



climate. science. action.

CLIMABLE

— .ORG —



2020 Annual Report

Letter From Our Executive Director

2020 was a year of extremes: extreme isolation and staying home, extreme coming together and getting out to vote, the most costly and extreme weather and climate events in the US ever recorded.¹ So it may seem an odd year to memorialize in our first ever Annual Report. Yet, the accomplishments of this small team alongside our partners are even more noteworthy during a time of deep divides and the challenges posed by a global pandemic.

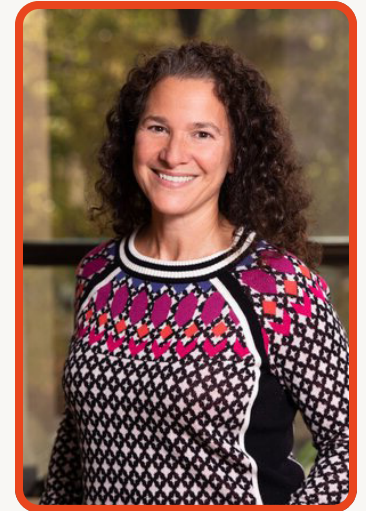
Our mission has always been about climate science and being a vital resource for policymakers and community activists. As grassroots environmental advocates carve a path toward climate justice, we provide understandable and actionable resources. With the ever-growing need for relevant, easy-to-understand scientific materials, Climable is here to fill the gap.

We at Climable have expanded our efforts in community outreach, growing our campaign through an array of blog posts, podcasts, conference presentations, website additions, and more. With the challenges of Covid-19, we adapted our outreach initiatives to focus on virtual programming, even completing our two biggest annual fundraisers through online platforms.

2020 was another rewarding year for Climable as we made great strides on our community resilience projects. We successfully received funds for and further developed the implementation and coordination of community microgrids in Chelsea and Chinatown. These initiatives focus on community ownership of energy resources, allowing for more autonomy and resilience. While these projects are well in hand, we have also conducted work on similar projects in Cambridge and Puerto Rico.

Looking forward to the new year (for multiple reasons!), we are excited to make big strides with our community microgrid projects, expand our energy literacy campaigns, and partner with larger organizations to secure funding for the work to continue.

None of this work would be possible without generous donations of time and resources. We appreciate both your shared commitment to clean energy and your contributions immensely, which made our successes this year a reality.



Jean Ann Ramey

Executive Director, Climable

¹ ["Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters: Overview."](#) National Center for Environmental Information: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

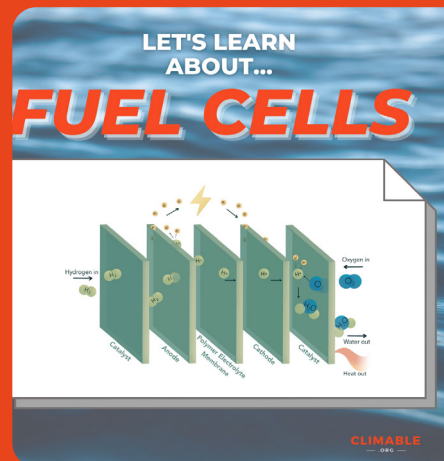
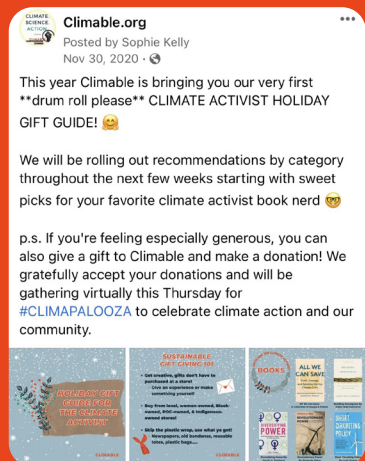
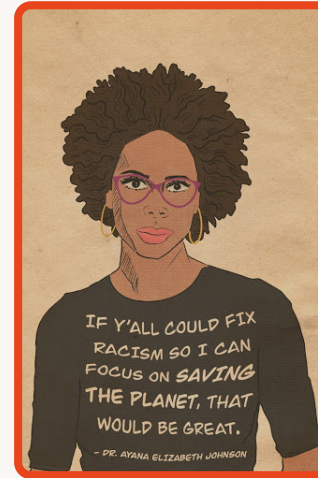
2020 Highlights

