National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

2024 Legislator Briefing Book

NCEL
National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

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ABOUT NCEL

State leadership advances a clean and healthy environment for all.

Who We Are

The National Caucus of Environmental Legislators is a nationwide network of state lawmakers committed to protecting the environment. NCEL was founded and continues to be led by state legislators who believe that they are much more effective when they can organize, communicate, and assist each other on issues like renewable energy, toxic chemicals, clean water, and conservation.

- NCEL participants include over 1,200 legislators from all 50 states.
- There is no cost to join the caucus.
- NCEL convenes annually at national, regional, and issue-based forums.
- Members receive regular updates about state and federal issues.
- NCEL staff regularly respond to information requests from state legislators working on a variety of conservation, energy, and environmental issues.

Make Us Your Environmental Staff

We can conduct research, connect you with colleagues and experts working on similar issues, and provide examples of similar initiatives that have been introduced in other states. NCEL also maintains a library of online resources on its website that is curated specifically for busy legislators.

"NCEL has helped me to cultivate relationships that have allowed me to think through and reflect ideas rooted in my spaces, and seeing how they can also transform the rest of the nation for the better."

Angelica Rubio
New Mexico State Representative

National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

PROGRAM AREAS

The National Caucus of Environmental Legislators empowers a nonpartisan network of legislative champions to protect, conserve, and improve the natural and human environment.

Our program areas are determined by member interest. Interested in a different issue area? Let us know! We are happy to assist.

Climate and Energy

NCEL members are working to reduce carbon emissions through transitioning to renewable energy, electrifying transportation and buildings, and building a more resilient and efficient grid.

- **Utilities and the Grid:** advancing policies enabling the transition to 100% renewable energy.
- **Low-Carbon Transportation:** adopting electric vehicles and sustainable public transit systems.
- **Building Decarbonization:** incorporating energy efficiency upgrades and electrification.

Conservation

As wildlife and natural areas face increasing threats from human activity and climate change, NCEL members are working to conserve wildlife, land, and water in their states.

- **Biodiversity:** allowing freer species movement with corridors and crossings and restoring and protecting natural areas.
- **Land & Water Conservation:** addressing pollinator decline with numerous pollinator protection measures, and funding tools to promote drought resilience.
- **Outdoor Engagement:** increasing equitable outdoor access, recreation, and health.

Environmental Health

Removing toxins from our air, waters, and homes and encouraging safer, healthier alternatives.

- **Zero Waste & Circular Economy:** working to reduce waste from single-use plastics.
- **Toxic Chemicals:** removing harmful chemicals from drinking water and household items.
- **Sustainable Agriculture & Water Quality:** connecting a network of legislators along the Mississippi River to address river health and soil health.

Oceans

Oceans provide countless ecosystem services, including climate regulation, marine and coastal habitats, coastal community protection, and clean energy.

- **Coastal Resilience and Protection:** protecting coastlines by addressing offshore drilling and climate adaptation.
- **Offshore Energy Transition:** moving towards clean energy alternatives produced by our oceans.
- **Blue Carbon and Blue Economy:** conserving blue carbon ecosystems and promoting regenerative ocean-based activities that protect coastal resources.

Utilities and the Grid

Utility and grid policy is a crucial component in decarbonizing the power sector. Outdated utility regulations are keeping fossil fuels online and energy costs high, and status quo grid policies result in decades-long processes for new transmission and clean energy siting. State legislators are addressing this issue by changing regulator mandates, streamlining permitting, and adjusting ratemaking processes.

Fast Facts

- Increased transmission development will allow for more clean energy resources to be connected to the grid, creating better access to cleaner, cheaper, and localized energy resources.
- 100% renewable portfolio standards are popular across constituencies and allow states to decarbonize their power sectors.

Resources

- Utilities and the Grid
- 100% Clean Energy and Zero-Carbon Emissions
- Utility Briefing Book
- Sign-On Letter to FERC and Response

Low-Carbon Transportation

Transportation emissions account for at least one-third of greenhouse gas emissions, leading the country as the largest source of carbon pollution. The adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and sustainable public transit systems have the potential to significantly lower these emissions, and states are working to incentivize EVs and expand charging networks.

