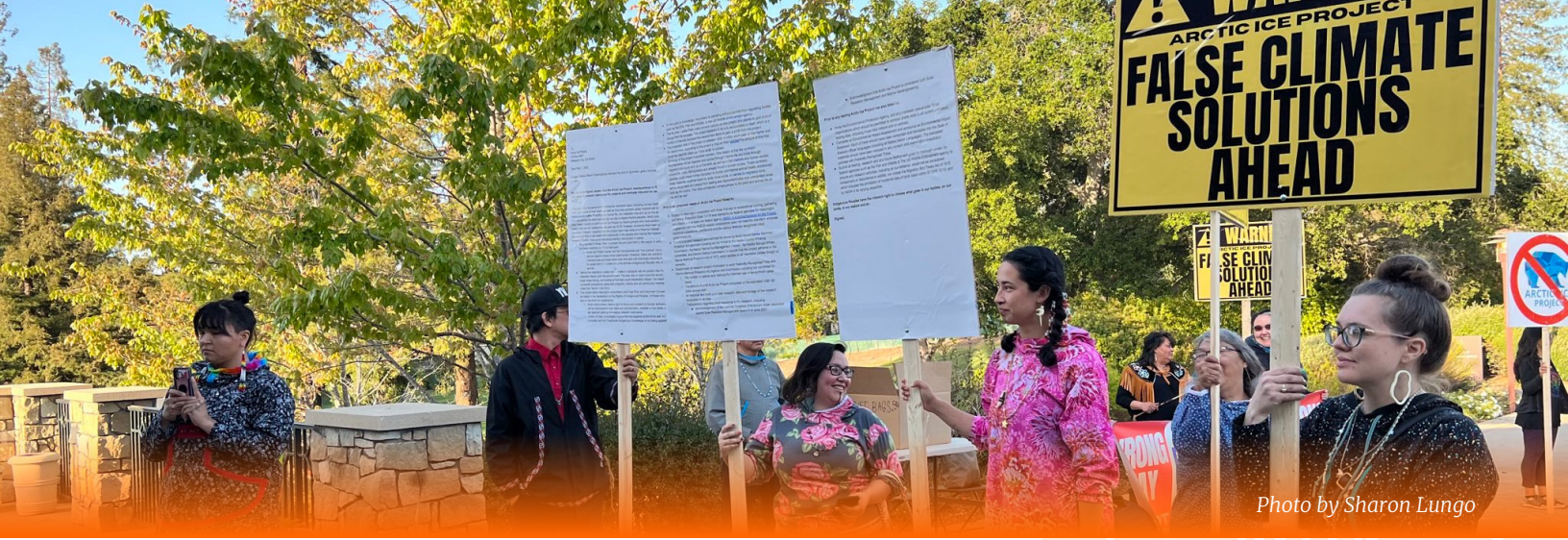


Photo by Sharon Lungo

FIGHT THE BAD

Wins and Accomplishments

North Richmond Community Farm Counters the Threat of Warehouse Land Grabs

Last year, Urban Tilth secured land for their community farm that grows food for over 500 families weekly. In early 2022, Panattoni Inc. began negotiations to build a multi-story distribution center near Urban Tilth's farm that would bring increased traffic, air pollution, and reduce the farm's solar exposure which would hinder its ability to grow food. In response, Urban Tilth's #NoShade campaign secured \$5 million for a counter offer. They closed the land sale on December 15th; this new land will now [expand Urban Tilth's community farm](#) and overall work in North Richmond!

Major Wins Against Big Oil in California

Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) and STAND LA passed an oil phase out in [Los Angeles County, in September](#), and a similar ordinance in the [City of Los Angeles, in December](#). Nowhere else in the country have people won a complete phase out of new and

existing oil wells. In addition, in September, CBE received another major win when the California Governor signed a statewide oil drilling buffer zone of 3,200 feet between people and new oil wells, advancing community health and well-being for the 2.7 million Californians who live within these buffer zones.

