



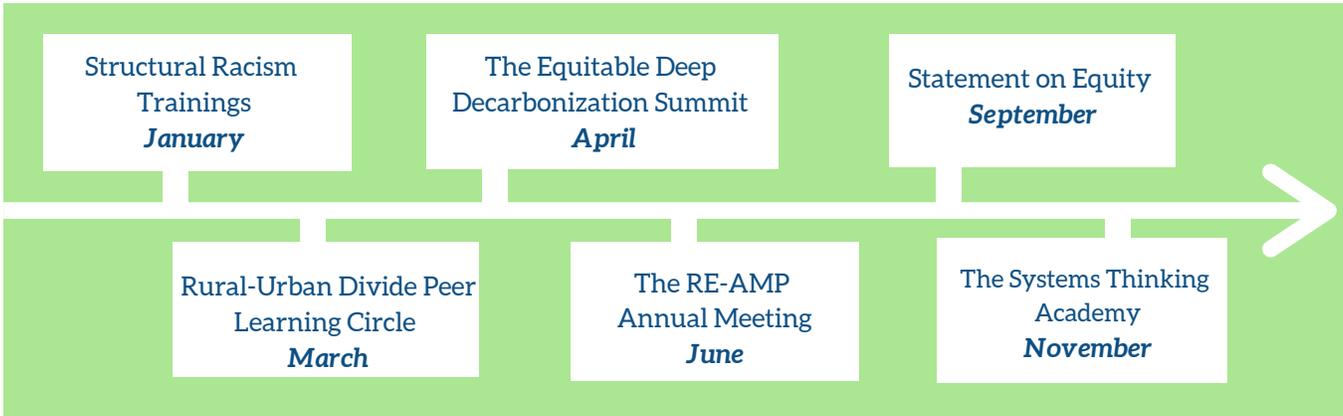
An Oral History Of The RE-AMP Network in 2018





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RE-AMP members at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Bismarck, ND

An Oral History of The RE-AMP Network in 2018 is a look back at what happened across the network this past year, told through the voices of the people who were there. Here, you will read excerpts from conversations with over 40 RE-AMP members and allies recounting the stories, impressions, and insights from their experiences. Thanks for joining us to relive a year full of connecting, capacity-building, and collective strategy setting in The RE-AMP Network.



Melissa Gavin, Chief Network Officer, The RE-AMP Network

At the end of 2017, the RE-AMP Steering Committee made a commitment to centering equity in our work going forward, and that decision in Minneapolis in the fall of 2017, setting that intention, really helped direct network resources to that. It led to us bringing in Race Forward to work with four state tables on structural racism. It allowed us to spend resources on other trainings, working in ways that I don't think we would have, the webinars the Organizing Hub hosted, the relationships we prioritized, the focus of the Equitable Deep Decarbonization Summit, the focus of the Annual Meeting and going out to see and touch and smell what it's like for folks who live out near the Bakken -- those things really led to some transformations for individual people who were a part of the network and their organizations, and it fostered different conversations that RE-AMP members are having, and they're thinking about their work differently.



Race Forward Trainings on Structural Racism

In January, Race Forward partnered with the Minnesota and Iowa RE-AMP State Tables for a training in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and with the Michigan and Ohio State Tables for a training in Toledo, Ohio on structural racism.

Rachael DeCruz, VP of Policy, Race Forward:

The training was Race Forward's introduction to racial equity training which focuses on [...] the core concepts around structural racism and how policy decisions re-enforce or create racial disparities.

Kathryn Savoie, Empower Michigan Coordinator:

I suggested that the Network partner with Race Forward. I was really impressed by how many people came [to Toledo] [...] It was good to give us a grounding and common language and to work with Ohio to co-create a vision.

Brett Benson, MN Climate Table Coordinator:

We had 40 individuals [in Minneapolis] from maybe 25 different groups in Minnesota and Iowa. It fits into one of our top priorities of centering and operationalizing equity within the State Climate Table.



