IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Findings Report (2021 - 2023)

Frontline Solutions for the Solutions Project

TSP Grantee Partner Blacks in Green, Executive Director Naomi Davis
Frontline Solutions is the go-to evaluation firm for values-aligned organizations that are working towards equity and justice.

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The Solutions Project (TSP) is a national non-profit organization that funds and amplifies climate justice solutions created by frontline communities building power for an equitable and regenerative economy.

The organization employs a two-pronged grantmaking and narrative communications strategy to accelerate and amplify grassroots climate justice solutions. TSP prioritizes funding Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and women and non-binary leaders whose organizations are often overlooked by mainstream climate philanthropy.

In 2023, TSP partnered with Frontline Solutions to conduct a scan and analysis of the impact of its field-building ecosystem approach and the aggregate achievements of its grantee partners over the last three years. During this period, TSP has made significant investments, infusing over $42 million in funding into the climate justice field through its core grantmaking program and the collaborative ecosystem funds it administers. As part of this assessment, TSP was also interested in understanding how its grantee partners defined impact and scale.

To assess TSP’s grantee and ecosystem impact, Frontline Solutions used the “Trust-Based Framework to Evaluation and Learning,” which also allowed us to evaluate TSP’s strategy and approach by asking:

1. How well is TSP broadly strengthening the ecosystem of climate justice action?

2. What systems change signals of progress and/or impacts are TSP grantee partners seeing in their long-arc strategies?

3. How might TSP evolve and adapt to continue its innovative contributions to the Climate Justice Movement’s impact and/or growth?
TSP investments in climate justice grantee partners delivered large-scale impact in the 2021-2023 period:

**Key Metrics**

- 26 climate policy wins from 41 grantees¹ ²
- 27 campaign wins from 38 grantees¹ ²
- 53 policy & campaign wins

Grantee partners led or participated in a range of climate movement policy advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national levels that together helped secure $350 billion in public investments related to climate justice²

Based on a detailed analysis of 20 key state wins, 106 million people benefited at the national level and over 43 million people at the local and state levels²

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¹ Source: TSP Media Internal Tracker
² Source: Just Solutions Collective
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key Metrics (page 2 of 2)

TSP investments in climate justice grantee partners also delivered direct services, reduced emissions, and improved overall organizational health in the 2021-2023 period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 Million +</th>
<th>$53 Million+</th>
<th>$69 Million+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>direct program beneficiaries reported by grantee partners&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>in aggregate organizational budget growth since 2021 as reported by 47 grantee partners, including ~$500,000 median budget growth for grassroots climate justice organizations supported by TSP&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>in new government (city, state, or federal) funding won by TSP grantees since 2021 for implementation of their climate justice solutions&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.15M metric tons of CO2 reduced annually & 26.5M projected metric ton reductions in CO2 resulting from just three ground-up wins of grantee partners in New York<sup>3</sup>

TSP’s narrative strategy, correlated to a 7-fold increase in clean energy news coverage referencing communities of color & a 4-fold increase in coverage applying an equity frame

[4] Source: Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy (PSE) for Healthy Energy
Key Findings

The Solutions Project (TSP) Grantee Partners Advance Equity-Centered Climate Solutions and Systems Change

TSP grantee partners are addressing the interdependent conditions that hold social and environmental problems in place. To that end, they advance multi-dimensional strategies to create impact at all three levels of systems change work—i.e. they create structural, relational, and transformative impact. Grantee partners asserted that TSP is among the vanguard of climate funders who understand and support complex systems change strategies. An important aspect of this is that TSP demonstrates trust in the knowledge, experience, and capacity of grassroots climate justice organizations to build ground-up pathways to scale.

TSP’s Unique Approach Strengthens Grantee Partners and the Climate Justice Movement Ecosystem

Grantee partners credited TSP's support in helping them maximize their overall impact and scale, including their ability to raise and leverage additional financial resources. Since 2021, forty-seven partners reported $53 million in total budget growth as a result of TSP support. Furthermore, survey respondents said that TSP helped them forge stronger relationships and connections to the larger Climate Justice Movement. Grantee partners also praised TSP's grantmaking responses to climate emergencies, such as wildfires, flooding, and excessive heat—enabling organizations to implement community-led practices and policies. Finally, grantee partners reported that TSP's two-pronged strategy has helped them increase their power and storytelling capacities to influence policymakers on climate justice and drive climate narratives into the mainstream. Grantee partners reported securing $36 million in new funding through their increased communications capacity. Overall, surveyed grantees raised nearly $70 million in philanthropic and public funding for their organizations over the last three years.
TSP Investments in the Climate Justice Movement Ecosystem Achieve Climate Impact By Shifting Power, Strengthening Democracy, and Transforming Relationships

TSP and their grantee partners prove that an intersectional and multi-dimensional approach to systems change leverages quantifiable climate, human, and community benefits. Grantee partners have reported major climate wins with TSP's support, including twenty-six climate policy wins and twenty-seven campaign wins. An analysis by the Just Solutions Collective found that twenty policy wins that TSP grantees led or contributed to benefited an estimated 106 million people.

Frontline Solutions' analysis found that grantee partners also reported over one million direct program beneficiaries and engaged over 77,000 members in their base-building work in the last three years. Furthermore, in 2023, TSP commissioned an additional evaluation partner, Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers (PSE) for Healthy Energy, to review and quantify the end climate impact of CO2 emissions reduction resulting from three major victories from New York grantee partners. In their report, PSE for Healthy Energy estimated that these three localized wins alone resulted in 1.15 million metric tons of local, annualized CO2 reductions.
Grantee partners deeply value TSP’s field-building ecosystem approach, grantmaking and narrative communications strategies, and the additional movement infrastructure support offered through the ecosystem funds. In addition, grantees point to promising signals of progress from their power-building and organizing work, both in terms of mitigating the climate crisis and improving health, wellbeing, and adaptation. They assert that TSP’s support for organizing and power-building work is crucial, particularly because it is often overlooked by mainstream climate funders, even as many adopt equity commitments.

In summary, over the past three years, TSP’s financial investments, capacity-building, and communication support have fueled the transformation of an underfunded network of hundreds of organizations into a nationwide grassroots infrastructure for climate justice. Fortified by these investments, TSP believes that the current infrastructure can absorb significant philanthropic capital and take swift action to further the nationwide adoption of community-led climate justice solutions. There is a compelling and urgent need for such intensified investment in these crucial times for our planet.
INTRODUCTION

TSP and Frontline Solutions have worked together since 2016 on several evaluation projects. This year's Impact Assessment reflects on 2021-2023 as a period of scaled-up activity, including a fivefold growth in TSP's grantmaking efforts. TSP’s goals for this report were to understand the outcomes of its intensified investment and engagement in the grassroots climate justice ecosystem and to better understand its grantees' definitions of impact and scale.
METHODOLOGY

Frontline Solutions used a mixed methods approach to answer these questions, gathering data from various sources, including TSP staff, grantee partners, and TSP Trustees.

