Defending Climate Policy
Breakout Discussions
with State Advocates
June 4th | 1:00PM–2:30PM ET

Introduction

Kristen Soares

State Climate Policy
Network Manager

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[SCPN]

State Climate Policy Network

Network of **15,000+**

- ➔ State and local elected officials
- ➔ NGO advocates
- ➔ Researchers
- ➔ State agency staffers
- ➔ Organizers and activists
- ➔ Business leaders

... working on state climate policy

www.climate-xchange.org/network

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Pro Bono Policy Assistance

We specialize in state climate policy design and analysis.
Reach out to kristen@climate-xchange.org with your requests on:

- **Example states** and **model rules** for a given policy
- **Gap analysis** of your state's climate policy landscape
- **Connections** to other actors working on similar issues

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Defending Climate Policy:
Breakout Discussions with State Advocates

Ruby Wincele
Policy & Research Manager
Climate XChange

Courtney Brady

Evergreen Action

Jon Binder

Model Climate Laws Initiative

Abigail Franks

Southeast Climate & Energy Network

Agenda

1. 2026 Anti-Climate Policy Trends
2. Breakout Room Case Studies - Michigan, New York, Southeast
3. Discussion and Q&A

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Speaker

Ruby Wincele

Policy & Research Manager

Climate XChange

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Anti-Climate State Policy Trends

Ruby Wincele, Climate XChange
June 2026

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Three Themes:

1. **Anti-climate or environmental policies**: Limiting regulatory authority or stringency, limiting local action, promoting fossil fuels, shielding polluting industries from liability, etc.
2. **Weakening existing climate policies:** Delaying key deadlines or implementation timelines, weakening climate and clean energy targets, cutting funding, etc.
3. **Repealing existing climate policies:** Eliminating climate and clean energy targets or policies

"False choice" between climate progress and energy affordability and reliability

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False Choice:
Climate policy vs. Affordability

- Narrative promoted by ALEC, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and other industry-backed groups

ALEC 2026 ENERGY AFFORDABILITY REPORT:
CLIMATE MANDATES COST CONSUMERS

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False Choice:
Climate policy vs. Affordability

- Narrative promoted by ALEC, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and other industry-backed groups
- Cuts to climate and energy efficiency spending in short term will result in higher spending in long term + impacts to public health, air quality, and workforce development

ALEC 2026 ENERGY AFFORDABILITY REPORT: CLIMATE MANDATES COST CONSUMERS

States are cutting their way to higher electricity bills

Cutting efficiency programs saves money on this month's bill — and raises costs for the next decade.

New York's climate rollbacks will saddle communities with fossil fuel costs and pollution

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False Choice:
Climate policy vs. Affordability

- Narrative promoted by ALEC, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and other industry-backed groups
- Cuts to climate and energy efficiency spending in short term will result in higher spending in long term + impacts to public health, air quality, and workforce development
- Many factors related to rising electricity prices (aging infrastructure, extreme weather recovery, volatile fossil fuel prices, etc.); climate policies can help to lower costs

ALEC 2026 ENERGY AFFORDABILITY REPORT: CLIMATE MANDATES COST CONSUMERS

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Wind and Solar Energy Are Cheaper Than Electricity from Fossil-Fuel Plants

Even without subsidies, renewable energy is staying competitive with power from gas and coal

Support for stricter environmental regulations outweighs opposition in a majority of states

A Wildfire Is Coming for Electricity Bills

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1. Anti-climate and environmental policies

Limiting regulatory authority or stringency	Prohibiting state agencies from enacting environmental rules stricter than federal standards unless justified by rigorous scientific evidence
Limiting or prohibiting local climate action	Prohibiting local governments from enacting climate policies
Promoting fossil fuels	• Approving new gas plant buildout • Adopting “all of the above” energy strategies • Adding fossil fuels to definitions of “clean” or “green” energy
Shielding industry from liability	Shielding fossil fuels and agriculture from civil and criminal liability from climate-related damages caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

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2. Weakening Climate Policies

Delaying key deadlines or implementation timelines	• Pushing back deadlines to meet existing climate or energy targets • Delaying implementation of these laws
Weakening climate targets	• Requiring evaluation of implementation costs • Lowering GHG, clean energy, building decarb, and EV targets
Cutting funding	• Shrinking energy efficiency budgets • Redirecting cap-and-invest revenue

3. Repealing Climate Policies

Same policies being targeted as with #2

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Breakout Rooms

Michigan

Courtney Brady

Evergreen Action

New York

Jon Binder

Model Climate Laws Initiative

Sabin Center for Climate Change Law and Environmental Advocates NY

Southeast

Abigail Franks

Southeast Climate & Energy Network

Breakout Rooms - MI | NY | Southeast

Participation is KEY!

Cameras on, if you're comfortable!

- Informal, non-recorded discussion
- Keep the discussion constructive
- Make connections with peers

Agenda

- **Case Study Presentation:** Deep dive from state advocates (10-15 min)
- **Q&A and Discussion** (20-25 min)

After breakout rooms, we'll share back:

Facilitated discussion of themes/takeaways from small groups

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Breakout Rooms

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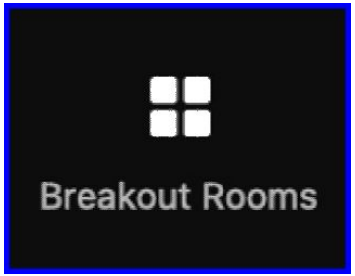
See you soon!



- You've been **auto-assigned** a room based on what you selected on your registration form.
- If you'd like to **change your room**, you can select the Breakout Room icon and join a different room.

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Q&A

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Thank you for joining!

Reach out to kristen@climate-xchange.org with any additional questions!

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