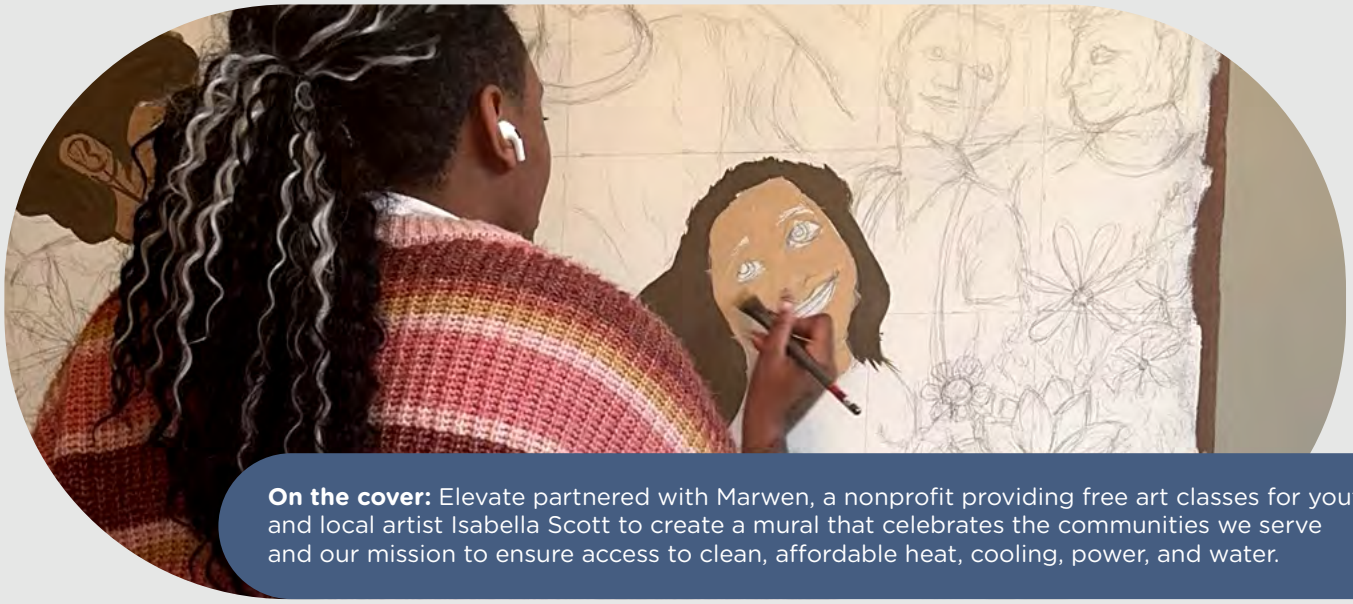
ELEVATE



2025 Annual Impact Report

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On the cover: Elevate partnered with Marwen, a nonprofit providing free art classes for youth, and local artist Isabella Scott to create a mural that celebrates the communities we serve and our mission to ensure access to clean, affordable heat, cooling, power, and water.

Letter from Anne

Every day, I am reminded of the responsibilities that we as an organization carry to help shape a more sustainable and equitable future. At the heart of our work lies a simple yet powerful truth: clean energy and clean water are fundamental needs. They are essential to healthy communities, a strong economy, and a resilient future.



Our work in clean energy is helping families reduce their energy burden, supporting communities through the energy transition, and advancing projects that cut emissions while creating opportunities. At the same time, protecting and strengthening water systems remains critical. Access to safe, affordable water and sustainable infrastructure is one of the defining challenges of our time. We meet this need with innovation, urgency, and care. While progress is not always linear and the challenges are real, our commitment has never wavered.

What gives me the greatest confidence is this team. You bring expertise, creativity, and deep dedication to the mission every day. Because of you, Elevate is responding to today's challenges by building lasting solutions for the future.

Looking ahead, our vision is clear. We will continue expanding access to clean, affordable energy, deepen our work in water and climate resilience, and strengthen the partnerships and policies that drive real, measurable impact.