Fast Facts

- The transportation sector accounts for 30% of all U.S. climate emissions.
- Choosing a bike over a car just once a day reduces an average citizen's carbon emissions from transportation by 67%.

Resources

- Active Transportation
- Public Transportation
- Electric Vehicles
- Transportation Briefing Book

Building Decarbonization

Green buildings incorporate energy efficiency upgrades, electrification, and design elements which can drastically lower U.S. energy demand while providing benefits such as cost savings, carbon pollution reduction, and improved indoor air quality. Commercial and residential buildings account for ~13% of U.S. emissions, largely due to burning gas, diesel, or heating oil. States that are proactive about building codes and standards can reduce emissions while creating jobs in retrofitting and weatherization.

Fast Facts

- Buildings consumed 29% of total U.S. energy in 2022.
- Green buildings cost only marginally more to build, and result in significantly higher sales and rental rates, as well as tremendous savings on energy costs over time.

Resources

- Building Decarbonization
- Building Decarbonization Fact Sheet
- Building Decarbonization Policy Options

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is severely threatened by human activities like habitat fragmentation, overharvesting, and pesticide use. Without abundant wildlife, fish, and plant populations, we start to lose the critical services that these species provide for millions of Americans, such as: climate resilience, storm mitigation, crop pollination, recreation, and prevention from future pandemics. Myriad policy options exist to help restore the diversity of life in the U.S.

Resources

- Biodiversity
- Pollinators
- Wildlife Agency Relevance and Funding

Fast Facts

- One in five native species in the United States are at risk of extinction.
- Many species that are not protected by law are decreasing in numbers because of human encroachment, making habitat connectivity critical for species.

Land and Water Conservation

Studies have shown that lands and waters are being lost to development at alarming rates, increasing numbers of plants and wildlife are facing extinction, and climate change is threatening human health and wellbeing. To help conservation efforts, many states are looking to set goals of preserving 30% of land and water by 2030. As federal momentum continues to build, states can play a key role in protecting lands and waters that support ecosystem, economic, and community health.

Resources

- 30x30
- Wildlife Connectivity and Crossings

Fast Facts

- The economic benefits of protecting 30% of the planet's land and ocean outweigh the costs at least five to one.
- People of color are more likely than white people to live in an area that is nature-deprived.

Outdoor Engagement

Outdoor engagement presents a unique opportunity to serve diverse constituencies because it provides mental and physical health benefits, supports economic development, and connects communities. Decades of systemic racism have barred people of color from accessing a variety of outdoor opportunities, but states are working to ensure that green spaces and outdoor experiences are accessible for all.

Resources

- Outdoor Engagement
- Outdoors as a Climate Solution Briefing Book

Fast Facts

- The outdoor recreation industry contributed $1.1 trillion in 2022 to the national economy, which was more than oil and gas extraction and mining, combined.
- Spending time in green spaces and nature lowers heart rates, reduces stress, increases short-term memory, and can even reduce the symptoms of clinical depression.

Zero Waste and Circular Economy

Plastic pollution is a global crisis causing extensive public health and ecological adversities. Given the fossil fuel origins of plastic materials, the extraction and refining processes for those petrochemicals create hazardous air and water conditions, particularly for community members who reside in proximity to these sites. Environmental hazards disproportionately burden communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

Resources

- Plastic Pollution
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Zero Waste Policy Roadmap for a Plastic-Free Future

Fast Facts

- Only 9% of all plastic waste ever made has been recycled.
- As of 2022, nine states have banned plastic bags, and four states have passed extended producer responsibility for packaging.

Toxic Chemicals

NCEL prioritizes a wide range of toxic chemical issues including flame retardants, lead contamination, PFAS, and more. Per- and poly-fluoroalkly substances (PFAS) are a suite of human-made chemicals used in many consumer products including food packaging to firefighting foam. While federal action has been limited, states have taken the lead to address PFAS.