Ongoing Work

Ironbound Community Corporation Has Been Leading the Fight for Clean Air in Their Community for Over 30 years

Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) has been fighting what would be a 4th fossil fuel power plant from the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC), which was put on pause after much public outcry and organized resistance. The Ironbound is also currently battling a 500 megawatt fossil fuel power plant as well as New Jersey's largest garbage incinerator – both up for permit renewal. ICC is building momentum, however; and in July 2022 organized over 300 community members and allies to come together and remind the Governor of hallmark New Jersey Environmental Justice Law – the

nation's strongest environmental justice law to date – that should be upheld and, therefore, deny permits in already overburdened communities. A few months later, ICC celebrated victory over a proposed sludge facility who [withdrew their permit application](#) after much pressure from the community and local elected officials.

Cooperation Jackson Protects Jackson's Right to Clean, Safe Drinking Water

Jackson, Mississippi faced devastating floods, exacerbating an already failing water infrastructure system that rendered the drinking water unsafe. Cooperation Jackson was on the frontlines providing safe drinking water to residents. Jackson's drinking water is temporarily restored as of this writing but Cooperation Jackson's "[Justice For Jackson](#)" campaign is now fighting the threats of water privatization, which would raise the cost of living and end local democratic control over Jackson's water supply. Cooperation Jackson is also building community resilience by [creating water catchment and filtration systems at community centers](#).

Indiana Gears Up for 2023 Legislative Session Despite Hurdles to Clean Up Toxic Coal Ash

Indiana has [more coal ash pits than any other state](#), totaling over 80 active and inactive sites leaking toxins into surface waters and drinking water. In 2021 and 2022, Just Transition Northwest Indiana (JTNWI) [introduced the first proactive legislation on coal ash](#) in Indiana's history. Though the bills failed to pass, JTNWI is gearing up for the 2023 legislative session while taking their work nationally to demand the EPA strengthen federal coal ash rules.

Indigenous Peoples Fight Geoengineering in the Arctic

The worldwide expansion of [geoengineering and other false solutions](#) are threatening Indigenous Peoples and ecosystems in the Arctic, which includes parts of Canada, the US and Europe. In Alaska, the [Indigenous Environmental Network \(IEN\) is fighting the Arctic Ice Project](#), formerly known as Ice 911, a geoengineering effort that is putting toxic materials near Utqiagvik, without Free, Prior and Informed Consent of local Tribes. In May, IEN attempted to deliver a letter to the Arctic Ice Project urging them to cease operations, citing concerns of endangering human health and marine wildlife due to their large-scale experimental research without any publicly known permits.

In 2021, Ocean Pastures Restoration spoke to the US Senate about dumping tons of iron ore off the coast of Kodiak, Alaska, an experimental practice that has been shown to harm marine wildlife. IEN is also calling on the Arctic Circle Assembly, an international democratic platform led by Arctic government leaders, to stop geoengineering projects in the Arctic.



Photo by Sascha Fischel-Freeman

BUILD THE NEW

Wins and Accomplishments

SWU Begins New Healing and Resilience Center in Texas

Southwest Workers Union (SWU) in Texas has broken ground on the first phase of their new [Healing & Resiliency Center](#). This resiliency hub will provide a home to different social movements that need a place to work and organize. In addition, this ecologically designed building will also serve as an emergency location for the community during climate disasters.

Farmworker Cooperative Leads the Way to a New Economy in Washington

In the agroecological sector, Community to Community Development based in Washington

is supporting Cooperativa Tierra y Libertad, a farmworker-to-farmer, worker-owned cooperative which serves as a living example of the regenerative economy. They are building a cooperative development center, Colectiva Comunidad Sana (CoCoSa), with the long term goal of having 25% of the local economy run by cooperatives.

DBCFSN Builds Food Sovereignty and Community Ownership for Black Communities

The Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN) is upgrading its D-Town farm with off-grid infrastructure. In a place haunted by food insecurity, DBCFSN is on the verge of opening [Detroit People's Food Co-op](#), a victory for Black-led food sovereignty!