Climable's end goals are energy democracy and climate resilience. We empower individuals and communities to combat climate change while preparing for its impacts. In 2020 we continued to pursue our mission by making information about environmental challenges and clean technology understandable through a variety of strategies while also advancing our clean energy accessibility projects. Our team may be small but we had a great impact in 2020!

Communications

This year, we wrote 16 blogs on topics ranging from candidates' proposed legislation and policy, to intersectional environmental justice, to carbon sequestration. Our 'Behind the Switch' podcast featured series with Professors Jennie Stephens and Shalanda Baker (who was recently appointed Deputy Director for Energy Justice at the DOE) and discussed things like the polluter elite, climate isolationism, and the social dimensions of energy. We added new sections to our website on fuel cells and microgrids. We also hosted in-person and then virtual soup suppers. While we had numerous exciting field trips planned, we were only able to host one before quarantining occurred.

These efforts were complimented by our social media engagement where we saw audiences grow by 15.63% on Facebook, 20.31% on Twitter, and 60.15% on Instagram. We are thrilled that our work reaches an ever-growing audience, ultimately increasing our capability of engaging more and more people in our quest for more clean energy and fewer emissions. Furthermore, we are always looking to do our part in lifting up Black, Indigenous and People of Color's voices in the energy and environmental movement. Our #MelanatedEJ campaign this summer, featuring images of formidable climate champions, was very well received.



Collab with Future Leaders

Part of Climable's work involves educating and training future leaders, where we introduce students to opportunities in the energy and environmental sectors through our internship program. This program, sponsored by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, allows us to work closely with interns who learn how to work with multiple stakeholders, conduct thorough research, and communicate challenging information efficiently. In 2020, we welcomed our first six-month co-op from Northeastern University and look forward to maintaining this program in the coming years.

In addition to our co-op and internship programs, Climable also collaborates with student groups by overseeing group projects. In 2020, Climable collaborated with groups from Northeastern, Emerson, and WPI. Northeastern students took on the daunting task of creating summaries of our microgrid feasibility studies, Emerson students conducted a thorough review of Climable's communications and marketing materials and provided a plans book for advancing our mission, and WPI students created microgrid tools for Climable to use in our research.



Clean Energy Accessibility

Burning fossil fuels for electricity, heat, and transportation was the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions from human activity in the United States.² The imperative to rethink the way we generate and distribute electricity has propelled us to co-develop community based microgrid projects. Our solutions are rooted in principles of energy democracy and energy justice. These projects follow the community's lead when it comes to creating a comprehensive resilience plan.



Climable, as part of the collaborative RUN-GJC team, has always believed that the communities affected know best what they need. To ensure we don't assume a top-down approach in our work, the team leaves decision-making to our grassroots partners that work in these communities. As technical translators, Climable ensures that these partners fully understand the options before them so they are comfortable in their decisions.

Chelsea & Chinatown

RUN-GJC's projects in Chelsea and Boston's Chinatown neighborhood completed extensive feasibility studies in late summer. The principal finding of the Chelsea and Chinatown studies is that neighborhood-led microgrid developments are a creative way to incorporate clean technologies and reliable electricity to create resilience in environmental justice communities. In addition to these studies, the team has been presenting findings to building owners interested in this clean, communal energy and resilience, the Department of Public Utilities, and others in this space. Climable has also participated in meetings to review outreach, education, governance, and ownership questions that are critical to the projects' success.