1. Impact Assessment Survey

Frontline Solutions designed a survey that went out to all of TSP’s core grantmaking program portfolio of 127 organizations. Mindful that many factors influence a survey response rate, including survey incentives and grantee relationships, TSP conducted phone and email outreach to encourage its partners to participate in this impact assessment. They provided survey respondents and focus group participants a stipend for their time and insights. Seventy-two organizations responded, corresponding to a 57 percent response rate. Evaluators typically aim for a 20-30 percent response rate for representative data and consider a 50 percent or higher response rate to be excellent.

Forty-nine percent of grantee partners who responded were also participants in at least one of the three ecosystem funds, defined below. Survey data from this group of respondents will add further insight into the broader impact of TSP’s role in building movement infrastructure for climate justice solutions.

The Fund for Frontline Power

Created with Climate Justice Alliance to accelerate the flow of capital, land stewardship, and other resources to the grassroots. This $10 million fund is fully governed by thirteen frontline leaders who made $6.4 million in grants to sixty-nine grassroots, BIPOC-led groups in 2023.

Justice40 Accelerator

This fund was co-created with Elevate, Groundswell, Hummingbird Firm, and Partnership for Southern Equity to increase access and capacity to draw down funding for frontline groups eligible for new federal investments mandated by the Justice40 Initiative and financed by the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. 150 groups have been supported and $43 million in public funds won to date, an 80 percent success rate for public funding applications submitted with support from the Accelerator.

Communicating Our Power

This fund provides dedicated grants for communications staff alongside a two-year narrative fellowship program created in partnership with Climate Justice Alliance and Center for Story-based Strategy. According to TSP’s internal reporting, the twenty-organization pilot resulted in a 53 percent increase in media coverage for participating organizations and additional qualitative impacts.
Furthermore, the survey asked questions about how grantee partners define and measure impact and scale for their communities; examples of metrics they are tracking and anecdotal evidence/stories of impact; and perceptions of how TSP's support has or has not contributed directly to the organization’s success. Frontline Solutions analyzed the data, coded open-ended survey responses, and cross-tabulated by factors including organizational leadership type (e.g., BIPOC-led). The survey responses remain anonymous and confidential, and results have only been shared in the aggregate with the TSP team.

2. Focus Groups

Frontline Solutions convened and facilitated two focus groups of thirteen grantee partners, including two of TSP's Philanthropic Trustees who govern the organization’s grantmaking and programs. The questions were designed to understand how TSP grantee partners define and measure impact and scale for their communities and what gaps they see in philanthropic support for climate justice.

TSP grantee partner Honor the Earth
3. TSP Data Sources

TSP provided several documents and additional data sources to the Frontline Solutions team. These included Salesforce data on grantee partners, grantee-reported organizational demographic data, grant programs and funds, climate narrative trends reports, and internal cataloging of “grantee wins.” TSP also shared two relevant evaluative analyses. The first, prepared by the Just Solutions Collective, studied twenty grantee policy achievements, presented in a complementary report. The second, conducted by PSE for Healthy Energy, analyzed the reduction of carbon emissions and the general health benefits of three localized grantee wins in New York. Additionally, TSP and Frontline Solutions met regularly to discuss trends in climate justice and philanthropy. TSP staff provided additional context for understanding their model and approach to funding, field-building, and capacity-building. Frontline Solutions also relied on data from past evaluations of TSP completed by Frontline Solutions staff regularly since 2016.

TSP grantee partner New Alpha Community Development Corporation
CONVENTIONAL CLIMATE FUNDER METRICS & IMPLICATIONS FOR JUSTICE-CENTERED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

To understand how TSP grantee partners define impact and scale through their work, it is imperative to know the history of the Climate Justice and Environmental Justice (CJ/EJ) Movement.

Grassroots organizations in the CJ/EJ Movement have been fighting for effective and principled climate solutions for decades, driven mainly by the acute health and other impacts of the dirty energy economy (polluting, extracting, and fossil fuel-dependent industries) in their communities. Increasingly, it is being recognized that the disproportionate impact of environmental pollution on such communities is mirrored by the disproportionate adverse impacts, and projected adverse impacts, of climate change, including climate-instigated disasters. As a result, the CJ/EJ Movement has been striving to influence public perception regarding the impacts and root causes of the climate crisis. Moreover, the CJ/EJ Movement emphasizes the importance of involving frontline communities as critical stakeholders in generating solutions because of their proximity to the problems. For context, the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991 produced the Environmental Justice Framework and Principles that guide today’s growing climate justice field. In 1996, leaders developed the Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing, further shaping advocacy efforts.

Grassroots organizations have consistently stated that equity-centered climate solutions must focus on addressing the root causes of the climate crisis. They argue that solutions that fail to take these social and systemic conditions into account will continue to expand the oppressive structures that created the climate crisis in the first place. From our impact assessment survey and conversations with TSP grantee partners, it is clear that TSP grantee partners see themselves in the lineage of the CJ/EJ Movement, fighting and winning within and across frontline communities. They are focused on creating and implementing multi-dimensional strategies that tackle the conditions that create or keep the climate crisis in place—environmental extraction, exploitation, greed, consumerism, and colonialism—while calling out false solutions that fail to dismantle those structures.
In other words, TSP’s grantee partners pursue equitable community-centered climate solutions not only because they prioritize justice but because they see such solutions as the only way to secure a lasting and sustainable resolution to the climate crisis. These strategies can be understood through a systems change lens, defined as “advancing equity by shifting the conditions that hold a problem in place.” These conditions include policies, practices, resource flows, relationships and connections, power dynamics, world views, and mental models. Further, systems change requires impact at three levels: structural, relational, and transformative.

Frontline Solutions’ analysis found that TSP grantee partners are advancing multi-dimensional impact at all three levels of systems change by addressing the interdependent conditions that hold social and environmental problems in place. A qualitative analysis of survey responses and focus group narratives showed that the work that TSP grantee partners do in building power, creating stronger social networks, and shifting narratives supports the development of concrete strategies and material solutions to the climate crisis.

Yet, grantee partners believe that many foundations, donors, and donor advisors, including within climate philanthropy, lack a robust understanding of what it takes to create the necessary conditions for systems change. Thus, even when aiming to support systems change outcomes, conventional climate funding is often misaligned with community-rooted approaches to climate solutions. Instead, funders tend to advance narrowly defined, short-term campaigns or projects that solely focus on metrics like reduced CO2 emissions. While focusing on CO2 measures is important for climate impact, it is insufficient for achieving all six necessary conditions of systems change for climate justice. As a result, TSP grantee partners are also fighting against misconceptions in philanthropy about how climate impact is achieved and what equity-centered success looks like.
The focus of conventional funders on academic and technical outcomes often overlooks the necessary work that many TSP grantee partners do on power-building and culture change. A focus group participant noted that they feel that “funders are reverting to some bad practices [by focusing solely on] ‘tech, big data, and analytics’ metrics.” Meanwhile, grassroots organizations often work on levers of community, social, and systems change that such metrics might not fully capture. With this in mind, grassroots grantees are reasserting that climate change impact and scale are not solely about carbon emissions and replicating programs. To demonstrate, survey respondents often expanded their definitions of impact and scale in the following ways:

- Expansion of material and/or climate benefits to frontline communities,
- Growth in base-building and leadership development (i.e., membership growth, network growth, partnerships) to advance climate justice solutions,
- Advancement of climate policy and legislative campaigns,
- Growth in power and influence, including via communications campaigns and activations that change regressive narratives about climate change, and
- Leverage of campaign and policy wins to create measurable climate impact, secure similar wins in different localities, and adapt local solutions at the state, federal, or even international levels.

