



YOUTH CLIMATE ACTIVISM

The Next Generation
of Climate Stakeholders

Thursday, March 17
at 12PM ET

Introduction

Kristen Soares



State Climate Policy
Network Manager

State Climate Policy Network (SCPN)

- Network of 16,000 policymakers, advocates, business leaders and experts pushing for effective and equitable climate policies in their states
- Host monthly national calls and webinars
- Share updates, research, and analysis on various climate policy topics

How can we help you?

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

- **Bill drafting**, analysis, and technical design
- **Gap analysis** of your state's climate policy landscape
- Best **example states** to follow for a given policy

Or, check out our **State Climate Policy Dashboard**, which tracks state-level climate policy and resources across all 50 states.



Speakers

Lyla Choi



Policy Analyst,
Zero Hour

Aaditi Lele



Student Fellow,
Change the Chamber

Shiv Soin



Executive Director,
TREEage

Speaker

Lyla Choi



Policy Analyst,
Zero Hour

Zero Hour: Youth Climate Activism at the State Level

Lyla Choi
Policy Team Member





Zero Hour's Current Work



2022 Priorities

1. Stop fossil fuel leases
2. Shut down fossil fuel infrastructure
3. Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies
4. Get members of Congress to cosponsor Green New Deal bills
5. Stop factory farms and false agricultural solutions