UPROSE Makes Energy Democracy Real in Brooklyn, NY

UPROSE is building [Sunset Park Solar](#), a community-owned, rooftop solar project which will generate 685 kWh at the Brooklyn Army Terminal in Sunset Park and provide benefits like community-control over management of the project and energy bill discounts to nearly 200 households and small businesses. UPROSE is currently exploring partnerships with new sites in Sunset Park for future community-owned solar.

Kheprw Institute Debuts Their Integrated Capital Fund

[Kheprw Institute launched its Integrated Capital Fund](#) this August which will support community members with recoverable loans, building community wealth and collective power in under-resourced communities, especially Black communities, for a more sustainable and life-affirming future.

Ongoing Work

Design Phase of the Reinvest Campaign Completed!

We completed a member-led design process for our [reinvest campaign](#) aiming to undermine the extractive economy and move capital away from it, back into the hands of our members and communities that are building the new. We are working hard and looking forward to launching the campaign in 2023.

CJA Members Come Together for the 6th Annual Just Transition Finance Training

We held our 6th Annual Just Transition Finance Training May 1-5, 2022. Offered virtually,

41 CJA members engaged in workshopping 5 Regenerative Economy projects. Participants came together to learn about cooperatives, non-extractive finance, and how to support each other so that they can continue their work building the new.

The Our Power Loan Fund Grows in Members and Knowledge

CJA's Our Power Loan Fund (OPLF), whose role is to provide technical assistance, accompaniment, and financing of regenerative economy projects, has gained two new members that bring new energy and a wealth of experience. Jasmine Flores is a worker owner with Numa'lo Refillery and Mia Carbajal is leading acquisitions and capitalization of projects at Richmond LAND, a community land trust organization and member of Richmond Our Power Coalition. These new members contribute knowledge in cooperative development, zero waste, and land acquisition.

The Our Power Loan Fund and CJA Members Continue the Work to Build the New

The Our Power Loan Fund project stewards continue to work on accompaniment and financing of several projects, including the aforementioned Tierra y Libertad and SWU's Healing & Resiliency Center. Numa'lo Refillery, a zero waste project that we supported with financing for a line of credit, continues to thrive and recently secured a \$20,000 loan to design a brick and mortar store. Additionally, in December we offered a workshop around the basics of financing and acquiring land, which is a crucial necessity in building community wealth and power.



MOVE THE MONEY

Wins and Accomplishments

A Climate Justice Crash Course for Funders

CJA worked with members and allies to organize a [Climate Justice Crash Course for Funders](#), a host of webinars for funders to learn from frontline leaders and deepen their political understanding of the root causes of the climate crisis, grassroots powerbuilding, and climate solutions that advance Just Transitions. The crash course continued our educational support of climate funders who are on their paths to integrating an equity lens into their grantmaking and investment practices.

CJA Regranting

In fiscal year 2021 – 2022, CJA set a new regranting record totaling more than \$3.82 million into CJA member organizations for Energy Democracy projects, Green New Deal, policy case study documentation, regional convener roles, COVID-19 mutual aid support, and rapid response. This amount jumps to over \$5.8 million when including our new Communicating Our Power fellowship!

Ongoing Work

Fund for Frontline Power Launches

CJA, along with The Solutions Project, helped create the [Fund for Frontline Power](#); a fully grassroots-governed intermediary fund to move money to grassroots-led climate solutions. This fund was created as a [climate justice movement response to the initial round of funding from the Bezos Earth Fund](#) (BEF), which directed hundreds of millions of dollars to already-well-resourced environmental organizations. \$5.91 million has been committed to the fund, with \$4.96 million of that total being contributed by BEF grantees.