In short, TSP grantee partners balance depth and scale to address the cultural, social, and power-building conditions needed for systems change. Toward this, an essential signal of progress is the spread and replication of solutions and policies at the city, state, regional, and national levels. A prime example is grantee partner PUSH Buffalo’s harnessing of TSP support to scale a green development zone from 5 to 20 blocks in Buffalo, NY. This same group is also a leader of a TSP-supported state-wide frontline coalition called NY Renews, which is changing policies to scale these localized impacts for the entire state. The coalition’s most significant policy win to date, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), established the country’s most robust state climate bill and inspired the federal Justice40 Initiative, which mandates that 40 percent of federal climate investments benefit “underserved and overburdened” communities.
A Paradigm Shift for How Funders Understand Climate Justice Impact and Scale

Grassroots climate justice organizations have led a paradigm shift in how climate change solutions can be effectively achieved and brought to scale. By applying multiple systems change strategies to address entrenched inequities, these organizations have enlivened the philosophy of climate action. They have also transformed how governments and local communities understand the quality of climate equity work. Their vision is manifested through deep localized interventions and scaling strategies at the city, state, and regional levels. TSP is among the first climate funders to understand and support this paradigm shift by trusting that grassroots climate justice organizations have the knowledge and experience to build ground-up pathways to impact and scale. TSP’s approach to working with its grantee partners seeks to influence all three levels of systems change: structural, relational, and transformative. This approach and its impact on grantee partners are explored further below.
TSP'S APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING GRANTEE PARTNERS AND THE CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

The Solutions Project supports BIPOC, women-led grassroots organizations and alliances through its field-building ecosystem approach:
- Grantmaking
- Narrative Communications

Short-Term Impact
- Grow grantee partner's impact and scale
- Provide narrative communications to build storytelling capacity and shift mainstream climate narratives
- Connect grantees to larger climate justice movement
- Increase grantee base-building for climate justice
- Increase community level climate wins/provisions (e.g. solar, green infrastructure, resilience, etc.)

Long-Term Impact
- Win policy and increase public investments in climate justice
- Grow democracy and community self-determination
- Win material benefits for climate and people

Solidarity Philanthropy Principles
TSP's field-building ecosystem approach is motivated, led by, and accountable to the incredible impact of BIPOC-led grassroots groups, which TSP funds and amplifies through grantmaking and narrative communications strategies. Meanwhile, just 4 percent of climate philanthropy is directed towards “equity” strategies, and New School University research estimates that BIPOC-led grassroots groups receive just 1.3 percent of climate funding. TSP's core grantmaking strategy addresses this gap, creating high-trust and fast-moving pathways for large-scale capital to flow to grassroots groups. Based on these capabilities, in 2021, TSP was asked by Climate Justice Movement leaders to help co-develop three innovative funds and capacity-building programs: the Fund for Frontline Power, Justice40 Accelerator, and Communicating our Power, previously described in our methodology.

TSP's field-building ecosystem approach is also guided by principles of solidarity philanthropy. This means acting in solidarity with Climate Justice Movements by contributing not only money but also time, knowledge, skills, and access to other funders, media, and influencers to amplify their grantee partners' impact. It also means learning from community organizations, practicing accountability to grantee partners, building trusting relationships, being adaptive and responsive to grassroots leadership, purposefully growing a healthy movement ecosystem, and being transparent through evaluation processes.

### TSP Grantmaking Dashboard (2021-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CORE GRANTS</strong></th>
<th><strong>ECOSYSTEM FUNDS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$27,472,910</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,355,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Grant Dollars</td>
<td>Total Grant Dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>564</strong></td>
<td><strong>239</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Grants</td>
<td>Total Number of Grantees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$23,335,910</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,355,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Multi-Year General Operating Grant Dollars to 127 Grantees</td>
<td>Fund for Frontline Power to 69 Grantees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$4,137,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Disaster Resilience Grant Dollars via 158 Disaster Resilience Grants</td>
<td>Justice40 Accelerator to 150 Grantees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Geography</strong></th>
<th><strong>$4,000,000</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80% Women or Non-Binary Led</td>
<td>Communicating Our Power to 20 Grantees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% BIPOC Led</td>
<td><em><strong>Geography</strong></em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37% Black</td>
<td>50% Southern States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19% Latinx</td>
<td>30% Coastal States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12% Asian and Pacific Islander</td>
<td>15% Interior States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11% Indigenous</td>
<td>5% Island States or Territories (Hawaii, Puerto Rico)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3% Middle Eastern</td>
<td>8% Multiracial and other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8% Multiracial and other</td>
<td><strong>$4,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Operating Support Was Instrumental in Growing Impact and Scale

The majority of grantee partners who responded to the survey or participated in focus groups believed that TSP support was instrumental to their growing impact and scale. In fact, 70 percent of survey respondents felt TSP support was “very important” for scaling their impact and climate solutions (Figure 1). Beyond financial support, TSP’s general operating support allowed grantee partners to respond to emerging needs and community concerns and be flexible. As one grantee noted in the survey, “[TSP support] matters because this support actually trusts our judgment on solutions for our own community.”

Breakdown of Core TSP Grants During 2021-2023 Time Period (127 Groups)

- **TOP 5 SOLUTION AREAS**
  - Energy: 30%
  - Community, Economic & Workforce Devt: 21%
  - Engagement, Democracy, and Policy: 21%
  - Health: 15%
  - Water: 13%

- **100%**
  - Percentage of the 127 groups whose Core TSP Grants were multi-year (2-3 years)
  - $80,000
  - Average grant size, with a minimum $50,000 and a maximum of $200,000 (each on an annual basis)

- **How important was TSP in scaling your impact and climate solutions?**
  - Very Important: 70%
  - Important: 26%
  - Total: n=69

“[TSP support] matters because this support actually trusts our judgment on solutions.”

Figure 1: Importance of TSP support in scaling grantee partners’ climate solutions
General operating dollars further enable grantee partners to grow and take risks that matter. The chart below shows that TSP's ecosystem-strengthening approach has increased grantee partners' capacity in coalition-building, narrative and communications, climate justice strategies innovation, ability to secure funding (both private and public), staff growth, learning and evaluation capacity, as well as in disaster preparedness (Figure 2).