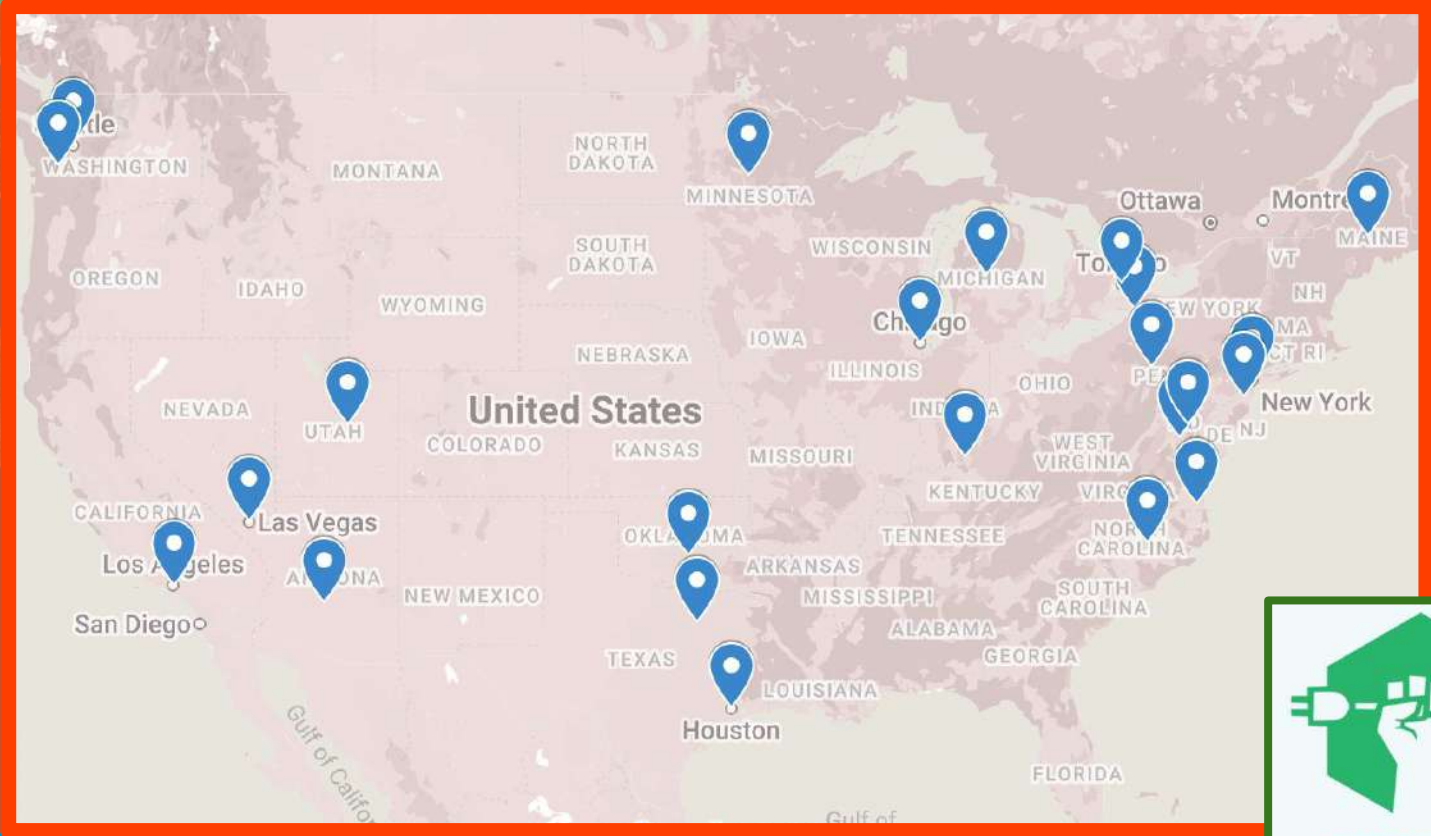
Coalitions

PRESIDENT BIDEN:
**BUILD BACK
FOSSIL FREE.**

STOP THE MONEY
PIPELINE



Chapter Work

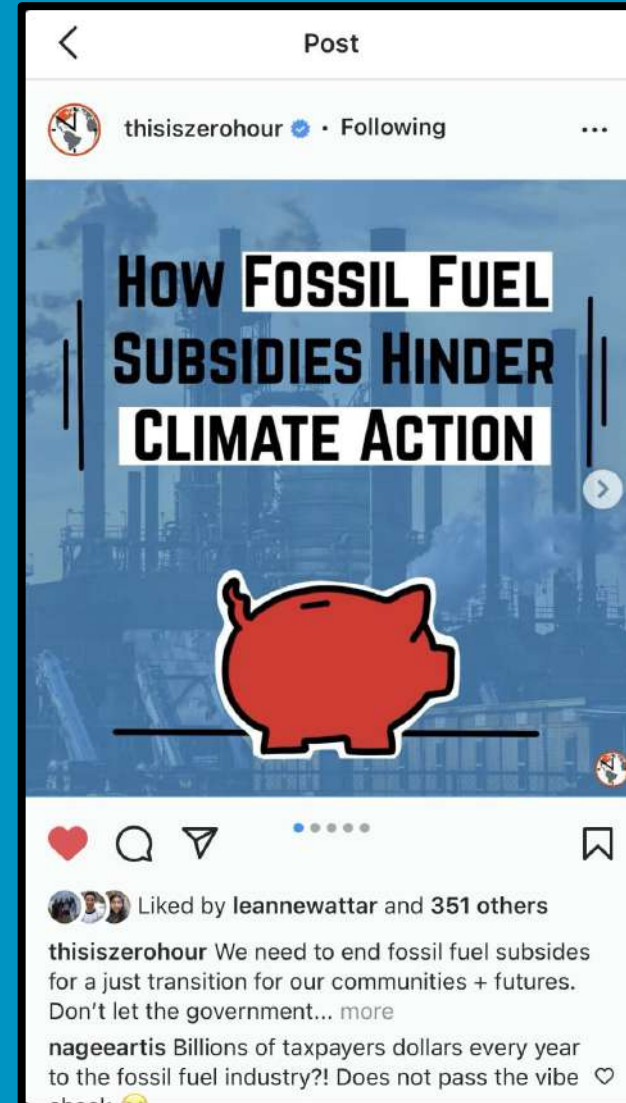




The Role of Youth



Education and Social Media



Policy



State-Level Demands



Climate Week: Major Green Energy Infrastructure Projects to Power New York City with new Wind, Solar and Hydropower

September 20, 2021

Governor Hochul Announces Nation Leading \$500 Million Investment in Offshore Wind

New Investments to Support New York's Third Offshore Wind Procurement in 2022

January 5, 2022



State-Level Demands



[ABOUT](#) [OUR WORK](#) [RESOURCES](#) [SERVICES](#) [RULEMAKING](#) [NEWS](#) [EQUITY](#)

Governor Newsom's Zero-Emission by 2035 Executive Order (N-79-20)

Executive Order calls for elimination of new internal combustion passenger vehicles by 2035

PRINT

Sustainability > Climate Change

Hawaii to become the first state to declare climate emergency

The archipelago joins jurisdictions from 34 countries in declaring a climate emergency.