Resources

- PFAS
- Toxic Flame Retardants Fact Sheet
- Environmental Justice and Cumulative Impacts Policy Options

Fast Facts

- The drinking water of over six million Americans has been found to contain PFAS chemicals at concentrations of concern.
- Children can have up to five times higher levels of flame retardant chemicals in their bodies than their mothers, increasing the risk of learning disabilities and developmental impairment.

Sustainable Agriculture and Water Quality

Given the environmental footprint and proximity of agricultural systems to natural resources, sustainably managed operations provide an opportunity to reduce agricultural pollution, promote biodiversity, rebuild and enhance soil, and address climate change while supplying food and fuel to a growing global population.

Resources

- Mississippi River Legislative Caucus
- Soil Health
- Flood Resilience

Fast Facts

- NCEL facilitates the Mississippi River Legislative Caucus (MRLC) to assist legislators representing river districts and their colleagues committed to a thriving, healthy Mississippi River.
- Natural infrastructure is vital in terms of managing floods, reducing sedimentation, and filtering nutrients.

Resources

- Ocean Acidification
- Coastal Resilience Policy Options

Coastal Resilience and Protection

Coastal states continue to feel the impacts of coastal threats and rising sea levels. To increase coastal resilience states can explore offshore wind options as well as limitations on offshore drilling.

Fast Facts

- The ocean absorbs 25-30% of carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere, roughly 22 million tons per day.
- The oceans are acidifying at a rate 100 times faster than any time in the last 200,000 years, and perhaps all of Earth's history.

Resources

- Offshore Wind
- Offshore Drilling
- States Continue Efforts to Advance Offshore Wind Implementation

Offshore Energy Transition

The U.S. offshore wind energy has the potential to generate nearly double the nation's current electricity use, create thousands of jobs, and support local economic development, all while producing renewable energy for years to come. With the federal government's goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030, states have proven to be crucial partners in the offshore energy transition.With the right policy drivers and a robust stakeholder engagement process, states can protect coastlines and harness the economic potential of offshore wind.

Fast Facts

- U.S. offshore wind could generate more than 7,200 TWh per year, nearly double the nation's current electricity use.
- Research shows offshore wind farms can act as marine preservation areas and support greater biodiversity than unprotected areas.

Resources

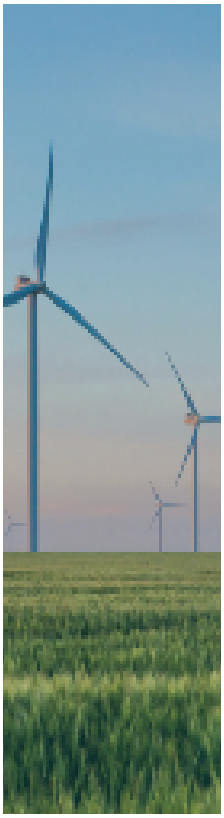
- Nature-Based Solutions: Blue Carbon
- The Blue Economy Policy Options

Blue Carbon and the Blue Economy

Blue carbon is the carbon naturally captured by the ocean and coastal ecosystems. The blue economy is defined as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth; however, not all ocean-based activities fall under this definition, but only those that protect coastal resources. The conservation of blue carbon ecosystems and the promotion of ocean-based activities that protect coastal resources go hand-in-hand.

Fast Facts

- Blue carbon ecosystems can sequester and store more carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests and are critically important to climate change mitigation.
- The current global economic output of blue economy activities is valued at around $1.5 trillion.



Inflation Reduction Act

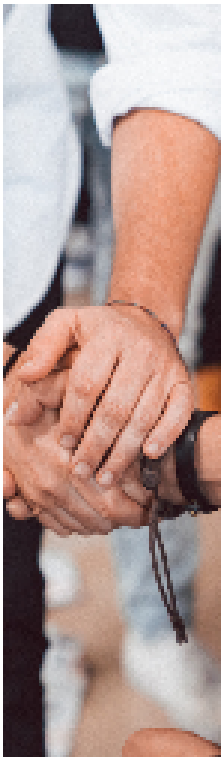
The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 invests a landmark $369 billion in climate and energy investments along with tax and healthcare reforms. While the IRA creates myriad tax credits for the American people to access directly, a large portion of the funding will be applied for by states, which will have a vital role in the success of the programs. If properly implemented, the IRA funds have the potential to reduce emissions up to 44% below 2005 levels by 2030.