More specifically, survey respondents reported significant increases in government funding, new funding, or an overall increase in their organization's budget due to TSP support in the last three years (see Table 1). Government funding in the survey is defined as the total dollar amount of new government (city, state, or federal) funding won by grantee organizations since 2021. Additional new funding in the survey refers to the total dollar amount of new funding generated for grantee partners with increased communications capacity since 2021. Budget growth reported by survey respondents reflects the total dollar amount of organizational budget growth since 2021.

Frontline Solutions found that, in total, grantee partners have raised nearly $70 million in additional funding since 2021. Within that total, twenty-three organizations secured an aggregate of $69 million, with a median growth of $300,000 in new government funding. Twenty-nine organizations reported $36 million in additional new funding, with a median growth of approximately $265,000 per reporting organization. Given TSP’s two-pronged strategy, it was especially notable that survey data showed a correlation between this $36 million in new funding and increased communications capacity. Finally, forty-seven organizations reported $53 million in total annual budget growth, with a median of $500,000 per reporting organization.
**TSP'S APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING GRANTEE PARTNERS AND THE CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT**

Table 1: Key funding growth reported by survey respondents that was enabled by TSP's support during the last three years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>No. of Organizations Reporting</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Total Amount Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total dollar amount of new government (city, state, or federal) funding won for climate justice organizations since 2021</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$15,442,499</td>
<td>$69,745,583(^6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total dollar amount of new funding generated for grantee partners, correlating with increased communications capacity since 2021</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>$264,998</td>
<td>$13,000,000</td>
<td>$36,659,429(^7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total dollar amount of organizational budget growth since 2021</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
<td>$53,149,847</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^6\) Eighteen organizations, which were part of the J40 Accelerator, reported receiving $43M in government funding on Frontline Solutions' survey.

\(^7\) We excluded one response which indicated total organizational budget as opposed to new funding.
Grantee partners asserted that TSP’s support allowed them to build new community resilience models and care networks as an innovation for disaster response. Instead of relying on outside organizations to come in and “save” the community, grantee partners are advancing local mutual aid efforts that build more equitable and immediate ways to recover. Underscoring this, one partner remarked, “I think for us in particular at [Organization], it is so helpful when TSP just drops an extra $20,000 [grant] because they're like, ‘We saw y'all had wildfires. We know you need to respond to that. Here you go.’ And I cannot tell you how incredibly helpful that was.”

In TSP’s survey of grantee partners, the five most frequent climate disaster impacts reported were flooding, economic hardship, environmental pollution, mental health hardship, and power outages. More than half of the respondents to TSP’s internal survey also reported instances of extreme heat (55 percent) and tropical storms or hurricanes (50 percent). TSP is responsive to how these realities affect communities. Indeed, staff noted that inclusive within TSP’s total core grantmaking metrics above, they provided more than $4 million to support 93 grantee partners innovating in climate resilience solutions across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and multiple tribal nations within the U.S. borders.

Another grantee stated, “When Hurricane Harvey [hit]... The Solutions Project came in two ways that actually really helped us [bring people] together. One was their vast network of relationships. They were able to move and mobilize solar panels and batteries and storage and other alternative ways of rebuilding and [recovering] through their networks. They leveraged REI, the recreation equipment sports store, to move over 300 solar panels... [and to] mobilize that with water filtration systems. And then [second,] they really helped us [with] a narrative to show how the frontline communities in the Gulf South, in Appalachia, were impacted by the storm.”
Grantee partners also stated that TSP’s communications support helped them expand their storytelling capacity and build power by strengthening their network. This has led to meaningful progress. For example, 62 percent of survey respondents agree that their community has developed a better understanding of the impacts of the climate crisis. Seventy-two percent of grantee partners reported incorporating climate solutions into their overall climate justice impact strategy. Sixty-four percent of respondents agreed they have seen their community’s climate solutions gain momentum or support. And finally, 48 percent of respondents reported an increased capacity to influence policymakers through their communications and storytelling (Figure 3).

Survey respondents also noted that the one-on-one coaching facilitated by TSP helped sharpen their communications skills and, as one grantee put it, “ultimately allowed [our] organization to do a greater push [to shift] the narrative regarding our power utility's bad policies.”

Ultimately, TSP’s support in this area created positive shifts in how local communities understood the impacts of the climate crisis and ensured more comprehensive coverage and amplification of grantees’ climate solutions. Indeed, 39 percent of survey respondents reported positive shifts in how climate justice is portrayed in the media, and 50 percent said they have seen more funding flowing to climate justice work as a result of their intensified communications efforts.
### TSP'S APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING GRANTEE PARTNERS AND THE CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

Over the last 3 years, please share how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have seen positive shifts in how my community understands the impacts of the climate crisis</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have seen our community's climate solutions gain momentum (or support)</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have seen positive shifts in how climate justice is portrayed in the media</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have seen an increase in our capacity to influence policy makers through our communications and storytelling work</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our organization is amplifying our climate solutions as part of our impact strategy</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have seen more funding flow to climate justice work</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 3: Narrative shifts and other outcomes supported by TSP communications support**

Grey denotes "Did Not Answer"
TSP staff recognize that their grantee partners are changing narratives in their local communities and media landscape. They believe that their role as a movement-led funder is to amplify frontline narratives in national media from the ground up. From their perspective, this approach differs from most national movement campaigns, which can lack groundedness, local accountability, and nuance.

**Multi-Year Investment Increased Connectivity Between Grantees and the Climate Justice Movement**

As part of its solidarity philanthropy practice, TSP supports grantee partners with access and connections to other funders, media, and influencers to amplify their impact. This is vital given that more traditional climate funders have historically overlooked many TSP grantee partners because of their smaller size, BIPOC leadership, and multi-issue focus. Meanwhile, the vast majority (90 percent) of survey respondents considered their work part of the Climate Justice Movement before receiving a grant from TSP. This indicates that grassroots organizations have worked on climate justice issues long-term and well-preceding the emergence of recent funding trends at the intersection of equity and climate. Seventy-eight percent of respondents also reported that TSP funding allowed them to do more work related to climate justice (Figure 4). Consequently, TSP’s funding has helped to support and strengthen an emergent ecosystem of deeply committed and impactful organizations.

"TSP kept us focused on telling our story better and working to strengthen our network as a form of power. The resources and information [they provided] has been magnified many times over."

“The assistance that [TSP] gave our communications team was so helpful because they really train[ed] [our team] to be able to do strategic communications for campaigns…I think that training that our staff was given has allowed us to make a lot of wins in the subsequent years on state policy.”
### TSP's Approach to Strengthening Grantee Partners and the Climate Justice Movement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I know about other TSP grantees' work</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel connected to the larger Climate Justice Movement</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been able to make connections with other TSP grantees to advance my work</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before receiving TSP funding, I would not have considered our work as part of the Climate Justice Movement</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSP funding gave us the opportunity to do more work related to climate justice</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSP funding opened opportunities for us to be part of the larger Climate Justice Movement</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grey denotes "Did Not Answer"

Figure 4: Connection between grantee partners and larger Climate Justice Movement
Relatedly, 65 percent of respondents were aware of other TSP grantee partners’ work, and 58 percent felt that they had been able to make connections with other TSP grantees to advance their work. Nonetheless, 35 percent disagreed that they had been able to make connections with other TSP grantees to advance their work.