Thank you for your work, your passion, and your belief in what's possible. Together, we are building the future we want to see.

With gratitude and confidence in what's ahead,

Anne Evens

Impact Statement

By 2026, we will have improved the lives of more than 1.6 million people by making their homes healthier, safer, and more efficient.

Our Impact at a Glance



We created nearly 2,353 jobs
Supporting local economies and opening new pathways to long-term employment.



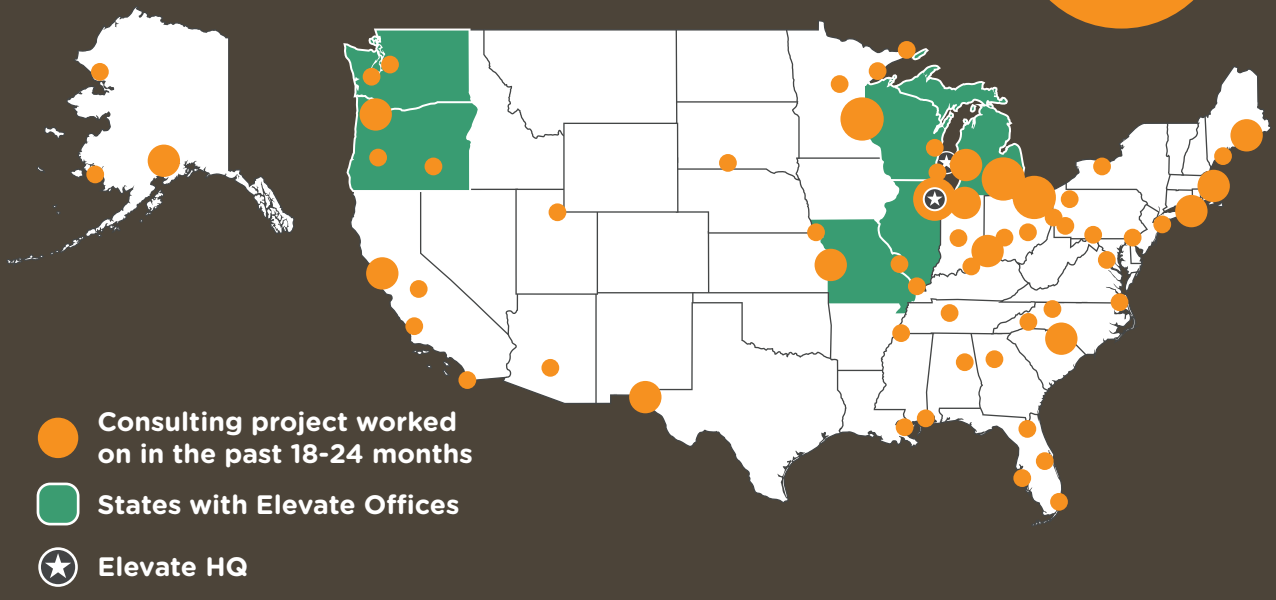
Put more than $155,409,619.34 million
back into communities through energy savings, incentives, and direct investment.



Prevented 576,649 metric tons
of carbon emissions through cleaner, more efficient home performance solutions.

Elevate has completed over 110 consulting projects across the United States within the past 18–24 months, with the highest concentration in the Midwest and Northeast. States with Elevate offices include Washington, Oregon, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Elevate headquarters is located in Illinois. Additional projects are distributed across California, Texas, Florida, and the East Coast.

Over 110 Consulting Projects!



Impact Statement



The 2024-2026 Strategic Plan was shaped through collaborative input from our Board, Elevate staff, partners, and community stakeholders. By conducting interviews, hosting internal team discussions, and listening to our team, we gathered valuable feedback to guide our mission. We strive to create healthier, affordable, and equitable climate solutions, remaining committed to partnering with frontline communities to amplify their experiences. Guided by insights from these strong relationships, we will focus on channeling resources to existing local organizations and building sustainable capacity and competence in historically disinvested communities.