States will play a major role in determining how and when the IRA's historic investments are implemented. From regional power grid operators to state regulatory commissions, actors at the state level will be instrumental in carrying out new climate and energy policies.

How can state legislators have the greatest impact on this federal funding? State legislatures can employ three main strategies to ensure that the federal funds are spent in line with legislative climate and clean energy goals: establishing green banks, creating agency guidance and requirements, and creating funding streams for state matches and complementary tax credits.

Resources

- IRA Briefing Book
- Inflation Reduction Act: States and Implementation
- IRA & State Implementation: 2023 Session Update
- Hydrogen Hubs Have Been Selected: What Next?



Tribal Engagement

One of the biggest barriers to stronger state-Tribal partnerships is a lack of knowledge and understanding by state elected officials about their responsibilities to Tribal Nations. Tribes hold and maintain vast natural resources and environmental cultural knowledge and they have distinctive political and legal power through their nation-to-nation relationship with the federal government. To overcome these hurdles and increase financial support for these communities, it is crucial to ensure that the philanthropic sector and state officials acknowledge and support the leadership of Tribes.

A new partnership between Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) and NCEL seeks to amplify the voices of Tribal leaders, enlighten lawmakers on their treaty obligations to uphold Tribal sovereignty, and highlight the funding opportunities available to both states and Tribal nations. By fostering public-private partnerships, states and Tribes can gain access to vital resources that empower Indigenous leadership and facilitate co-management of public lands while integrating traditional knowledge into decision-making processes.

Resources

- State and Tribal Relationships Fact Sheet
- NCEL and NAP Launch New Partnership
- New Partnership Fosters Relationships Between States and Tribes for the Environment

SAVE THE DATE

NCEL 2024 National Forum
August 1-3, 2024 | Louisville, KY

The National Forum is NCEL's premier annual event. It is an opportunity for legislators from across the country to learn and collaborate on policy areas with their colleagues. You will walk away from the Forum with a deeper knowledge of various issue areas and concrete legislative actions you can take.

Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you! Registration will open in early 2024. Learn more on our 2024 Forum page.

2023 Forum Review

In August 2023, over 100 state legislators from 39 states convened for NCEL's 2023 National Forum in Indianapolis, Indiana. The event provided lawmakers the opportunity to learn from one another and collaborate on policy solutions related to climate, energy, conservation, and environmental health.

To learn more, visit the 2023 Forum Recap.

"NCEL is the most engaging, resourceful, and informative conference for legislators to glean, grow, and connect.

Representative Kim Schofield, Georgia

"NCEL provides a valuable and comfortable forum to work together on environmental problem-solving.

Representative Rick Hansen, Minnesota

National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

NCEL STAFF

We are your remote environmental staff. The NCEL Team is here to serve and assist you on your environmental priorities.

Sidra Aghababian
Climate and Energy Coordinator

Rory Anderson
Digital Coordinator

Taylor Anderson
Communications Director

Kate Burgess
Conservation Program Manager

Logan Christian
Wildlife and Habitat Coordinator

Ava Gallo
Climate and Energy Program Manager

Grant Gliniecki
Outdoor Policy Coordinator

Justin Gulino
Conservation Associate

Mara Herman
Environmental Health Program Manager

Dylan Macy
Communications Associate

Tess Madden
Grants and Office Administrator

Dylan McDowell
Executive Director

Julia Meltzer
Zero Waste Coordinator

Salvatore Messina
Development Director

Ruth Musgrave
Conservation Senior Advisor

Carlos Ochoa
Ocean Program Manager

Angela Yuan
Project Manager for Sustainable Agriculture and Water

"NCEL is the clearinghouse for State legislators working for environmental protection. The states are where the action is and connecting us is invaluable.