Kathryn Savoie welcomes participants in Toledo, Ohio

Charles Griffith, Climate & Energy Program Director, Ecology Center:

When you talk about racism today [...], it's the accumulated actions over generations, it's like compounded interest, it's compounded racism, and unless you understand that, it's hard to appreciate the depth and why actions to counter racism need to be more significant than, "not saying the wrong thing."



Trish Demeter, VP of Policy, Energy, Ohio Environmental Council:

At that time, we were going through several organizational processes internally with a strategic planning committee -- we knew the why, but hadn't necessarily figured out the how. I found it very translatable for our strategic planning committee



Benson: If we start with the premise there is no such thing as climate justice without economic and racial justice, then we can't just pigeon hole ourselves and only work in one space at a time, so we have to be working on racial equity at the same time.



Demeter: It was an inspiration for many people. With our advocates, we talk about it even now, and we just held an Ohio Energy Table equity training [in November 2018].



"If we're not centering racial equity when we're coming up with climate solutions, the solutions we come up with will keep disparities the same or worsen them."

**Rachael DeCruz,
Race Forward**



The Rural-Urban Divide: Peer-Learning Circle

From November 2017 to April 2018, The RE-AMP Organizing Hub convened a cohort of RE-AMP members from seven states to learn from each other with the guidance of two facilitators. The learning was shared back to the network in multiple ways including a written report available on the Organizing Hub webpage.



Lu Nelsen, *The Center For Rural Affairs, Peer Learning Circle Facilitator:*

The Peer Learning Circle tried to get at a question a lot people were thinking about after the 2016 elections [...]. We had [RE-AMP members] who care about climate mitigation strategy, municipalities, water quality, energy efficiency and community solar, coal plant retirement, and people from different cultures and groups [...]. Every session was designed to give tools that you could take away with you for campaign planning, media planning, coalition building.



Sean Carroll, *RE-AMP Organizing Hub Director, Peer Learning Circle Facilitator:*

You hear the term "rural-urban divide" but what we were really talking about is reframing this as rural and urban unity.



Bill Wood, *Executive Director, West Michigan Environmental Action Council:*

I saw a lack of even how to know how to find allies that our organization was suffering from.



Kari Carney, *Executive Director, 1k Friends of Iowa*

(1k Friends of Iowa) is working in communities with sustainability agendas which involves creating resident-city-business partnerships, and I'm working in larger cities and rural communities. The conversations and breakouts [...] gave a little push back and helped to refine what you're thinking about in your campaign and also what people shared. I was like, "Oh hey that might work here," and it forced me to think about, "Why? Why do I think this would work?"



Tara Ritter, *Senior Program Associate for Climate and Rural Communities, IATP:*

IATP partnered with the Jefferson Center to do Rural Climate Dialogues [...]. By the end, community members had created an action plan [...] they can present to city councils, county commissioners, and other local leaders. [...] Working with Marcus [Franklin] from the NAACP in the Peer Learning Circle, I learned what he's hearing when he's working with communities of color in rural America, who have, from what I've heard, a very different experience of what life is like.



Wood: Show up and be present and listen and center the experiences of the rural constituents you're working with. What resources as an organization can you offer? Maybe it's an opportunity to speak to certain level of government or maybe it's grant funding, whatever it is, but go in and listen. You may not even know what the right question is until you've been present.

"The Rural Urban Divide: A Report On What We're Learning" compiles the insights of two dozen RE-AMP members on strategy development, executing tactics, messaging, and building partnerships.

Read the report at www.reamp.org/resources/organizing-hub

The Equitable Deep Decarbonization Summit

On April 26th and 27th, over 40 RE-AMP members gathered in Chicago to dig into what it means to “electrify everything and include everyone.”



Kathy Kuntz, Executive Director, Cool Choices:

There were 6 or 8 of us who helped Gail Francis plan the Equitable Deep Decarbonization Summit and that planning group was interested in how we bring people together from different perspectives to make sense of the [Equitable Deep Decarbonization] framework.