This approach informs all aspects of our work—from supporting community-led climate equity plans and collaborating with Tribal Nations on energy and housing programs, to preserving affordable housing and increasing access to capital within the energy ecosystem. We are driving efforts to expand building decarbonization, enhance solar power access, and establish community resilience hubs, ensuring an inclusive path toward a sustainable future. We will continue to do this work as we look forward to 2026.

Stories of Impact



Opening Doors to Clean Energy Careers

Clean energy investments are creating meaningful career pathways for young people seeking stable, future-ready jobs through Elevate's contractor and workforce development program. As the state's solar sector grows, Elevate's program helps participants build practical, job-ready skills and connect to good-paying roles, often without the need for a four-year degree. These opportunities are strengthening local economies while ensuring more communities can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.
Read more in our story here.



Elevate spoke at the 2025 Aspen Ideas Climate conference this past July. It was a multi-day convening for thousands of global climate leaders and enthusiasts. We spoke about best practices for corporate and community sustainability engagement, and how to reimagine existing buildings and give them a new life.

Our Work in Action



Expanding Opportunity
Contractor and Workforce Development

This year, we've seen meaningful growth in community investment, reflected in: increased job opportunities in the clean energy sector, expanded career pathways, and stronger local small businesses. Through our contractor and workforce development programs, **76 individuals enrolled in our workforce programs**, achieving an **80% retention rate**, and **earning an 84-industry recognized certification.**

In July, we proudly celebrated the 2025 Solar Training Graduation for the Clean Energy Workforce Training (CEWT) Program. Nine graduates completed an intensive 10-week, hands-on solar installation training program, leaving with the skills and certifications needed to thrive in the growing green economy. Beyond technical training, participants received industry-aligned stipends, transportation support, tutoring, work-readiness coaching, and financial guidance, ensuring they were equipped for success both on and off the job site.

On our contractor development side, we saw **82 participants engaged in our programming**, strengthening their capacity to compete, grow, and deliver high-quality work in their communities. This impact comes through programs like the Lightbulb Project, where contractors receive flexible, hands-on support tailors to their business needs. Leaders like CEO April Griffin used our program's training, back-office assistance, and one-on-one guidance to expand her capacity, access new opportunities, and increase her small business' resilience.



Our Work in Action

Protecting Health & Water
Environmental Health and Water Programs

Throughout the year, we collaborated with families, child care providers, contractors, and communities to remove lead in drinking water and expand access to safe, clean, and affordable water, protecting children's health, and strengthening neighborhoods.

Through LeadCare Cook County and LeadCare Complete programs, we have now supported 500 child care facilities in replacing lead service lines, faucets, drinking fountains, and other plumbing components.

Today, **more than 6,000 children** have access to safer drinking water because of these efforts:

- Launched in early 2025, the Cook County Leak Repair Program has already provided over **300 households with free plumbing repairs** and fixture upgrades, helping families stop leaks and reduce their water bills. It has helped residents **save over 3 million gallons of water** and counting.

- Through the Cook County Technical Assistance Program, we've hosted multiple events and delivered resources to **help over 100 municipalities** accelerate lead service line replacement and address growing water affordability challenges. We're also partnering with more than a dozen communities facing high water burdens to relieve **$4.4 million** in residential water debt and have released **$1.5 million** in funding to support local water affordability initiatives.

- From a water policy perspective, we are scaling our impact. We joined the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition and the U.S. Water Alliance; received an appointment to the U.S. EPA Customer Assistance Toolkit Advisory Group to develop guidance on water affordability and customer assistance programs, advising the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on water supply and resource planning; and developing new projects and partnerships on water system regionalization and water governance issues in the Great Lakes region, including engagement with large water users such as data centers.



Our Work in Action

Homes That Support Health
Environmental Health

In partnership with the Cook County Healthy Homes Program, households across Chicago and the suburbs gained access to healthier, more comfortable homes and environments.

