2020: Year in Review



Well, that was quite a year... A pandemic that caused incredible loss, stress, hardship, and disruption. A U.S. election cycle that battered the foundations of democracy. Damaging wildfires and storms of distressing frequency and intensity. And much, much more.

There were some bright spots, though, even beyond the approvals of the first vaccines. The result of the U.S. elections yielded hope for more aggressive, coordinated federal action on the pandemic, climate change, and other areas. Clean technologies continued to advance, and their costs continued to drop. Climate commitments made by countries, companies, utilities, and others grew more numerous and ambitious. We are still far from the emissions trajectory needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, but there is reason for optimism that more of the necessary actions, technologies, and policies will be deployed in the near future.

As always, Green Light spent this year working to make that future a reality. With research, writing, and strategic advisory services, Green Light worked on a range of projects in 2020, including the following:

- Served as rapporteur and produced reports for four Aspen Institute energy dialogues & roundtables: the <u>Winter Energy Roundtable</u> (on mid-century deep decarbonization); the <u>Global Energy Forum</u>; <u>Aspen Energy Week</u>; and a High-Level Dialogue on Achieving 100% Clean Electricity by 2035.
- Helped edit a <u>report</u> from the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) on climate resilience and city competitiveness.
- Produced a guide for the Electrification Coalition on funding and financing programs that can help states, transit agencies, and others support the adoption of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure (to be released in early 2021).
- Co-authored a <u>case study</u> for the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) on the **benefitcost analysis framework** developed by the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission to help it evaluate different types of utility investments as technologies and the electricity grid evolve.

- Advised the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) on a range of state climate and energy issues, including a policy agenda for electricity decarbonization, the design of a Clean Energy Standard, joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and potential roles for carbon capture and other technologies in decarbonized energy systems.
- Served as a thought partner and advisor for Climate Law & Policy Project (CLPP) regarding potential climate policies in Maryland, including on carbon pricing, net-zero schools, and electric school buses.
- Provided research, writing, and guidance to Clean Air Task Force on papers related to bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) and a framework for evaluating federal zero-carbon innovation policy.
- Helped 8 Rivers craft a written narrative explaining the philosophy and vision underlying its work to achieve climate solutions by breaking down silos and redrawing system boundaries.

As we progress through what will hopefully be a <u>much</u> better 2021, activity to address climate change will hopefully increase dramatically. If Green Light can be of help in providing additional capacity, expertise, or assistance for your climate and energy projects, please do not hesitate to reach out.

With best wishes for the new year,

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