Rachel Myslivy, Assistant Director, Climate and Energy Project:

I was on the planning committee. We spent some time on Appreciative Inquiry and ways to frame questions so it's more likely to solicit a deeper response and the different levels of questioning [...]. Each question required the people to think about how they could be more inquisitive about the question that was asked instead of just answering it.



How do the issues we're working on across our framework connect?

Andy Johnson, Director, Winneshiek Energy District:

RE-AMP has always been about rapid decarbonization, but equitable was the main focus here, and what does that mean? What does it mean for the path of RE-AMP, what does it mean for the climate and energy movement, what does it mean for strategies going forward?



Marie Donahue, Research Associate, The Institute for Local Self-Reliance:

It was a couple days with a mix of interactive activities, with a systems mapping diagram, thinking about day-to-day how our organizations were working to recreate, reform, resist and reimagine.



Sean Estelle, National Network Coordinator, PowerShift Network:

The [keynote] conversation with Denise [Abdul-Rahman] and Jacqui [Patterson, Director of NAACP's Climate and Justice Program] was about how do we make deep structural transformation, while also being able to talk about people's individual experiences, specifically, people who are most impacted by climate change and haven't necessarily been given the microphone.





Johnson: The summit spent a lot of time on the root causes of inequity and the root causes of the climate problem, and it drew a lot of parallels in the root causes.



Cassie Steiner, PR and Outreach Associate, Sierra Club:
I think it was the first time I saw the RE-AMP Network tackle systems of oppression [...] with a number of action items that were really at the systemic level rather than a smattering of policies.



Jocelyn Travis, Energy Program Manager Ready for 100, Sierra Club:
I was really impressed with the people attending. [...] I felt the people were really genuine and they made me feel welcome. I've done a lot of diversity work and equity work and all the participants seemed to be really open and share honestly.



Nicole Montclair-Donaghy, Field Organizer, Dakota Resource Council:
The Equitable Deep Decarbonization Summit sold me on wanting to be a part of RE-AMP because that was the first time I had gone to a conference and felt like I fit in, and felt like I was comfortable, and I didn't have to have my guard up. I wasn't having to represent all of Native America. People saw me as a person, as another organizer in the room.



Rachel Myslivy introduces an Appreciative Inquiry exercise... don't be Mr. Bossy Pants



Adrien Salazar, Climate Equity Campaign Strategist, Demos:
It was my first time interacting with The RE-AMP Network [...] and it was really intentionally organized by RE-AMP staff and the organizers [...]. It created for me a really welcoming atmosphere, and I, as a new person, felt like within the first half of the day I was building a rapport with folks, and felt like folks were really open to me being there, and I think that was a result not only of the people in the room but also the intentionality that the organizers put into the structure of the day.



How does our work involve recreating, reforming, resisting and reimagining?

Robin Lisowski, Director of New Business, WECC :
That was such a unique place from my usual professional environment -- its openness. We went straight to the core reasons, the foundations of where things are, where they need to change.



Gail Francis, Strategic Director, The RE-AMP Network:
We developed some draft guiding principles for how we should vet our targets. For example, we knew that we want to get about 40% of electric vehicles sales by such and such date. Well, there's a lot of different ways to skin that cat.



Myslivy: I love that RE-AMP brings people to a room and says "we need you to do the work, to figure out what the issues are." I feel like we build the knowledge together, which I think is so much more effective and inspiring for the people who are actually doing the work.





"The No Talent Talent Show"

Francis: I've heard from a number of people it's changed how they do the work, for instance who they have at the front of the room.



Steiner: While we were doing a lot of work, there was laughter constantly.



"We also had a lot of fun. I mean at one point we were a conga line."
-Kathy Kuntz

Kuntz: The entertainment committee, who came up with breaks from what we were doing, had us do a conga line through the hotel, out between other guests in the hotel, through the lobby and back around.



Equity Training at the Equitable Deep Decarbonization Summit

On April 25th, RE-AMP members Kim Wasserman, Executive Director of Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, and Cecilia Martinez, Executive Director of CEED, led a training for other RE-AMP members in Chicago.