- In partnership with the Cook County Healthy Homes program, we have **assessed 147 homes and served 139 healthy homes** scopes, and spent $9,626,150.59, all to address critical homes repairs.
- The lead abatement projects have served **100 homes by removing lead paint hazards from homes**, making it a safe environment for the children to live in or attend daycare.
- The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and Healthy homes projects have served **88 homes** by addressing health hazards in homes to make homes healthy and safe for residents.
- In partnership with the City of Chicago, the Emergency Heat Program has **installed heating systems in the homes of 171 applicants** who previously didn't have heat in the winter.

Beat the Heat with Cooling Solutions
Research and Innovation

- Extreme heat and power outages are increasingly threatening the well-being of vulnerable households and communities. These threats intersect and disproportionately impact families with high economic, health, and social vulnerability. In July, we published Community Insights on Weather-Induced Energy Insecurity: A Case Study of Extreme Heat and Power Outages in North Lawndale, Chicago with researchers at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy. The research strengthened our partnership with Dr. Diana Hernández, whose scholarship focuses on energy insecurity.
- A month later, Elevate's healthy home field research with Illinois Tech, Effects of Residential Ventilation and Filtration Interventions on Adult Asthma Outcomes, was published in the journal Building and Environment. This work continues to drive policy and program impacts across the country. It is being used to develop the $30 million Cook County Healthy Homes for Healthy Families Program. The California Energy Commission consulted with Elevate on its Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program, which supports research on replacing gas stoves with electric alternatives to improve indoor air quality and asthma outcomes.



Our Work in Action

Accelerating Affordable Clean Energy

Solar



- We have focused on the construction of solar and battery storage on affordable housing, and building resilience hubs. This year, **163 affordable housing projects have been energized or are in construction**, representing 545 units of housing, 1.4 MW of solar, and 1,327 kWh of battery storage, in Wisconsin and Michigan.
- We have energized our second resilience hub in Detroit, with one additional hub in construction, and eight more in the design stage.
- We are fully integrating battery storage into our service offering, including batteries for resilient power backup, demand management, and ancillary services as well as support business units research, modeling, and technical support.

Building Electrification

Through several program efforts in Northern Illinois, **we completed 50 residential electrification retrofits**. These initiatives and programs include the Green Homes Chicago and, Evanston Green Homes – **retrofitting 50 units of affordable housing** with energy efficiency, electrification, and health and safety measures – as well as the North Lawndale Energy Savers pilot, and building decarbonization retrofits funded through the Vistra Community Benefits Fund.

Beyond the Blueprint

Engineering the Future

2025 was a high-impact year for Engineering, with work spanning electrification, energy efficiency, municipal initiatives, and Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA). Across single-family, multi-family, and nonprofit buildings, we completed **307 assessments**, **delivered 258 reports**, and submitted nearly **400 technical deliverables**, while managing one active HERS certification project.



Our Work in Action

Empowering Communities

Smart Grid

We continue to support thousands of participants in saving energy and reducing electricity costs through the ComEd Hourly Pricing program. We achieved record enrollment in 2025, with over **14,500 new enrollments** and now have nearly 60,000 participants, up from 38,300 just two years ago, representing an unprecedented **increase of 56%** since 2023. Participants have continued to experience **strong savings**, with median savings of 15%. Total participant savings since the program's inception are now over **$53 million**.



MFES

The Multi-Family Energy Savings Program (MFES) continued to impact thousands of households across northern Illinois with energy saving measures. Approximately **38,000 income-eligible housing units** and **2,100 public housing units** were retrofitted in 2025 for a total of over **40,000 units retrofitted**.

The Economic Justice Accelerator,

Formerly known as the Justice40 Accelerator, has supported more than 151 organizations across 35 states and U.S. territories, strengthening their ability to serve communities that have historically been disinvested. Through a robust network of more than 70 technical assistance providers, the Accelerator delivered peer learning, targeted technical assistance, and navigator support. As a result, cohort organizations secured **more than $140 million in funding for climate and environmental initiatives**.



Our Work in Action

Empowering Communities

In Illinois

We worked with partners to expand the Building Energy Hub providing educational resources for building owners, property managers, contractors and industry professionals on building decarbonization.