² ["Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions."](#) United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Cambridge

2020 opened the door for a research project in Cambridge to investigate the potential technologies, structures, and benefits of a community microgrid in Cambridge. Climable, in partnership with Clean Energy Solutions, Inc., produced a report outlining topics to consider when deciding on whether a microgrid is a good solution for a community's needs. The resulting paper, *Exploring a Community Microgrid for Cambridge*, finds that a virtual microgrid could provide energy resilience, emissions reductions, and cost savings. Further research into this topic will continue in 2021 alongside an energy literacy campaign that will start building the foundation for inclusive community engagement.



Loíza, Puerto Rico

After surpassing 30% of our total fundraising goal in 2020, we are feeling energized and hope to conclude our ongoing community resilience project in Loíza, Puerto Rico in the new year. Our Loíza FE: Future of Energy for Villa Cañona project is a collaboration with local nonprofit Comité Pro Desarrollo Villa Cañona to create resilience at their neighborhood's community center, which was heavily damaged in 2017 during Hurricanes Irma and María. The rebuilt center will be outfitted with solar and battery storage, water filtration, and uninterruptible communications to provide resilience during power outages.

Justice

We are grateful for the progress we have made in justice, equity, diversity and inclusion since we formalized our DEI statement in 2019. We also recognize that we have a lot of growth ahead of us and we are steadfast in identifying the ways in which we can continue to uplift our community and center anti-racism in all aspects of our work.

Events & Sponsorships

Despite the challenges of virtual programming, Climable was invited to present at four events aimed at furthering microgrid and clean energy information opportunities including the Northeastern University Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI), the Microgrid Knowledge Virtual Conference, Toxics Action Network's Local Environmental Action workshop, Clean Water Action DG & Utility Shutoffs webinar, and a Packetized Energy luncheon.

Climable renewed its partnership with Patagonia as one of their grantees. Part of this relationship includes access to their Action Works portal and employing their resources to uplift environmental justice in local communities. This partnership and the funds we received were imperative to our successes this past year and we are grateful for this relationship.

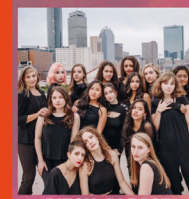
Additionally, Audley Travel named us their Charity of the Year, kicking off a two-year partnership. Climable created a blog series surrounding sustainable travel alternatives and clean energy transportation and Audley hosted a series of fundraisers that benefited our projects and programming.

CLIMAPALOOZA 3!

We didn't let the challenges of a virtual world stop us from hosting our annual climate action rally, CLIMAPALOOZA! Normally, we gather with friends at the Herter Park Amphitheater for an outdoor concert and rally. Realizing this wouldn't be possible, we put our heads together and created a short and snappy online show. While it wasn't the usual fun shindig we have grown to love, it was exciting to be able to share what Climable does with a more geographically-diverse audience. Friends and family from all over the country tuned in to the event which featured performances from *Pitch, Please*, poet *Sam Cha*, our friends *Dogs in a Pile* and the incomparable *Something Underground*. Peppered throughout the program were testimonials from beloved former interns and collaborators as well as quick anecdotes from staff about various initiatives in which we participate. An incredible volunteer pieced together the performances into one cohesive show, which is still available for you to check out on our homepage, Climable.org! This event raised over \$5k!



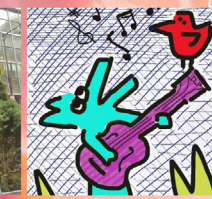
CLIMAPALOOZA HEADLINERS



PITCH, PLEASE



SAM CHA



DOGS IN A PILE



SOMETHING UNDERGROUND

12.03.20 | 8PM | VIRTUAL 12.03.20 | 8PM | VIRTUAL
CLIMAPALOOZA
12.03.20 | 8PM | VIRTUAL 12.03.20 | 8PM | VIRTUAL



We gratefully accept your donations at: bit.ly/SupportClimable

2020 Financials

Climable operates on a combination of grants, individual donations, and remunerative work. Approximately half of our income is donated versus payment for services.