The Four Pathways

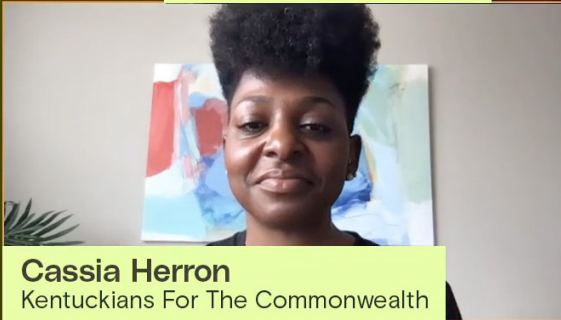
CJA members, staff, and allies have been working together to share the [Four Pathways to Move Money to the Grassroots](#): direct support to grassroots organizations; via grassroots-led alliances and networks; via community-controlled capital infrastructure; and via grassroots-centric funder intermediaries. This year, we presented at the Environmental Grantmakers Association fall retreat in October and the Ignite donor conference in November. We're looking forward to sharing it at The Funders Network for Smart Growth & Livable Communities conference in March 2023.



Nikhil Swaminathan
Grist



Tom Goldtooth
Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)



Cassia Herron
Kentuckians For The Commonwealth



Maria Lopez-Nuñez
Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC)

Climate solutions from the frontlines of environmental justice

Webinar organized by CJA and Grist.

CHANGE THE STORY

Wins and Accomplishments

In the Media

CJA more than doubled our media coverage in 2022 and was mentioned by name, quoted or featured in 1,795 media pieces, such as this [AP print and video explainer series](#) on climate change and this feature on our triadic leadership in the [Philanthropy News Digest](#).

Communicating Our Power Fellowship

We launched and completed the first year of [Communicating Our Power](#), a \$10 million fellowship program designed to address the critical need for frontline organizations to have

the communications support they deserve to tell their own stories, advocate for key policies, celebrate successes, and engage their neighbors. Through this program, Climate Justice Alliance, Center for Story-based Strategy, and The Solutions Project are partnering to support 20 frontline climate justice organizations across 16 states to build their communications capacity and narrative power.

Conversations with Media Partners

Climate Justice Alliance hosted important conversations on environmental and climate justice with media partners such as Grist. [Climate Solutions from the Frontlines of Environmental Justice](#) featured leaders from CJA member groups

who spoke about the framework of centering equity and justice and tackling the root causes of the climate crisis as society moves away from fossil fuels. The panelists also shared real-life examples of solutions that meet that framework.

Ongoing Work

Creative Wildfire

Building on the success of the first [Creative Wildfire cohort with 21 movement artists](#), we deepened our joint work with Movement Generation, New Economy Coalition, and the project stewards to further highlight the role that cultural workers have in creating Just Transitions. The artwork was brought into new spaces and we laid the groundwork for the next phase of Creative Wildfire, which will be based in deeper collaborative relationships to create work that strategically supports grassroots organizing and emerging community-based artists.

CJA's Stories From Home Podcast

[CJA's podcast series "Stories from Home: Moving the Just Transition"](#) released its second season this year, featuring the stories of community, love, and justice that unite us as an alliance. Host Keenan Rhodes, a former CJA fellow from member group Kheprw Institute, took us on an inspiring journey as he spoke to climate justice leaders who are forging innovative community-led solutions with creativity and imagination. Each podcast episode dove into different dimensions of the movement – from the importance of community-controlled climate solutions, to what is a false solution, to art and organizing, and community wealth.



Brooke Anderson | Survival Media Agency

Photo by Brooke Anderson

BUILD THE BIGGER WE

Wins and Accomplishments

CJA’s Black Caucus Launches Website with Sankofa Moment

After an amazing period of growth, the CJA Black Caucus spent the year building across regions to strengthen Black leadership and voices among the alliance and the climate justice movement, at large. In February 2022, during Black History Month, the [CJA Black Caucus launched its website](#), featuring their Ten Prong Vision for Black Communities in the Environmental Justice Movement. Alongside the website, the Black Caucus held a Sankofa Moment featuring members from Rich City Rides, UPROSE, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, the Detroit Black Community Food Sovereignty

Network, and Owolabi Aboyade (a Detroit community activists who played a founding role in CJA’s Black Caucus). During this moment, caucus members and co-conspirators reminded us of the rich Black history that much of the climate justice movement is built upon and helped us look forward towards the future of Black liberation and climate justice.