We supported K-12 public school districts across Northern Illinois in implementing over **100 energy efficiency projects** through ComEd's energy efficiency program. We've also supported over **120 schools** in participating in the Public Schools Carbon Free Assessment program.

In Michigan



While our work in Illinois reached new milestones this year, our efforts in Michigan also made significant progress. The Detroit Clean Energy Contractor Accelerator was created to build a workforce of community-centered contractors, training **ten new firms** and continuing support for the two previous cohorts.

We are leading the solar and battery storage design at Detroit's Community Center at A.B. Ford Park, part of the Eastside Community Network's Resilience Eastside Initiative. So far, **19 small businesses** have participated, learning about solar installation and helping build a stronger, more resilient community.

In partnership with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) we launched research to understand contractors' needs in West Michigan and developed the Clean Energy Contractor Accelerator Program. Targeted cities include Benton Harbor, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Muskegon. The initiative engaged over **70 contractors**, capturing valuable feedback to shape the program and support local clean energy growth.

The Ann Arbor Rebate Program, in collaboration with the City of Ann Arbor and Michigan Energy Options, **generated over $560,500 in savings from retrofits, impacting over 600 individuals**. The program has expanded to support multi-family buildings upgrades because of its success.

In Wayne County, **we launched an 11-resilience hub network**, supporting communities through four major ways: by creating a 6-month training program, conduct facility assessments, create a governance framework, and support in the delivery of climate emergency response training.

In Minnesota

After a year-long collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, we completed the design and launched the state's Home Energy Rebates programs, including HOMES and HEAR incentives. Our team led a public and stakeholder engagement, program design, and supported a robust contractor procurement process in partnership with Inova Energy Group.

Our Work in Action

Empowering Communities

In Oregon

Oregon Multifamily Energy Program (OR-MEP)
OR-MEP supports energy efficient design for new and existing affordable housing, offering assistance, training sessions, incentives, and program coordination to reduce energy burdens for families and communities.

Building America Pilot – Central Oregon
This new program aims to targets energy efficient retrofits for low-rise multi-family homes in non-urban communities.

In Washington State

Building Trust, Capacity, and Community Impact

Elevate's work on the **Clean Energy and Electrification Program (CEEP)**, deliversed energy upgrades to affordable multifamily properties. These improvements led to increased comfort, lower energy use, and a better overall quality of life for residents.

We launched the **Energize Multifamily Program**, a King County-led initiative designed to help affordable and naturally occurring affordable housing providers improve building performance while protecting residents. This program focuses on comprehensive upgrades that address energy efficiency, electrification, and critical health and safety issues.



In Wisconsin

Our work continues in Wisconsin, advancing clean energy and bringing innovative solutions.

We launched a video promoting energy audits.

In partnership with Sustain Dane in Dane County, **we upgraded 128 units of unsubsidized affordable housing, delivering $18,570 in total savings for tenants and 83,115 Kg of emissions avoided**.

In coalition with rural and environmental justice partners, we launched multiple initiatives focused on housing affordability and resilience projects, supported by **$16 million in grant proposals**. In Milwaukee, we partnered with community organizations to design and advance local resilience strategies. We also introduced the Efficiency Navigator pilot in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, helping residents access energy-saving solutions.