TSP is aware that the 2020 pandemic limited TSP and grantee partners’ ability to convene in person during the last three years. Moving forward, staff identified an opportunity to reflect on lessons, strategize on their role as a convener, and expand TSP’s value to the field by increasing connection across TSP grantee partners. They are particularly focused on generating mutual benefits in any partner convening and limiting burdens on grantees.

Another important finding regarding the ecosystem is that nearly all survey respondents considered their organizations to be part of other social justice movements, including racial justice, economic justice, democracy, and housing, as shown in the chart to the right. This underscores TSP grantee partners’ understanding of interconnected systems.

![Pie chart showing social justice movements of grantee partners](chart.png)

**Figure 5: Social justice movements of which grantee partners consider themselves to be part**
TSP Support Resulted in Increased Base-building and Policy and Campaign Wins

As Figure 6 shows, 90 percent of survey respondents shared that TSP support resulted in increased base-building for climate justice (base-building is defined as members from impacted communities who participated in the work of an organization). Additionally, close to half of the survey respondents credited TSP support for their policy and campaign wins (see Appendix A for a table of specific policy and campaign wins).
Eighty-one percent of survey respondents also reported that TSP contributed to their ability to participate in coalition-building activities (Figure 1). The importance of this finding related to climate justice impact was underscored by one focus group participant:

“The organizing part of the base-building [in] community education is so important. Because we’re really talking about the intersection of governance, we’re talking about understanding systems engineering, the science, the math, and social studies of how people move from one end of the corridor to another. The work that we do is super complex. It's not easy. We're not talking in silos. We are deeply holistic, and we're addressing complex issues with complex solutions, but they [white climate leaders & climate philanthropy] don't see us that way. They see us through a very narrow lens that is based on their own racial identity or their class identity.”
TSP's work demonstrates what is possible when grassroots movements lead climate solutions. It also illuminates how philanthropy can best show up for, resource, and support movements to build power, win, and implement solutions at scale. In the following sections, we examine grantee partners’ systems change impacts. We grouped these impacts into three interconnected areas.

1. **Power-Building & Structural Impact**: Signals that show how grantee partners are addressing the policies, practices, and resource flows that promote or counteract climate justice by building community power.

2. **Relational & Cultural Impact**: Signals that show how grantee partners are strengthening and transforming the relationships between people who make up the system(s).

3. **Climate Impact**: Signals of material benefits for climate and people in relationship to the climate crisis (i.e. mitigation, adaptation, and public health).

The fishbone graphic below demonstrates the multi-dimensional impacts achieved by TSP’s climate justice grantee partners. By utilizing the “Six Conditions of Systems Change” framework and a climate justice approach, it becomes clear that conventional funders' metrics regarding "climate impacts" are just one of the overall effects of a climate justice approach. Climate justice grantee partners highlight that these metrics are supported by "relational & cultural impacts" and "power building & structural impacts."
It's important to note here that the conditions of systems change can be independently defined, measured, and targeted for change and yet are intertwined and interacting. For instance, strengthening a community’s relationship with food through a community garden (relational and cultural work) can lead to power-building and policy change around local food systems and land use policies.

**Power-Building & Structural Impacts: Wins in Policy, Organizing, and Public Investments**

As we noted earlier, grantee partners reported that TSP’s support over the last three years has increased their ability to build a strong base for climate justice. This is important because base-building is a driver for passing laws and policies, often necessary components for longer-arc systems change and structural impact. Building and sustaining this base is critical for power-building so that the people most impacted by structural inequities can engage directly in processes to change policies, institutions, structures, and narratives.

Examples of grantee partners’ power-building activities reported in the survey include:

- **Expanding a popular, engaged base** of community members on climate justice.
- **Training organizers and other organizations** on the Just Transitions and climate resilience models.
- **Providing frontline youth with an organizing structure** within their communities to mobilize and be mobilized, creating a base that can add power to strategic campaigns.
- **Developing leadership programs** that support the grassroots’ ability to participate on government boards and advocate for solutions on behalf of communities and families bearing the brunt of the impacts of climate injustice.
- **Building organizing power in Native communities and Tribal nations** so that they can respond and engage with campaigns against proposed energy projects impacting them.
Responding to the survey, forty-one organizations reported securing major policy wins by building power. Additional campaign wins were reported by thirty-eight organizations. TSP believes these wins are critical milestones toward a Just Transition to a green economy. Indeed, they halted the construction of billions of dollars of oil pipelines, secured the protection of 600 million acres of federal land, and implemented electric transportation and solar-powered affordable housing, to name a few highlights.

TSP also tracks grantee partner wins via its media tracker and through self-reported wins in grantee newsletters. TSP’s media tracker and grantee newsletter self-reporting surfaced twenty-six policy wins and twenty-seven campaign wins, beyond those reported in the survey (See Appendix A).

TSP grantee partners have worked on federal, state, and city policy changes on many critical issues. Indeed, surveyed TSP media partners reported policy wins and recommendations on local, state, and federal policies related to infrastructure funding (for example, weatherization, clean energy funding, and the promotion of rooftop solar), affordable housing, transit, renewable energy, and green jobs. Some grantee partners also advocated for including specific populations in policies, such as fighting for the Storm Assistance for Undocumented Immigrants (SAI) program in California.

In addition to the aggregated fifty-three policy and campaign wins reported above, power-building has resulted in significant gains in public investments for climate justice. As illustrated in Table 2, eighteen organizations reported securing policy victories that resulted in a median of $8 million in public investments related to climate justice, with the highest amount awarded as a result of grantee advocacy campaigns reported as $15 billion. Public investments in climate justice range from funding for clean air and water solutions, extreme heat mitigation, clean energy, and electric vehicle infrastructure to integrating climate justice into public safety initiatives, microgrid development, and tree planting programs. A complementary analysis by the Just Solutions Collective of twenty policy achievements led by or meaningfully involving TSP grantees over the last three years found that these successes resulted in commitments of more than $350 billion in public investments related to climate justice. It also found 106 million people benefitted from federal policy achievements and over 43 million from state or local wins on issues including gas and drilling bans, affordable clean energy, and disaster resilience. The full report is linked here.
## GRANTEE PARTNER AREAS OF IMPACT

Table 2: Dollar amount of public investments won for climate justice communities reported by survey respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dollar amount of public investments won related to climate justice</th>
<th>No. of Organizations Reporting</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Total Amount Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>$8,000,000</td>
<td>$15,000,000</td>
<td>$18,046,468,088</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"As an organization, we focus on people, not [only] carbon. We take a root cause analysis and look at how practices of colonialism, capitalism, and extraction shape a community's ability to live, govern, and use critical resources like energy, land, and water."