Kathy Kuntz, Executive Director, Cool Choices:

Prior to the Summit, the Steering Committee hosted an equity training that featured prominent leaders from the environmental justice movement talking us through some of the history of the environmental justice movement and giving us a better context.

Miguel Yanez, Program Associate for On-Bill Financing, Environmental and Energy Study Institute:

Kim from LVEJO talked about coal power plants and shutting them down but being replaced with warehouses and diesel trucks going in and out, freeways and highways and the emissions that come from all of that. And that goes back to the 50's, the highways built across these communities, and all the emissions and particulate matter. And we heard about the origins of the Jemez Principles [for Democratic Organizing].

Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing

- #1 Be Inclusive
- #2 Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing
- #3 Let People Speak for Themselves
- #4 Work Together In Solidarity and Mutuality
- #5 Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves
- #6 Commitment to Self-Transformation

Jessica Collingsworth, Lead Midwest Energy Policy Analyst/Advocate, Union of Concerned Scientists:

[The Union of Concerned Scientists] just released a Soot to Solar report looking at Illinois's clean energy transition -- the positive impacts of [the Future Clean Energy Jobs Act], and the future benefits from retiring additional coal plants in the state, and [...] five case studies of coal plant communities. We worked with groups on the ground and asked what they wanted to see happen to that site, and that process really highlighted things from the training: involving the community in the process and asking what they want to see. For some communities that could be a Community Benefit Agreement that says where the hiring comes from. For others, it could be more green spaces. There's lots of options and every community is different.





Robin Lisowski, Director of New Business, WECC:

As much as we'd like to think as nerds we just need to show someone a spreadsheet, the power of hearing a personal story has ripple effects.



Kuntz: I'm well aware, kind of in a broad way, how patriarchy and racism affect what we're doing, but I think, particularly there was a story that Kim [Wasserman] from Little Village Environmental Justice Organization shared that was a really powerful example of sometimes when people from the outside think they've helped you win, they haven't helped you win at all [...]. It's not enough to have good intentions, there also really has to be a significant and meaningful way for those local advocates who best understand their circumstances to be driving the bus.

RE-AMP's Mission, Vision, and Values

In 2018, RE-AMP members came together to create and adopt the network's first official mission, vision, and values statements.

The mission of the RE-AMP Network is to set collective strategy and enable collaboration on climate solutions in the Midwest.

Melissa Gavin, Chief Network Officer, The RE-AMP Network:

The Strategic Framework Committee's work started in February and it was comprised of six to eight RE-AMP members, some of who helped found the network and some who were relatively new [...]. We met over the course of several months, we also used data that came from our membership survey [...], and the Steering Committee ultimately approved a mission, vision, and values in April 2018.



Michael Noble, Executive Director, Fresh Energy:

I played the role of the keeper of flame, from the original founding insights and the original founding members of RE-AMP in 2004. In the very beginning of RE-AMP, we didn't have collective strategy or a systems map or systems understanding of our advocacy community and our industry opponents, we didn't strategically think about the whole system before RE-AMP [...]. The mission was a reaffirmation and a clear statement of the original intent.

Sean Estelle, RE-AMP Steering Committee member:

The Steering Committee was where both the staff and the people leading the network in Action Teams and State Tables were at. Most of the folks on the Steering Committee have a clear analysis around power, and building power, and utilizing the network structures to build power [...]. The values are the ideological benchmarks.

We envision a Midwest in which we all have access to the energy we need to live, move, work, and play; we produce and use it in an equitable and just way that protects our health, wellbeing, and environment. Those who are most impacted from its production and consumption are centered in those decisions and we generate climate solutions rooted in our collective values that spread across our country and the world.

Gavin: For a long time it was enough for us to say that we want to achieve 80% greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and the how was somehow less important and that led some people to believe that the best way was by any means possible, as fast as possible. We needed to put some guard rails on how we achieve emissions reductions -- what values do we honor [...], how we accomplish it matters, how we do the work matters.