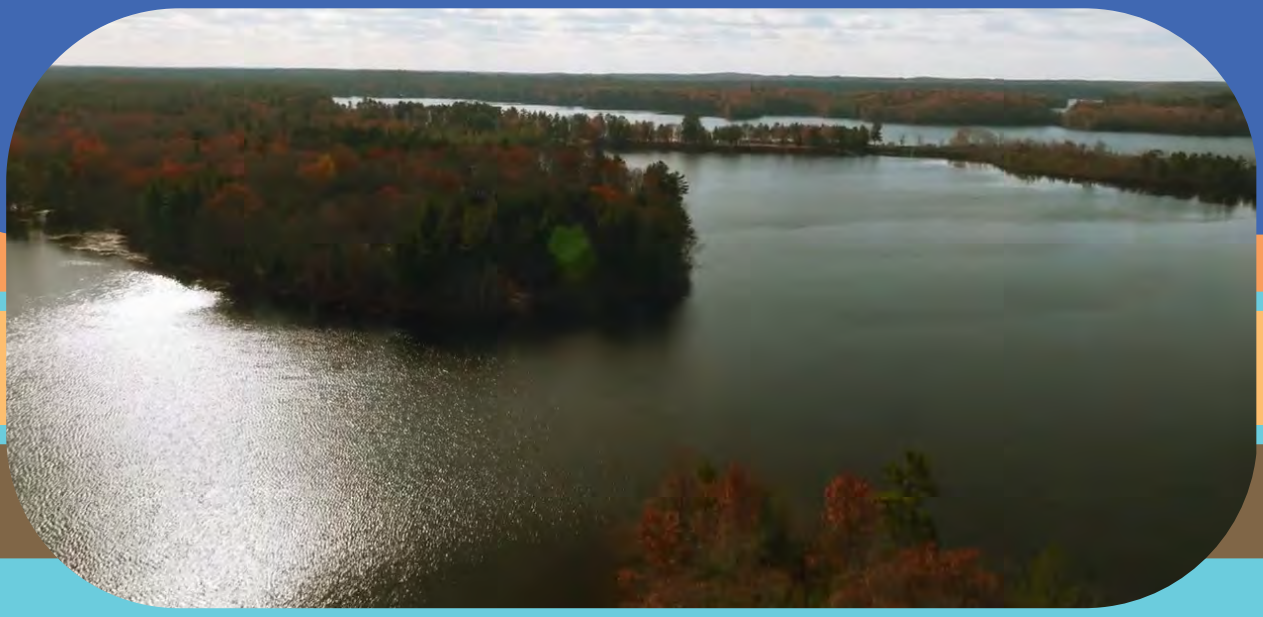
Our Work in Action

Honoring Voices

Tribal Work

Through the Tribal Navigator program, we scoped projects and assisted with $1.2 million in grant submissions. We helped secure $650,000 in direct-pay savings for the LVD Tribe and facilitated training and a webinar with GLIHA on reducing energy costs in tribal housing.

Our work continues to focus on building capacity to sustain momentum, partnering with tribal communities who have lost affordable housing and energy efficiency funding. We are advancing outreach and clean energy transition planning in collaboration with organizations that share these goals.



Financing Impact

Impact Capital

Financial impact was a key driver of this year's success. Through Direct Pay, we provided guidance and support to Tribal communities, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations in Michigan and Wisconsin, helping them access resources, and recoup 30–70% of eligible project costs directly from the IRS.

Elevate Line of Credit (ELOC)

We expand access to much-needed capital for small businesses in the clean energy and home health and safety trades, helping growing firms take on larger projects, boost revenue, and strengthen their business models. Along with low-interest loans up to $50,000, participating contractors received hands-on support through the application and underwriting process and worked with business coaches to build customized plans that streamlined back-office operations and opened doors to new, previously out-of-reach capital opportunities.

Our Work in Action

Driving Innovation

Research and Innovation, Policy, and National Strategic Engagement Team



Michigan strengthened its 2026-27 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) by increasing incentives for developing energy-efficient affordable housing. Throughout the process, we provided feedback at the State's public hearing and contributed to the Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition's formal comments – helping ensure residents, practitioners, and community partners were reflected in the final plan.

Elevate leaders helped highlight the importance of sustaining clean energy progress, including speaking on Michigan Radio during an Earth Day event with the MI Energy, MI Jobs coalition and authoring an opinion piece to Planet Detroit underscoring the value of today's clean energy investments.

In September, we joined partners and a thousand community members at the Wisconsin Climate March in Madison, Wisconsin in support of climate action and clean energy technologies. We heard from scientists, young people, elected officials, farmers, residents, and faith communities about their vision for a sustainable future.