Representative Amy Sheldon, Vermont

National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

2024 LEGISLATIVE POLICY OPTIONS

Inflation Reduction Act & Federal Funding

- **Colorado H.B. 23-1272 (enacted 2023):** Provides tax credits complementary to ones offered in the Inflation Reduction Act to maximize the benefit to the consumer; creates tax credits for e-bikes, heat pumps, and electric lawn equipment.
- **Illinois H.B. 2487 (enacted 2023):** Creates the Justice40 Oversight Committee, which will make findings, conclusions, and recommendations regarding environmental justice and the uses of federal funds provided for environmental justice.
- **Minnesota H.F. 2310 (enacted 2023):** Establishes the Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority with an initial fund of $45 million.

Climate and Energy

Utilities and the Grid

- **Hawaii S.B.2939 (enacted 2018):** Requires the PUC to establish performance incentive and penalty mechanisms that directly tie electric utility revenues to the utility's achievement on performance metrics.
- **Connecticut S.B.7 (enacted 2023):** Prohibits investor-owned utilities from charging customers for lobbying, trade association dues, public relations expenses, and efforts to argue for rate increases; provides funding for non-utility stakeholders to intervene in proceedings at the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA).
- **Maine LD1682 (enacted 2021):** Adds the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation of disproportionate energy burdens to the purposes of the Commission and directs the adoption of rules to implement this new purpose.
- **Washington S.B.5165 (enacted 2023):** Extends the planning horizon for transmission needs in utility integrated resource plans from 10 years to 20 years; requires electric utilities that operate transmission to consider opportunities to make more effective use of existing transmission capacity instead of requiring each new clean energy project to include firm transmission.

Low-Carbon Transportation

- **California S.B.410 (enacted 2023):** Requires the PUC to establish reasonable average and maximum target energization time periods and certain reporting requirements so that electrical corporation performance can be tracked and improved.
- **Illinois S.B. 2408 (enacted 2021):** Requires utilities to file Beneficial Electrification plans to support electrification that benefits environmental justice communities and manages grid impacts of charging.
- **Minnesota H.F. 2887 (enacted 2023):** Sets requirements for state agencies to reduce GHG emissions and make plans to minimize them in accordance with statewide reduction goals.

Low-Carbon Transportation (Continued)

- **Washington S.B. 5144 (enacted 2023):** Requires each producer selling batteries in or into the state of Washington to participate in a state battery stewardship plan and appropriately fund a battery stewardship organization.

Building Decarbonization

- **New York A.3006 (enacted 2023):** Includes a statewide ban on fossil fuels in new buildings (originally introduced as the standalone policy, the "All-Electric Buildings Act").
- **Pennsylvania H.B. 1421 (enacted 2022):** Creates the Whole-Home Repairs Program to pay directly for new roofs, septic systems, and other structural repairs in order for households to qualify for energy efficiency upgrades through the Weatherization Assistance Program.
- **Vermont S.5 (enacted 2023):** Creates a performance standard for the heating fuel sector that will reduce climate pollution over time and increase the equitable deployment of cleaner heat options.

Conservation

Biodiversity

- **Wildlife Disease: Oregon HB 4128 (enacted 2022):** Requires a report on Oregon's current framework for preventing wildlife disease transmission, a review and update of restrictions for the import and trade of wildlife that pose an elevated risk, and restrictions for live animal markets in the state.
- **Invasive Species: Virginia H.B. 2096 (enacted 2023):** Directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation to create an invasive plant species list and update it quadrennially and to convene the Virginia Invasive Species Working Group.
- **Invertebrate Protection: Nevada AB 221 (introduced 2023):** Authorizes the management of designated terrestrial invertebrates by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners and the Department of Wildlife.
- **Biodiversity Funding: Washington SB 5187 (enacted 2023):** Appropriates $23 million for the protection, recovery, and restoration of biodiversity and endangered species, including $300,000 for a review of the governance and funding structure of the state wildlife agency.
- **Biodiversity Conservation: New Hampshire SB 164 (introduced 2023):** Would adjust the scope of the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) to (1) include a definition of biodiversity, (2) include biodiversity conservation in the eligibility criteria for proposed conservation easements, and (3) add biodiverse areas as "eligible resources" for protection under the LCHIP.