By Alexandra Kelley | April 29, 2021



Thank You



Speaker

Aaditi Lele



Student Fellow,
Change the Chamber



AN INTRODUCTION TO

Change the Chamber

Agenda

1

An Introduction to
Change the Chamber

2

Bringing Youth Voices
to the Table

3

Takeaways for Climate
Policy Stakeholders

We support the implementation of already proven renewable energies and energy efficiency technologies to reduce greenhouse gases, help stabilize our climate and prevent the worst impacts of climate change. We want updated governmental policies that will support meeting science-based targets for climate change and will encourage affordable and clean energy for all.

Who we are

Change The Chamber is a bipartisan group of students taking on the largest dark money, pro-fossil fuel group in the United States, the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**. Join us on social media as we demand that the Chamber and its corporate donors put **our planet before their profits**.

Our framework



Young leaders in the climate movement are increasingly identifying systems and sources of power that are meddling with our future.

Whether that's the US Chamber of Commerce, our state-level Chambers of Commerce, or even our very own universities, we are interested in tackling this crisis systemically.

Bringing youth voices to the table is key to any environmental justice movement. They provide fresh perspectives, passion, and a willingness to learn. Here's some more about our work, how we're bringing young people to the table, and recommendations for organizations and other climate policy stakeholders.

Our report:

The Chamber successfully lobbied the Senate to vote down 3 moratoriums on offshore drilling.⁹

The Chamber successfully lobbied the Senate to vote down H.R. 948/S. 370 No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC) Act.¹⁰

The Chamber successfully lobbied the EPA to change the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), so that the EPA will no longer measure how new fossil fuel infrastructure will contribute to global warming.¹⁵

The Chamber successfully lobbied the EPA to stop considering the co-benefits of PM2.5 pollution reductions in cost-benefit analyses for regulations.¹² PM2.5 pollution is a leading cause of pollution-related illness. Combusting fossil fuels is a major source of PM2.5 pollution.



CHANGE THE CHAMBER
COALITION

A SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE ACTION OBSTRUCTION BY THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

20
21

Q1
Q2
Q3

THE
CHAMBER
&
CLIMATE
19-2020

U.S. Chamber of Commerce's
Advocacy in 2019-20

BY
CHANGE THE CHAMBER
+
LOBBY FOR CLIMATE



Donations to Climate-Denying Candidates

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Spender ID	Recipient	State	Recipient Lifetime LCV Score	Contribution Amount	Disbursement Date		SUM
2	C00082040	Rodney Davis	IL	10%	\$2,500	11/5/2018		\$2,252,000
3	C00082040	Matt Rosendale	MT	N/A	\$5,000	10/15/2018		
4	C00082040	Marty Grohman	ME	N/A	\$5,000	10/15/2018		
5	C00082040	Martha McSally	AZ	8%	\$5,000	10/10/2018		
6	C00082040	Ad buy for Marsha Blackburn	TN	3%	\$750,000	10/10/2018		
7	C00082040	Ad buy for Martha McSally	AZ	8%	\$1,000,000	10/10/2018		
8	C00082040	Carol Miller	WV	12%	\$2,500	10/9/2018		Reminders: - only put entries in for the donations to candidates with an LCV score below 30%
9	C00082040	Tom MacArthur	NJ	16%	\$2,500	10/5/2018		
10	C00082040	Fred Upton	MI	28%	\$5,000	10/2/2018		Date Range: November 9, 2016 to November 6, 2018
11	C00082040	Danny Tarkanian	NV	N/A	\$2,500	10/2/2018		
12	C00082040	Patrick Morrisey	WV	N/A	\$5,000	9/26/2018		
13	C00082040	Mike Bost	IL	7%	\$2,500	9/26/2018		
14	C00082040	Mike Bost	IL	7%	-\$2,500	9/26/2018		
15	C00082040	Ad buy for Kevin Yoder	VA	3%	\$200,000	9/19/2018		
16	C00082040	David G. Valadao	CA	5%	\$2,500	9/19/2018		
17	C00082040	Collin C. Peterson	MN	34%	\$2,500	9/19/2018		
18	C00082040	Collin C. Peterson	MN	34%	\$2,500	9/19/2018		
19	C00082040	Pete Stauber	MN	16%	\$2,500	9/19/2018		
20	C00082040	Mike Kelly	PA	5%	\$1,500	9/19/2018		
21	C00082040	Marsha Blackburn	TN	3%	\$5,000	9/19/2018		
22	C00082040	Leonard Lance	NJ	27%	\$2,500	9/19/2018		
23	C00082040	John Katko	VA	34%	\$1,500	9/19/2018		
24	C00082040	Jaime Herrera-Beutler	WA	12%	\$2,500	9/19/2018		
25	C00082040	Erik Paulsen	MN	18%	\$2,500	9/19/2018		