We have been actively educating the public and decision-makers at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission since 2023 about outdated rules that limited clean energy in affordable housing by requiring individual unit electric metering. As of December 2025, new rules took effect that will streamline solar and heat pump projects, helping reduce project costs by an estimated 20% and accelerating clean energy adoption.

Families in Illinois will now have greater access to affordable energy as part of the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act, passed with support from the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition (ICJC), of which Elevate is a member. The bill addresses the State's energy affordability challenges while modernizing the electric grid and expanding access to battery storage, community solar, and energy efficiency programs. We also advanced research for ComEd's Customer Innovation program, examining emerging technologies like Alternative Form Factor Heat Pumps, including window, portable, packaged terminal, and all-in-one systems, with field testing and program integration continuing into 2026.

In addition, our shadow billing analysis of over 100 electrified customers projects revealed that 99% of heat pump users could have significantly lowered their electricity costs through ComEd's Hourly Pricing program, highlighting the potential for electrification and dynamic rates to deliver savings and inform future policy solutions.

In Washington State, Elevate contributed to 2026 legislative discussions regarding energy affordability, data centers, and extreme heat. Elevate took on a leadership role in developing new legislation to provide access to cooling for renters to address heat-related illness and death, reduce health disparities, and improve housing conditions. Together with our allies in the Shift Zero Alliance, Elevate supported improving coordination with building decarbonization programs across Washington to provide input into advocacy and improved program design.

A Year of Momentum



- Grist, in partnership with WBEZ and other public radio stations, covered how federal budget cuts will impact clean energy efforts led by non-profits.
- The Chicago Sun-Times shared stories from Cook County residents who had positive experiences with the Illinois Solar For All program to demonstrate the need for continued support for programs like these.
- Local news outlets, including Evanston Now and Evanston Roundtable, celebrated the completion of the first electrification retrofit through our work with Evanston Green Homes.





- NBC5 highlighted our work with ComEd to restore a SmartFlower, which now provides affordable solar power to the affordable housing non-profit Renaissance Collaborative in Bronzeville. More than just a clean energy source, the art installation serves as an educational tool for the community.
- NBC5 congratulated the graduates of our Clean Energy Workforce Training program, highlighting their accomplishments and readiness to begin rewarding careers in the solar industry.
- Harvey World Herald reported on our efforts to promote water affordability in Phoenix, Illinois through the implementation of a leak alert program.