Our Power Communities Summit: Prepared to Govern, Prepared to Win

October 13th marked the first Our Power Communities (OPC) Summit in San Antonio, Texas after a long 2 years of pandemic impacts to our communities. Hosted by the Southwest Workers Union, 40 OPC members were grounded in the local struggles of rising temperatures and

threatened aquifers in San Antonio. Members met in person and virtually to celebrate wins, identify false solutions in their communities, and align strategies to build power translocally and nationally. As members honored each other's work, collaborated and built stronger relationships, the 3-day summit helped form a shared analysis among CJA frontline communities that guides the overall alliance.

COP27 Delegation to Egypt

In collaboration with Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, Indigenous Environmental Network, Just Transition Alliance, The Black Hive at Movement for Black Lives, World March of Women, and La Via Campesina, [CJA headed to COP 27 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt](#). The CJA delegation to the United Nations' annual conference on climate change included mostly Black and Indigenous alliance members from Soil Generation, Acta Non Verba, Micronesia Climate Change Alliance, Native Movement, People's Justice Council, Organización Boricuá, Smile Trust, and Florida Rising. CJA staff moderated panels, participated in workshops and organized actions rejecting false solutions. As part of our commitment to global solidarity, CJA participated to influence policy, uplift frontline voices, and build relationships with international grassroots social movements.

Ongoing Work

Regional Power-Mapping and Organizing

In an effort to localize the climate movement, CJA members have organized in regional groups to harness their collective power and take on big polluters in their own areas while creating the solutions they need. The Midwest region has successfully identified common threats to member communities across Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. As part of the on-going work, the Midwest region continues to find ways to collaborate and strategize against harmful corporations in their neighborhoods. Similarly, regions in other parts of the country continue to meet and strengthen relationships.



Photo by Olivia Burlingame

CHANGE THE RULES

Wins and Accomplishments

Environmental Justice Movement Defeats Manchin's Dirty Side Deal as the 117th U.S. Congress Came to a Close!

Early in 2022, Democratic leadership and Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia struck [a dirty energy side deal](#) to ensure passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The deal served as a quid pro quo to secure Manchin's vote for the IRA, and in return he would gain support for his dirty "permitting reform" legislation, which was little more than a handout to the fossil fuel industry and would have thrown frontline communities under the bus, again.

Three times in a row, spanning from midsummer until December 2022, the tireless organizing

of frontline communities; strategic campaigns waged by the environmental justice movement and allies; and round-the-clock work with reasonable legislators, ensured that [we beat back Manchin's dirty deal](#). If passed, this legislation would have stripped away communities' rights and the foundational protections afforded all communities under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and other bedrock protections, like the Clean Water Act, that ensure a pathway for community input and recourse against toxic and polluting industries.

"Those who we have elected to office must understand how hard we had to fight for this victory, we are literally fighting for our lives. I look forward now to spending time building and creating real community solutions to the climate crisis that are grounded in environmental justice, rather than

fighting against bad policies, which we will continue to do. We must always continue ensuring Manchin's fossil fuel handout is dead for good."

-Maria Lopez-Nuñez,

Deputy Director of Advocacy and Organizing at Ironbound Community Corporation and CJA board member (Pictured speaking at a rally with allies against the dirty deal in Washington, D.C.)

Hydrogen Briefing Series

As part of our Change the Rules Working Group strategy to create opportunities for political education and co-learning, we held a two-part hydrogen briefing series with members. These briefings were led by our members from New York, Michigan, and New Mexico who have been facing the rollout of hydrogen infrastructure policy proposals. In these briefings, we discussed the differences between the various types of hydrogen fuels and the effects that each may have on the lands, waters, and communities where they are proposed.

Offshore Wind Principles Policy Brief

In collaboration with UPROSE, Rogue Climate, and Taproot Earth, we worked to draft a policy brief titled ["Principles for a Just Transition in Offshore Wind Energy."](#) This brief serves as a foundation for how to support, partner, and work with climate justice organizations as essential partners and decision makers for achieving a Just Transition through Offshore Wind Energy development in coastal regions and the Big Lakes communities.