- Grantee Focus Group Participant
Relational & Cultural Impacts: Democracy and Community Self-Determination to Advance Climate Justice

Grantee partners pursue and celebrate policy and campaign wins as critical indicators of their progress towards more transformative systemic change. Still, some caution that funders who favor singular policy goals, campaign wins, or any other siloed success metric can miss other significant impacts. This is because many grantee partners also understand the importance of building power. They argue that an educated electorate and engaged residents will ensure the implementation, intersectionality, and increased momentum of climate policies – in addition to safeguarding such policies in the face of regression.

Other grantees shared further examples of relational and cultural impacts that included:

- **Strengthening Native leadership to co-manage land** and water systems to improve the environment not only for Native communities but for all communities.
GRANTEE PARTNER AREAS OF IMPACT

- **Shifting the narrative around climate change** through a racial equity lens to uplift the effects of climate change on frontline communities, mobilizing and engaging the community to take action for equitable, locally-led solutions.

- **Cultivating a network of inter-generational, multi-sectoral workers** with the aim of urgently moving the American labor movement towards sustainable jobs and energy.

- **Building relationships and cultivating healing between people and the land** through community gardens and culturally relevant land stewardship practices.

- **Communications that contextualize the climate narrative** within a long history of climate and economic decisions that may have had negative consequences in disinvested communities of color.

TSP’s Solidarity Philanthropy practices also support its grantees in building ground-up community approaches to climate justice solutions. In Table 3 below, forty-three organizations reported a collective total of 77,485 people from impacted communities who regularly participated in their organizations. Community participation ranged from fifty core leaders who regularly attend meetings to hundreds of people participating in direct actions and community forums. The highest reported participation was 58,289 community members as reported on Table 3 on the next page.

"We've been groomed as consumers first, not as citizens, not as contributors to our community.”

[It’s not enough for our organization to] seek equitable access to clean, safe, life-giving energy for everyone and regenerative reciprocal relationships with our ecology. [We also seek] truly democratic control, by the communities most impacted by the current system, of the future system we’re building together...Even if we transform how energy is delivered, we have not met our impact unless we have also built a resilient, robust movement that can fight for and govern with justice at the center."
Grantee partners believe that relational and structural impact is essential for equitable climate solutions.

"Our frontline community must be at the center of defining the appropriate solution to climate injustice. As such, we measure impact by how we help develop and support grassroots leaders' ability to participate in co-governance toward solutions for the community and families bearing the brunt of the impacts of climate injustice.

We believe that transition to climate solutions is inevitable, but [climate] justice is not. Leading us to questions like: How do we create a process to center community voices to lead a Just Transition? How deeply is climate justice tied to economic justice?"

Table 3: Number of members from impacted communities participating in TSP grantee partners work as reported by survey respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of members from impacted communities who participated in the work of your organization (participating in actions, meetings, political education, etc.)</th>
<th>No. of Organizations Reporting</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Total Amount Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>58,289</td>
<td>77,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Climate Impacts Achieved by Shifting Power, Strengthening Democracy, and Transforming Relationships

TSP grantee partners' work to build power, strengthen networks, and change narratives has real, material impacts. Climate Impacts are defined as material benefits to the climate, environment, and people. TSP grantee partners are seeing progress and impacts in increasing affordable housing, clean air and energy, eliminating fossil fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing urban heat, building food sovereignty, stewarding lands and restoring natural ecosystems, and building new climate-resilient housing or infrastructure. Sixty-four percent of survey respondents reported that TSP support helped increase direct, positive climate outcomes for frontline communities, and 42 percent of survey respondents said that TSP support increased housing and new infrastructure like solar (Figure 7).

Did your work supported by TSP result in: (Please select all that apply)

- New housing or other community infrastructure (e.g. solar panel installation, community gardens etc.) 42%
- Increased positive climate outcomes for frontline climate communities (e.g. people protected from pollution) 64%

Figure 7: TSP support helped increase direct, positive climate outcomes for frontline communities
GRANTEE PARTNER AREAS OF IMPACT

One grantee partner highlighted the connection between their power-building impact and their climate impact, sharing, "Through our campaign, we have directly connected base building to campaign goals and strategies towards our Clean Air campaign. Our educational efforts have shed light on energy monopolies and corporate businesses that threaten climate equity and harmful legislation impacting our communities."

Thirty-one surveyed organizations also reported infrastructure wins. Within that number, thirteen respondents described their infrastructure wins as increasing solar energy, affordable housing, urban farming and community gardens, flood mitigation, and green jobs. Further, an analysis by PSE for Healthy Energy of select grantee wins in New York, inclusive of transitioning a power plant to renewable energy, resulted in 1.15M metric tons of CO2 reduced and 26.5M projected metric ton reductions, annually.

More specific examples of reported climate impacts included:

• **Successful implementation of a "pilot" community-owned solar farm** to provide low-cost, renewable energy to low-to-moderate income families.

• **Reducing the threat of out-of-control greenhouse gas emissions** by stopping petrochemical facilities from being built or expanding.

• **Decreasing and ultimately eliminating fossil fuels** and other pollutants from their communities.

• **Stopping fossil fuel infrastructure** from being built or from expansion.

• **Creating climate disaster resilience hubs.**

• **Reducing energy bills** and improving access to clean energy.

• **Implementing self-sustaining** and safe water systems.

• **Implementing urban greening efforts** or growing food production or farms in their communities.

TSP grantee partner PUSH Buffalo
Frontline Solutions’ survey analysis also found that thirty-eight organizations engaged more than one million people, with a median of 500 community members benefiting from each organization’s direct services (see Table 4). Reporting organizations shared examples of direct climate services, from distributing air conditioners and fans to 175 people during a heat dome to rapid response flood support to 350 individuals. As previously noted, some organizations also define their impact beyond direct services and estimate community impact based on policy wins. Two organizations also articulated their community impact in terms of their support for other grassroots organizations and cohorts of frontline groups.

**Table 4: Number of people from impacted communities benefiting from TSP grantee partners’ direct services as reported by survey respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of people from impacted communities benefiting from your direct services</th>
<th>No. of Organizations Reporting</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Total Amount Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>1,015,598</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To demonstrate the breadth of their grantees’ systems change impacts (including quantifiable end climate impact), TSP invited their climate change evaluation partners, PSE for Healthy Energy, to complete a review of three New York wins achieved by grantee partner organizations pursuing climate justice strategies in their communities. In the following case study, Frontline Solutions’ impact framework is applied to illustrate the full impact model of TSP’s programs and grantees.
CASE STUDY:
GRANTEE PARTNERS DELIVERING SYSTEMS CHANGE & CLIMATE IMPACTS

TSP provided long-term grants and narrative communications support to four organizations working at the neighborhood level across the New York City metropolitan area—ALIGN, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA), The Point Community Development Corporation, and UPROSE. TSP also supported the NY Renews state-wide coalition, of which these organizations are members.