Our Supporters and Partners

Board of Directors

Anne Evens, CEO

Bob Weissbourd

Carlos Martin

Chinwe Onyeagoro

Dave Shyrock

Jennifer Tescher

John Cleveland

Kimberly Lewis

Leah Turnbull

Margaret O'Dell

Scott Bernstein

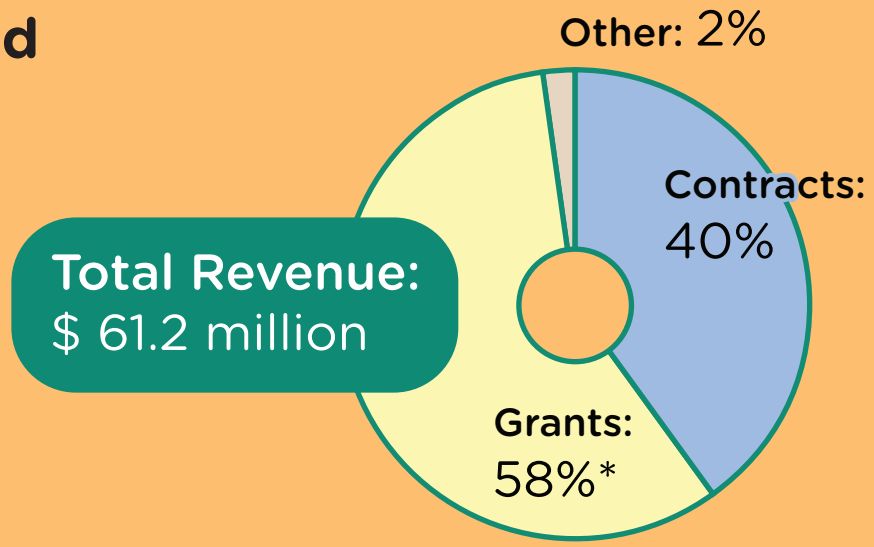
Susan Page Estes

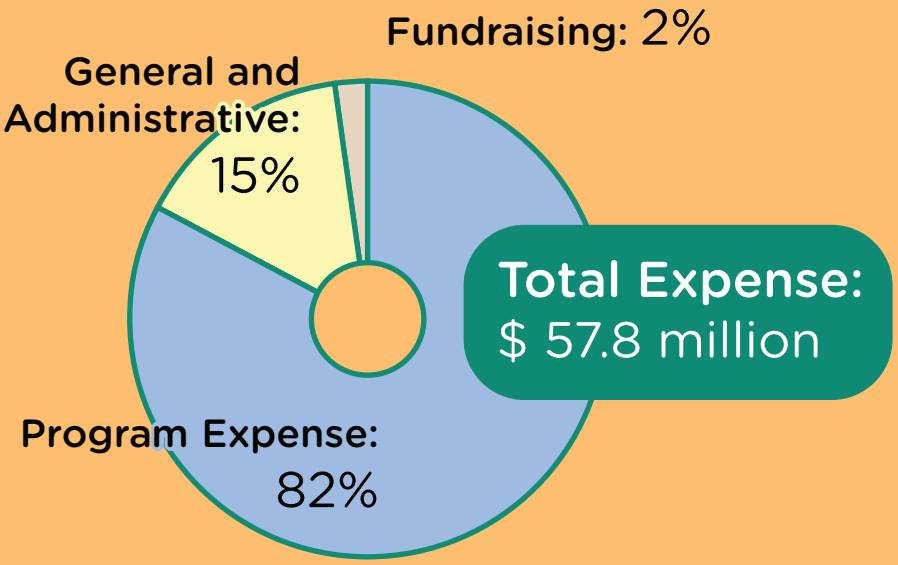
Funders

American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
Allstate Foundation
Bad River Tribe
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Builders Initiative
Centene Corporate
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Chicago Community Trust
Cinnaire
City of Ann Arbor
City of Chicago
City of Detroit
City of Elgin
City of Evanston
City of Grand Rapids
City of Madison
City of Middleton
City of Seattle
Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd)
Cook County
Crankstart
Crown Family Philanthropies
CVS Health
Daybreak Fund
DigDeep
Dr. Scholl Foundation
DTE Energy
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.
General Motors Climate Fund
Google
Great Lakes Lead Elimination Network
Hive Fund for Climate & Gender Justice
Housing Partnership Network
Illinois Department Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Housing Development Authority
Illinois Power Agency (IPA)
Inova Energy Group
Institute for Market Transformation
Invest in Our Future
JP Morgan Chase
JPB Foundation
Kresge Foundation
King County Executive Climate Office
Lac du Flambeau Chippewa Housing Authority
Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Housing Authority
Lightstar Renewables
Lincoln Avenue Capital (LAC)
LISC - Civic Solutions
Logan Square Aluminum Supply Inc
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Madison Commercial Real Estate
McKnight Foundation
Metro IAF
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Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
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Salesforce
Stephen W. and Susan M. Baird Foundation
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U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
University of Michigan
VEIC
Village of Oak Park
Washington State Department of Commerce
Washington State University
Water Foundation
Wayne County
Wells Fargo Foundation
Winnebago County Housing Authority
Wisconsin Housing Preservation Corporation

Financial Snapshot

2024 Audited Financials





*Grants includes $11.9m in donor restricted funds

Thank You

Thank you for being part of this work and for the care, creativity, and optimism you bring every day. Even in challenging moments, we remain deeply grateful for our community and confident in what we can accomplish together. Our impact grows when we stay connected, share our stories, and continue moving forward with purpose. Join us in creating lasting change by signing up for our newsletters, following us on social media, and helping uplift our mission as we shape what comes next together.