Land & Water Conservation

- **Vermont H. 126 (enacted 2023):** Sets 30x030 and 50x50 goals for land and water conservation and the creation of an inventory for Vermont's conserved land.
- **California AB 1272 (enacted 2023):** Requires the adoption of coastal watershed water use guidelines that support public trust uses, public health and safety, and the human right to water in times of water shortage, including enforcement and civil liability provisions.
- **Florida H.B. 1379 (enacted 2023):** Authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to acquire lands that complete linkages within the Florida wildlife corridor. Appropriates $100 million to Fund for land acquisitions annually.
- **New Mexico SB 9 (enacted 2023):** Establishes a Conservation Legacy Permanent Fund and a Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, authorized to distribute more than $160 million annually to conserve forests, manage noxious weeds, improve soil and water health, improve river habitats and surface water quality, develop outdoor recreation infrastructure, conserve outdoor cultural heritage, and fund outdoor equity programs.

Outdoor Engagement

- **Alabama S.B. 298 (enacted 2023):** Funded the creation of a strategic trail network plan to maximize existing trail resources, fund connecting trails, and establish reasonable liability protections for properties abutting recreational state land.
- **California A.R. 32 (enacted 2023):** Designated a Black Conservation Week to recognize historic and present Black contributions to conservation and outdoor recreation, as well as providing recommendations to better support future Black outdoor contributions.
- **Illinois H.B. 1526 (enacted 2023):** Established an Outdoor RX program promoting health and wellness through a grant program funding natural resource-based or outdoor-based therapy programs.
- **Louisiana S.R. 84 (enacted 2023):** Established a healthy children task force to promote year-round access to meaningful time outdoors, physical activity, and healthy food and recognized the childhood health contributions of school recess, physical education, and nutrition.

Environmental Health

Zero Waste & Circular Economy

- **Washington HB 1085 (enacted 2023):** Would require new buildings with drinking fountains to provide bottle-filling stations by 2026. Would also require larger lodging facilities to move away from toiletries packaged in small plastic containers or wrappers.
- **Illinois SB 0058 (enacted 2023):** Provides that each State agency shall establish and implement a plan to reduce the quantity of single-use plastics used or purchased by that State agency by 50% on or before 2031 and by 75% on or before 2036.

Zero Waste & Circular Economy (Continued)

- **Massachusetts H.3676 (introduced 2023):** Would update the state's bottle bill to raise the beverage refund value to no less than 10 cents. Would also set increasing recycling and redemption targets, require producers to plan for and invest in refillable container systems, and ban a number of toxic substances from beverage containers.
- **Oregon SB 543 (enacted 2023):** Would prohibit food vendors from using polystyrene foam containers in prepared food sales and providing single-use food-ware containers to consumers unless food-ware containers meet certain criteria. Would also prohibit the sale or distribution of polystyrene foam containers, packaging peanuts, and food-ware containers containing intentionally added PFAS.

Toxic Chemicals

- **Colorado HB 1348 (enacted 2022):** Establishes a regulatory scheme that requires disclosure of certain chemical information for products used in downhole oil and gas operations. Disclosers must also provide a declaration that the chemical product contains no intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl chemicals
- **California SB 1263 (enacted 2018):** Requires the state to adopt and implement a Statewide Microplastics Strategy, including investigating the health and environmental impacts of microplastics and identifying key policy changes to reduce harm.
- **Maine H.P. 1055 (introduced 2023):** Would prohibit the sale of plastic packaging containing certain problematic materials and additives, including all packaging made from polystyrene and PVC.
- **Minnesota H.F. 2310 (enacted in 2023):** Appropriates funding to address PFAS contamination. Restricts all unnecessary PFAS uses by 2032, bans 13 product categories specific uses, and requires companies to disclose presence of PFAS in any product. Prohibits class B firefighting foam containing PFAS. Requires the establishment of water quality standards for certain PFAS chemicals.

