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 our 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

The Build Green Act

How Fossil Fuel Subsidies Hinder Climate Action

Liked by nageeartis and 236 others
thisiszerohour What is the Build Green Act? Why is it crucial for our climate and future? ... more

Liked by leannewattar and 351 others
thisiszerohour We need to end fossil fuel subsidies for a just transition for our communities + futures. Don't let the government... more
nageeartis Billions of taxpayers dollars every year to the fossil fuel industry?! Does not pass the vibe
Policy
State-Level Demands

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

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

New Investments to Support New York’s Third Offshore Wind Procurement in 2022
State-Level Demands

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.

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
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.

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.
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.\textsuperscript{9}

The Chamber successfully lobbied the Senate to vote down H.R. 948/S. 370 No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC) Act.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{15}

The Chamber successfully lobbied the EPA to stop considering the co-benefits of PM2.5 pollution reductions in cost-benefit analyses for regulations.\textsuperscript{17} PM2.5 pollution is a leading cause of pollution-related illness. Combusting fossil fuels is a major source of PM2.5 pollution.
Donations to Climate-Denying Candidates

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.

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<th>Senator ID</th>
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**Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) - $1,000,000**

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

**Cory Gardner (R-CO) - $1,600,000**
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*. 
Direct Action
How we’re bringing youth voices to the table—
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
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.

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?

aaditi.m.lele@gmail.com
changeuschamber@gmail.com
Speaker

Shiv Soin

Executive Director,
TREEdge
Thank you for joining!

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