Using *FEC* data, we've tracked the Chamber's campaign contributions each election cycle— with the majority of its funds going to climate-denying candidates.

Accounting only for their **public** donations, the Chamber has spent millions each year on electing climate-deniers to Congress that stall state-level improvements.



Marsha Blackburn
(R-TN) - **\$1,000,000**



Joni Ernst (R-IA) -
\$1,915,580



Cory Gardner (R-CO)
- \$1,600,000

Chamber Companies

Dozens of high-profile companies are members of the Chamber of Commerce, and they are equally **complicit** in the lobbying they fund through their trade organization.

At Change the Chamber, we target and work with a number of these companies to highlight how their complacency in the Chamber's climate denial is in outright **denial** with their public "sustainability" policies.

Through meetings with company representatives and public pressure campaigns like our "Corporations Against Humanity" series, we're pushing these member companies to leverage their status and ***be the change***.



Corporations Against Humanity.

@LobbyForClimate

Direct Action



**Congressional
Meetings**

Campus Direct
Action

Partnerships

Skills Building

**International
Coalitions**



How we're
bringing
youth voices
to the table—

Congressional Meetings

40 Congressional Meetings

2 Bills

At ***Change the Chamber***, we've used our expansive network of students to get meetings with over 40 Senate and House offices, leveraging constituent connections and persistence.

In these meetings, we lobbied for stronger climate justice and clean energy provisions in the **Build Back Better Act** and the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Package**. We even brought students into meetings with industry organizations (solar, wind, etc.) to hear their needs and serve as a vessel for them to be heard on the Hill.

Students requested, organized, and ran these Hill meetings completely on their own, and built skills in the process.

Partnerships & International Coalitions

My experience

Voting Rights Coalitions

Other

opportunities

International coalitions

Campus Direct Action

Coalition Building with Campus Groups

We researched and reached out to hundreds of campus based environmental groups, bringing their interested students into our network and creating hubs for direct action (stickering, demonstrations, etc.) on campuses nationwide.



Many of our students on the ground had an interest in exploring state and local level chambers of commerce and highlighting their anti-climate violations as well. We gave these students a framework to do this research and take action at the state level.

State Chamber Research



Implementing Direct Action

Our students have implemented stickering campaigns and demonstrations in their own cities and states!



Skills Building

Diverse, focused teams (with opportunities to create new ones based on students' interests)

How to be an Effective Environmental Activist/Changemaker Toolkit
(aggregating tips and guidance from across the environmental movement for new members)

Training & mentorship frameworks

Young people can achieve so much more than you expect! Just give us the right **resources** and an **opportunity** to make change!

TAKEAWAYS

Young people view environmental justice problems *systemically*.

Youth should be brought into conversations with policymakers.

Don't tokenize youth perspectives as the "activist" ones, center them!

Youth are capable of more than you expect, give them responsibilities and help us build skills!

Support young people in building their movements, don't take over the work!

Young people build local social networks effectively, take advantage of these for state level organizing!

Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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changeuschamber@gmail.com



Speaker

Shiv Soin



Executive Director,
TREEage

Thank you for joining!

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