Sustainable Agriculture & Water Quality

- **Louisiana H.B. 1052 (enacted 2022):** establishes a Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund to be eligible for FEMA's Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund funding for projects that reduce risk from natural hazards
- **Maryland H.B.653/S.B.348 (enacted 2022):** Makes traditional infrastructure financing equally available to green and blue infrastructure projects and leverages private investments
- **Minnesota Statue 103F.48 (enacted 2015):** requires perennial vegetative buffers of up to 50 feet along lakes, rivers, and streams and requires 16.5 feet buffers along ditches to filter out excess nutrients and sediment and improve water quality.

Sustainable Agriculture & Water Quality (Continued)

- **Mississippi H.B. 522 (enacted 2023):** Assigns responsibilities for supervision of installation, operation, and maintenance of individual on-site wastewater disposal systems to prevent negative impacts to water quality

Oceans

Offshore Energy Transition

- **California A.B. 3 (enacted 2023):** Requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, to develop a 2nd-phase plan and strategy for seaport readiness that builds upon the recommendations and alternatives in the strategic plan for offshore wind energy developments.
- **Maine L.D. 336 (enacted 2021):** Requires negotiation of long-term power contracts to support Maines' floating offshore wind research array in federal waters.
- **Maryland S.B. 781 (enacted 2023):** State agencies are directed to work with Maryland's regional electrical grid operator, PJM Interconnection, to build the necessary transmission lines to bring offshore wind energy generation to where it's needed onshore.
- **Oregon S.B. 678 (introduced 2023):** Establishes state policy to support engagement between offshore wind developers and communities, to minimize adverse effects of survey activities while maximizing benefits of offshore wind development and to promote economic diversification and resilience.

Coastal Conservation

- **Washington SB 5619 (enacted 2022):** Requires the Department of Natural Resources to establish a Native Kelp Forest and Eelgrass Meadow Health and Conservation Plan that endeavors to conserve and restore at least 10,000 acres of kelp forests and eelgrass meadows by 2040.
- **Massachusetts H. 792 (introduced 2023):** Outlines nine initiatives that municipalities could adopt to reduce nutrient pollution. If communities adopt five of the nine initiatives, they receive access to funding for further ocean acidification mitigation programs.
- **California AB 1407 (introduced 2023):** Would require the Natural Resources Agency to establish acreage-based targets to restore kelp forests, eelgrass meadows, and native oyster beds, with the goal of achieving restoration by the year 2050.

Blue Economy

- **Oregon S.B. 530 (introduced 2023):** Establishes Natural and Working Lands Fund. Directs the State Department of Energy to study workforce training programs needed to support the adoption of natural climate solutions and provide results to the Legislature.

Blue Economy

- **Maine L.D. 1286 / S.P. 523 (introduced 2023):** Establishes the blue economy task force to support Maine's emergence as a center for blue economy innovation and opportunity.
- **Massachusetts S. 535 (introduced 2023):** Establishes a grant program to provide funding to Massachusetts non-profits, academic institutions, and businesses to conduct research and development of new technologies for the purpose of improving ocean health and responsible ocean use.

State and Tribal Relations

- **Require Free, Prior, and Informed Consent: Washington SB 5373 (introduced 2021)** would clarify and reinforce existing requirements to consult with tribal governments and direct state agencies to seek free, prior, and informed consent for projects directly impacting tribal land.
- **Land Back: California AB 408 (introduced 2023)** would improve climate resilience by encouraging tribal co-management and returning land to tribal control.
- **State Park Access for Tribal Citizens:** Minnesota honors Indigenous treaty rights with free state parks access to tribal citizens. Nevada (AB 84), Arizona (AB 2237), Maine (LD 25) and South Dakota (HB 1142) all proposed free state parks access for tribal citizens.
- **Respect Jurisdiction: Washington HB 2233 (enacted 2018):** Allows Tribal governments to end state interference in Tribal court jurisdiction. Many states still claim jurisdiction over Tribal citizens and lands set by now-denounced efforts to renege on treaties and forcibly assimilate Tribes.

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