TSP support enabled these frontline grantee partners to grow their membership base and develop leaders. Moreover, it strengthened their ability to design and spearhead campaigns that ultimately achieved three major, localized wins during the 2021-2023 period: (1) The 2023 replacement of oil and gas in the Ravenswood Generating Station with offshore wind power, (2) The 2022 ban on natural gas combustion in new buildings in New York City, and (3) The 2022 commitment for all-electric schools in New York City. These are all examples of power-building and structural change impacts.

Achieving these wins required a collaborative, long-term strategy to build relational and cultural impacts and elevate localized wins to drive state-wide policy. Toward this goal, grantees leveraged media coverage and strategic communications with members to target elected officials. They were also deliberate about publicly connecting the dots between these three specific victories and the larger vision for a Just Transition to a green economy for all New Yorkers.
To assess the climate impacts of this work, TSP commissioned PSE for Healthy Energy to conduct a carbon emissions reduction analysis. The analysis found that the three wins highlighted in this case study resulted in a reduction of 1.141 million metric tons of CO2 emissions at the project or local level, annually. This was the equivalent of removing 252,000 combustion-engine vehicles from the road. Further, in 2023, with support from NY Renews, the model NYC new construction gas ban was adopted at the state level, bringing the annual emissions reduction of this subset of grantee wins to 1.15 million metric tons of CO2. In addition to the CO2 mitigation benefits, PSE for Healthy Energy noted that these wins will improve the health of impacted communities by significantly reducing outdoor and indoor air pollution.

**Multi-Dimensional Systems Change Impacts**

**RELATIONAL & CULTURAL IMPACTS**

TSP grants to ALIGN, NYC-EJA, NY Renews, The Point CDC, and UPROSE, strengthened capacity and connectivity from the ground up over many years and multiple campaigns. Additional narrative communications programming increased the news coverage, strategic alignment, and momentum across partners.

**POWER-BUILDING & STRUCTURAL IMPACTS**

Grantees' capacity, base-building, and targets grew, turning out community members in different collaborative campaigns over time to build power and achieve change.

**CLIMATE IMPACTS**

Across the 3 distinct victories, 1.15M CO2 immediate reductions were achieved and an additional 26.5M CO2 reductions are projected when adopted by the state. TSP believes this is a sound projection as one win (new construction gas ban) is already state-wide because of NY Renews advocacy. At state level this is equivalent to 5.7M gas-powered cars coming off the road.
Support for Grantee Partners on Measuring Climate Justice Impact

Frontline Solutions’ analysis identified several areas of opportunity for TSP to build on its progress over the past three years. For example, some partners are interested in further understanding the collective impact of their work on climate change. Indeed, not all grantee partners have the deep capacity or expertise to collect and analyze technical scientific data. Some organizations would benefit from additional funding or training to build these skills to support community-defined and determined impacts. Grantee partners also noted the need for more technical assistance, funding, and training in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support for Scientific/Technical research</th>
<th>Software/Tech/Equipment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Hydrologic/geohydrologic technical support</td>
<td>• Mapping ESRI/GIS support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Geologic technical support</td>
<td>• Evaluation tracking software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Biology and natural science technical support</td>
<td>• Soil surveying support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• GIS technical support</td>
<td>• Legal support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furthermore, respondents noted that some climate impacts are challenging to measure and evaluate, including stopping total carbon emissions or pipelines.

TSP can support its grantees and the climate justice field by fundraising additional resources for grantee partners to collect and analyze data and track key wins. As an intermediary, TSP can also deepen (or outright establish where practices don’t yet exist) the climate solutions knowledge base through learning and evaluation practices. Finally, TSP is well-positioned to organize funders to shift expectations and understanding of how communities define impact and scale for climate justice solutions.

"Success in our efforts is not always stopping these projects but may involve rerouting pipelines, forcing additional permits or environmental impact assessment, or delaying construction to change the financial equation of the pipeline companies. For example, Wolf Climate Solutions originally presented for public information a route with a spur that would run through the poorest and minority neighborhoods of Peoria, IL. After an organized community protest, Wolf removed this spur from the route proposed to the Illinois Commerce Commission, which approves pipeline routes and grants use of eminent domain."
CONCLUSION

TSP’s ecosystem approach to grantmaking and narrative communications has led to promising signals of progress toward deepening, growing, and scaling climate justice solutions.

While conventional climate justice funders often overlook grassroots groups’ critical power-building and organizing impact, TSP amplifies it through a unique combination of grantmaking, capacity-building, and communications support. TSP grantee partners overwhelmingly see this as a profound value add. Furthermore, TSP bolsters segments of the Climate Justice Movement that remain woefully underfunded. For example, TSP funding to smaller, grassroots organizations led by BIPOC folks (the majority of them women), especially in the South, has been vital.

Moreover, this report indicates that TSP’s efforts over the past three years have accelerated the transformation of an underinvested ecosystem of organizations into a robust nationwide grassroots climate change infrastructure. In this crucial time for our planet, TSP provides a blueprint for philanthropy to achieve significant, holistic, and equitable climate impact by investing in community-led climate justice solutions. At scale, such investments have the potential to bring about the fundamental and systemic changes required for a Just Transition in the United States.

"Our organization would not exist without the guidance, encouragement, and alignment of The Solutions Project. The combination of connection to rigorous, thoughtful partners, grounded in our shared vision of a future with reciprocal relationships, and the freedom and support to dive fully into the complexity of the work has been essential."
The following chart documents legislation or administrative policies passed at the federal, state, and/or local levels in the U.S. as a direct result of TSP grantee leadership or meaningful participation. We also include campaign wins that either stop harmful policies from being enacted or include legal and other victories for community self-determination. Data was collected through TSP’s media tracker, grantee newsletters, and narrative responses to Frontline Solution’s Impact Assessment survey (grantee descriptions of those wins have been preserved in this document). Just Solutions Collective helped formalize this list and analyzed the impacts of 20 major policy successes, especially for environmental justice communities.

### FEDERAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY WINS</th>
<th>CAMPAIGN WINS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Inflation Reduction Act</td>
<td>• Stalled Manchin’s dirty deal in the Inflation Reduction Act, which would have gutted bedrock environmental laws, fast-tracked decades of fossil fuels projects, and forced approval of the Mountain Valley Pipeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Justice40 Initiative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Executive Order on Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All, including addressing cumulative impacts from polluting facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Climate heat protections for workers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Policies that promote rooftop solar coupled with batteries are being adopted by local and federal government agencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Executive order to protect nearly a quarter-million acres of wilderness in northern Minnesota from mineral and geothermal exploration and development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• With new federal guidance, Tribal governments will now have a say in how 620 million acres of federal lands are managed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### APPENDIX A

#### STATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY WINS</th>
<th>CAMPAIGN WINS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (Illinois)</td>
<td>• Mobilized to get the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to double their</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Build Public Renewables Act (New York)</td>
<td>targets for reducing vehicle miles traveled and directed staff to include</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Storm Assistance for Undocumented Immigrants (SAI) program (California)</td>
<td>a fossil fuel phaseout in the statewide air quality scoping plan, as well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Significant advocacy to include environmental justice into the</td>
<td>as reaffirm their commitment to a petroleum phaseout plan for extraction and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consideration for water and air quality policies in the Salton Sea</td>
<td>refineries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>air basin (SB 583) (California)</td>
<td>• New York State declined renewal permits for peaker plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SB1137 bans new wells or retrofits within 3,200 feet of homes, schools,</td>
<td>• Proposed the Climate and Community Protection Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hospitals (California)</td>
<td>• Launched the public tool of the Coastal Map 2023 in which people can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Executive order (OE-2023-009) for the mitigation and adaptation of the</td>
<td>denounce different environmental problems on the coasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coastal zone in Puerto Rico</td>
<td>• Educational campaign victories that defined the landscape in California,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Passed a number of bills supporting community needs, including more</td>
<td>gained widespread attention from media, decision-makers, and movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>funding for natural resource enforcement, a new source of funding for</td>
<td>partners on Governor Newsom’s License to Burn, on the vision of Golden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enforcement, and exemption for water fees by traditional taro farmers,</td>
<td>State Energy, and the integration of transformative utility justice into</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>declaring 2022 the year of the Limu, designating Limu Kala as the state</td>
<td>movement spaces such as the Green New Deal and others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>limu, the funding of a fishpond stocking project and the passage of the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>second community-based subsistence fishing area in Hawai‘i's history</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A climate plan that paved the way for New York to enact a “cap and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>invest” program that would limit emissions and require polluters to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>purchase allowances to spew greenhouse gasses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bill signed banning gas combustion in new buildings in NY State</td>
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## LOCAL

### POLICY WINS

- Rapid Transit Zone passed the County Commission in Miami-Dade, established new minimum density zoning requirements for lands adjacent to our transit corridors and created new incentives for developers to build affordable and workforce housing
- City of Miami’s Building Efficiency 305 ordinance with affordable housing units included in the greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the requirement that landlords of large affordable housing buildings will have to make repairs that would lower tenants’ utility bills
- Bill signed banning gas combustion in new buildings in NYC
- NYC plans for the construction of all new city schools will be all-electric, and the city will complete or initiate the conversion of 100 existing schools to all-electric heating by 2030
- The County of Los Angeles unanimously voted to ban drilling and to phase out existing wells
- Led community input for local AB 617 process (Long Beach, CA)
- LA City Council unanimously approved phasing out oil drilling in the city

### CAMPAIGN WINS

- Indigenous sacred sites Bears Ears and Chaco Canyon were protected
- Designation of Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument
- Judge blocked Air Permits for Formosa plant expansion
- Stopped the Byhalia Pipeline in TN
- A medical equipment sterilizing plant that uses a chemical whose emissions could lead to cancer and other health risks caused its Tennessee location
- Successfully advocated to Austin council members to waive the final 6 weeks of pool fees citywide
- $20 million dollars in new funding for the Local Drainage Program, along with the city’s pledge to take responsibility for maintaining often-clogged open drainage ditches
- French bank Société Générale withdrew from Rio Grande LNG project in South Texas
- Provided critical feedback to the Clean Buses for Healthy Niños Alliance for electric school buses
- Environmental Justice Executive Order that will ensure completion of the ongoing, citywide Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) that will provide data on how environmental burdens and other stressors vary across Chicago
### LOCAL

**POLICY WINS**
- LA County Regional Planning Commission voted in support of phasing out oil drilling in the Inglewood Oil Field. A final vote on the resolution by the County Board of Supervisors is expected in Spring 2024
- Trees for Kids (SB1689) (Tucson, AZ)
- Justice40 Infrastructure Initiative resolution was unanimously passed by the Cook County Board of Commissioners (IL)

**CAMPAIGN WINS**
- Impacted council decision-making on a proposed zoning change killing South Louisiana Methanol. Halted the Nucor Steel expansion and the South Louisiana Methanol project
- Defeated the 600-mile Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP)
- Integrated climate justice into our public safety initiatives through our partnership with the Housing Authority
- County Commission rescinded last year's Commission vote to site a new incinerator in Doral
- Heat ordinance in Miami Dade County that requires employers to provide breaks, water, and shade for outdoor workers
- The Heat Season campaign led to one of the largest health systems to provide pro bono access to their continuing education online platform to FCCA to provide nine climate change and heat CME webinars for clinicians
- Miami-Dade County voted to move forward with the Community Land Trust (CLT) prototype program.
- 50 county-owned lots will now be placed into a CLT for the purpose of creating community-controlled affordable housing.
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<th>LOCAL</th>
<th>POLICY WINS</th>
<th>CAMPAIGN WINS</th>
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<td>• City of Florence, SC established a sustainability advisory committee, tasked with creating a climate plan for the city</td>
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<td>• Wrote an environmental Justice chapter in the Alamance County, NC Health Department's health assessment</td>
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<td>• Pushed the city commission to add more than $300,000 to the office of resilience budget and ensure the sustainability of the department that oversees climate work</td>
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<td>• Queens-based developer Rise Light &amp; Power, LLC (Rise) will repower its Ravenswood Generating Station in Long Island City using offshore wind energy</td>
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As part of its Solidarity Philanthropy approach, TSP does not predefine metrics or indicators for its grantees partners, rather, organizations are able to identify the most important and relevant indicators for their work.

### HOW TSP GRANTEES ARE DEFINING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Number of people contributing membership dues
- Number of people attending in-person and online events such as political education events, gardening events and other community events
- Number of people attending community meetings
- Number of block captains
- Number of community members attending actions such as protests, direct actions and other mass mobilizations
- Number of community members participating in core group activities such as working groups and planning calls

### HOW TSP GRANTEE PARTNERS ARE MEASURING THEIR IMPACT

Additional grantee-defined metrics beyond more traditional measures documented throughout the report

- Number of community members reached and engaged
- Number of leaders developed
- Number of conversations with community members about climate justice
- Number of leaders who are developing strategy, being spokespeople, and leading the work
- Number of trainings/workshops hosted, and number of people participating
- Number of news article mentions
- Number of residents who have developed leadership skills, advocated for issues at city council, coordinated a meeting with their council person, become trained, trained to be a "Climate Navigator" in their neighborhood, etc.
- How communities respond and engage with external negative forces
- Number of community members involved in the design of projects
HOW TSP GRANTEE PARTNERS ARE MEASURING THEIR IMPACT (CONTINUED)

- How community members participate in decision-making, and shared leadership
- How to keep people stable in their homes and able to live healthy lives (health and well-being)
- Community practitioners are resource managers
- Community efforts are sustained
- Communities can adapt to changing conditions