Green New Deal Network (GNDN) Convention

CJA, alongside some of our members leading state tables for the Green New Deal Network, attended the GNDN Convention in Chicago.

At the convention, we strategized with other frontline-accountable alliances and environmental NGOs in the network to reaffirm new objectives for the formation, the role of CJA in the coordinating table, and the role of the United Frontline Table within the space.

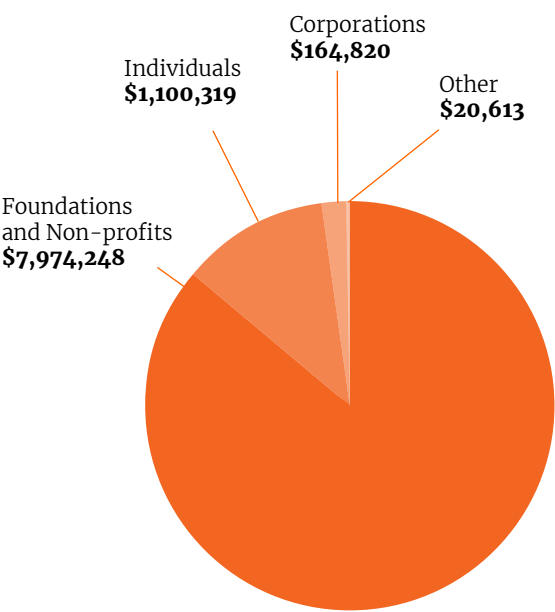
Ongoing Work

Inflation Reduction Act

With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in 2022, our communities saw hard fought wins coupled with dangerous provisions that would ensure further fossil fuel development and funding for false solutions that perpetuate harm in already-overburdened communities. To meet the moment, CJA began to engage in an effort to influence the implementation phase of the IRA which began in 2022 and will continue well into 2023. Alongside our members, we worked to provide comments, engage with agencies, and strategize so that the funding promised to environmental justice communities through various grant programs goes toward funding a Just Transition for frontline communities. At the same time, we tracked other parts of the process where safeguards need to be implemented to abate the worst outcomes for frontline communities.

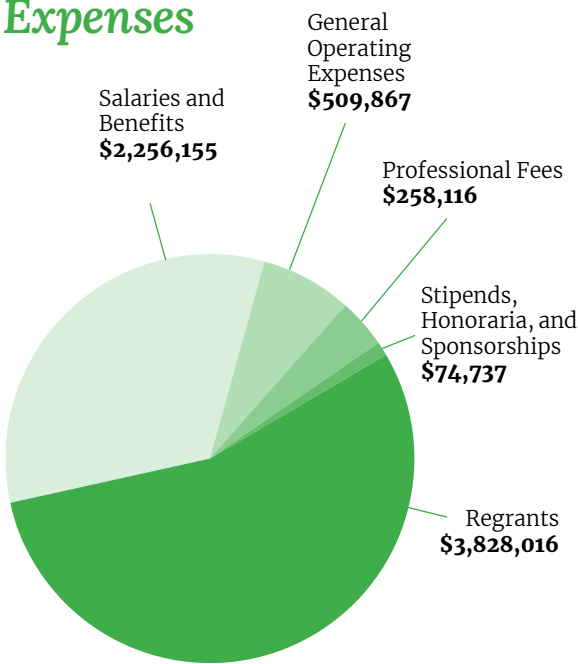
2022 Financials

Revenue



Total Income: \$9,260,000

Expenses



Total Expenses: \$6,926,891

Move the Money

In 2016, our member-developed Four-Year Strategy set the goal of shifting **\$40 million** in new climate funding to the grassroots organizing ecosystem. **Since then** CJA has been directly involved* in influencing more than **\$106 million** in new climate funding directly to the grassroots or through intermediaries. **2022 alone** accounted for over **\$15.3 million****.



*Through CJA members and staff informing shifts in governance and giving priorities at foundations; participating in grantmaking bodies; providing input on individual, foundation, and corporate giving plans; and moving money directly through our rapid response and loan funds.

**Total amount given or committed in the calendar year.



CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE
COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR A JUST TRANSITION

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