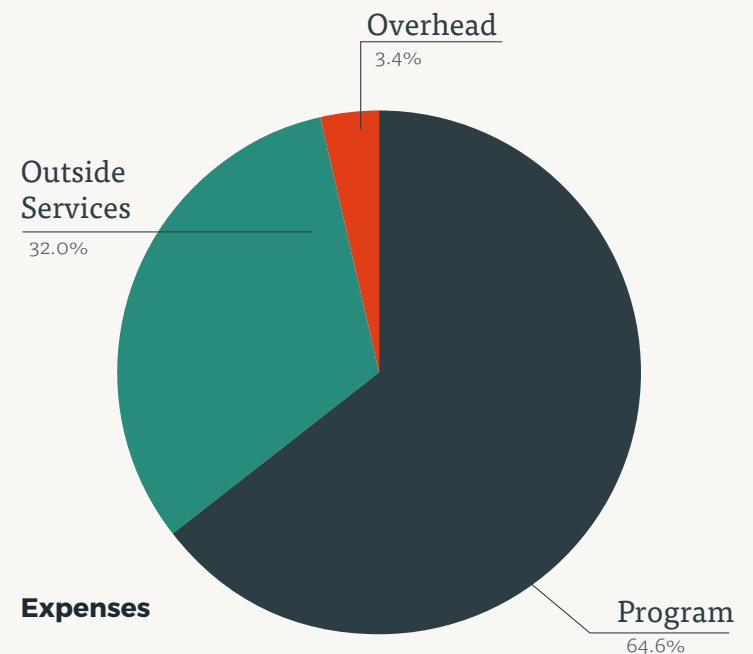
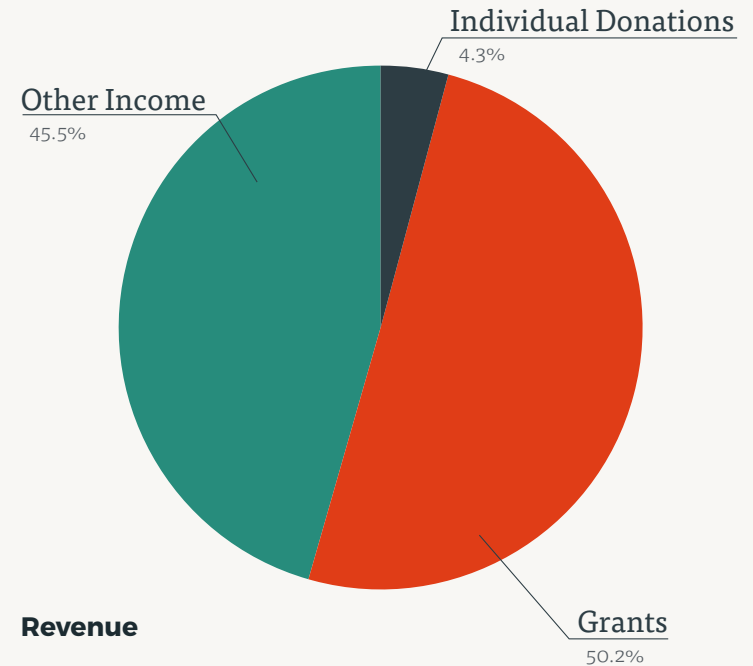
2020 Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Unrestricted net assets	\$59,000
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$15,000
Total	\$74,000

2020 Statement of Activities

Revenue	
Individual donations	\$7,428
Grants	\$87,616
Other income	\$79,471
Total Revenue	\$174,515
Expenses	
Program	\$113,952
Outside services	\$56,488
Overhead	\$5,997
Total	\$176,437
Net income	-\$1,922

*Spending in 2020 slightly outpaced revenue due in part to the challenges of the pandemic.





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