The following values guide the work of the RE-AMP Network, including how we generate climate solutions:

- Collaboration
- Community
- Democracy
- Equity
- Justice
- Scientific rigor

Equity Data Peer Learning Circle

From January through May, RE-AMP members met to develop better analytical skills to understanding the human impact of our climate work, exploring tools such as EPA Energy Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Governments and EJSCREEN, weatherization data, and heating assistance data.



Brett Benson, MN Climate Table Coordinator:

For me, one of the valuable takeaways from the Equity Data Peer Learning Circle was being reminded that I don't have to a PhD in statistics, that there are great resources and great tools out there and what I need is the intention to say, "I want to understand how all of my projects or all the State Climate Table's projects, how do they connect with equity how do they affect marginalized groups," and one of the best ways to do that is to look at data, and by looking at data, I can be much more persuasive and effective.

Strategy Session on Partnership-Building Across the Rural-Urban Divide

In May, the Organizing Hub convened an all-day, in-person strategy session with RE-AMP members and partner organizations from across the region.



Sean Carroll, Organizing Hub Director, The RE-AMP Network:

Our agenda focused on two big buckets: what goes into building a shared vision, and what does it mean to create shared leadership?



Carol Hays, Executive Director, Prairie Rivers Network:

While there is this assumption that there are very different values and priorities that drive how we live out conservation and take care of our environment across a diverse state, in reality there's a lot more that we have in common than what divides us.



Brian Smith, Community Relations Specialist, The Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors at Wayne State University:

It was uplifting to hear from people that do research, advocacy, and organizing in rural communities and hear that they're dealing with some of the same issues I'm dealing with in inner city Detroit.



Tara Ritter, Senior Program Associate for Climate and Rural Communities, IATP:

Shared leadership with people in the community is huge in my work -- being able to share leadership and open up a space for people to talk with the goal of local leaders emerging.



Examining interconnections between rural and urban communities



Holli Arp, Program Leader, Leadership and Civic Engagement Team at the UMN Extension and the Center for Community Vitality:

We have an interest in the divide, interconnections, and connections between rural and urban, and that's how we made the connection with Sean [RE-AMP Organizing Hub Director]. I was bringing in and appreciated the conversation around equity and inclusion related to creating a shared vision and climate change.



Hays: To me that's the power of the network, it is really a community of people coming together to fight all the contextual differences we have.



Smith: I look at these issues as a supply chain, and we're all links across the chain.

The 2018 RE-AMP Annual Meeting

On June 19th, 20th, and 21st, 85 RE-AMP members came to Bismarck, North Dakota. The agenda included highlighting victories from the past year, ways to transform systems, open space sessions for members to strategize on topics they chose, and member awards.



Nicole Montclair-Donaghy, Annual Meeting keynote speaker, Dakota Resource Council, Hunkpapa Lakota from the Standing Rock Nation:

At the Annual Meeting, I wanted share our history in North Dakota with all the people in RE-AMP. From the outside looking in, you think it's just quiet prairie and there's a rich Native American culture, but it goes beyond that. It goes into oppression and into the events that happened to my people, that make us the resilient people we are today.



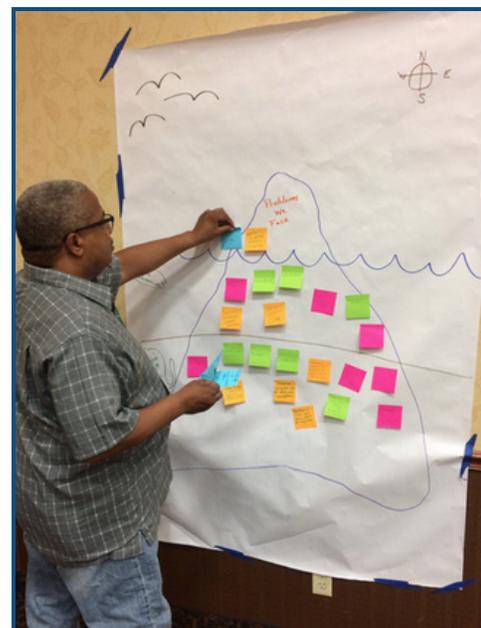
Denise Abdul-Rahman, Environmental Climate Justice Chair, Indiana NAACP

RE-AMP has been intentional on centering equity. Our annual meeting grounded us in indigenous culture and the bad, unjust, and inequitable energy systems on their land.



Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director, People for Community Recovery

It was a strong meeting [...] to see people fighting and creating the catalyst for change, making new friends, seeing the expertise that everybody brings to the table, that's now become a resource to me that I never thought we ever had. You get to learn what other people are doing in their neighborhood that might be something we can do [...]. It gives a platform for all of us to tell our stories [...]. And I can't take away from the fact, that that food was good. That food was delicious.



Pastor Booker Vance at the Annual Meeting examining the problems we face -- what's on and what's beneath the surface



Ash Narayanan, of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, opens Day 2 of the Annual Meeting, explaining the historical context around equity and transportation systems



Nathan Murphy, *State Director, Environment Michigan:*

The number one thing I took away was the personal connections I made with people. It also helped me get tapped into my state table. Before the Annual Meeting, I hadn't been to an Empower Michigan meeting but as a result of it, I now have.



Matt Ohloff, *Senior Campaign Organizer, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement:*

[Waylon Hedegaard, opening speaker from the AFL-CIO] spoke about how proactive labor has been in North Dakota in pushing for clean energy, and that's something we're really missing in Iowa [...] and something we should aspire to.



Cassie Steiner, *PR and Outreach Associate, Sierra Club:*

I think this Annual Meeting felt more refreshing than one's I've been to in the past. There was more of a network feeling, more laughter, more interaction. A lot of new people were there, which I thought was really exciting.

Bus Tour at the Annual Meeting

On the second day of the Annual Meeting, members were led on a tour of oil and gas extraction happening in the Fort Berthold reservation by leaders from Dakota Resource Council and Fort Berthold POWER.



Lisa DeVille, *President of Fort Berthold Protectors of Water Earth Rights (POWER), enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation:*

The tour was of the impacts on Fort Berthold [reservation], in the town of Mandaree, ND, where we have the biggest impacts from oil and gas extraction. We started right where extraction occurred, where Prairie Dog Town was destroyed. We talked about how they changed the land, frac sand spills all along the highway, we talked about the well pads, the holding tanks, brine spills, horses that died. A lot of the extraction is under the water, under the lake. As we went down to the Badlands, they destroyed this whole row of trees to create a pipeline. Wetlands were destroyed for the sale of water, people tried to shut it down, and the Army Corps of Engineers used a cease and desist order. We talked about where the Dakota Access pipeline had been constructed.



Nicole Montclair-Donaghy, *Field Organizer, Dakota Resource Council:*

On the bus tour I spoke about the work we've done, the history that's there in the land, and the people that are resilient, who are working the land, and who want to preserve the land for the children who are coming after them.



Jackson Koepfel, *Director, Soulardarity:*

The tour stood out, where we actually went and saw where extraction was happening and talking to folks who are impacted. It was grounding for my work.





Marie Donahue, *Research Associate, The Institute for Local Self-Reliance*

I was blown away just to be there in North Dakota. The bus tour through the oil fields of the Bakken, the Native American reservation land [...] and the voices of the women, Nicole [Montclair-Donaghy] and others from the Dakota Resource Council and the groups on the ground demonstrates the power of those organizers.

Kaja Rebane, *U.S Field Organizer, 350.org:*

The bus tour to see the fracking pads on the reservation was the most impactful piece of the meeting. It was really powerful to see up close the devastation to people's lives and the natural environment.

Montclair-Donaghy: Having people come in and see all the extraction, the multitude of well pads, and all the flares we have in North Dakota, that gives people a good picture of what's happening here and why the fight should start here.

Steiner: The information I learned -- I think it was a well for every four people who live there -- it's shocking to hear, but then to drive past the number of wells, the number of flares, it was completely different to see it. And the dust issue [...] being on these very dry, dirt roads that these trucks are continuously flying down at very high speeds, and the stories about pedestrian deaths. I had heard about these things but before seeing it couldn't really comprehend it.



DeVille: As indigenous people, we were brought up to protect the environment. We were born environmental scientists, because that's what we've always known.

The RE-AMP Systems Thinking Academy

From August to November, fourteen RE-AMP members participated in the 2018 Academy culminating with an in-person meeting in Wisconsin.

Sarah Shanahan, *RE-AMP Community Manager:*

The Academy builds a culture around thinking systemically in our network. People have a chance to learn more about the theory, and get introduced to some methods and models and tools, and then they get to apply those to their own situation in real time.

Royce Holladay, *Director of Services, Human Systems Design Institute:*

I was invited by Sarah Ann Shanahan to co-host the Academy [...]. I use Human Systems Design because it's the only tool that I've seen that can help you see the complexity and take informed action to deal with it.



Annual Meeting keynote speaker, Nicole Montclair-Donaghy and Motaz Attalla from the Garfield Foundation



Rachael Belz and Christine Capra

Christine Capra,
Founder, Greater than the Sum:
 In complex systems, you have to work in the moment, there's not a specific process. The Academy has given me new tools that I [can] use at any time or place to make a difference.



Shanahan: Some of the pieces that were front and center this year were adaptive action which is a way of seeing, making sense, and figuring out how to take wise action in a complex adaptive system [...], a landscape diagram to think about how we're creating spaces in our systems that are more stable, more emergent, and more chaotic -- and what are the benefits to each of these [...], things like mind-mapping or spray diagramming, where we thought about who's benefiting and who's suffering in our system [...], and some of the collaboration exercises, like practicing asking good questions, asking for help.



Sarah Dehart Faltico, *Program Coordinator, Climate and Energy Project:*
 I've noticed I'm applying systems thinking tools or seeing things from different perspectives. Instead of just diving into the work, I'll stop and think about it and that pause helps me shift into a system thinking mindset.



Rachel Myslivy, *Assistant Director, Climate and Energy Project:*
 I felt like we were given so much content [that] was immediately applicable: here's [a] tool, now go use it. It helped me make progress on the more adaptive pieces of our work. [...] Tools that could really help change how we do the work, but also tools that shift our thinking.



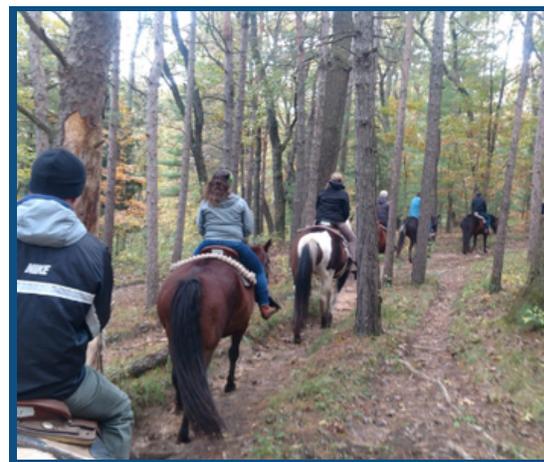
Nathan Murphy, *State Director, Environment Michigan:*
 It made me realize that I need to make more time to think carefully about the issues I'm working on and it's given me a toolbox of different ways to do that.



Dehart Faltico: It was my first experience of [RE-AMP] members coming together and the unity, camaraderie, and support between members surprised me. I felt an immediate kinship with everyone there even though I'm a newbie.



Myslivy: And I also made some friends.



Giddy-up



Making Organizing Intersectional and Inclusive Training

In September, the RE-AMP Organizing Hub hosted a training in Minneapolis for over 35 members and partners, led by Jessica Raven, Executive Director of Collective Action for Safe Spaces, and Mysti Babineau, Climate Justice Organizer with MN350



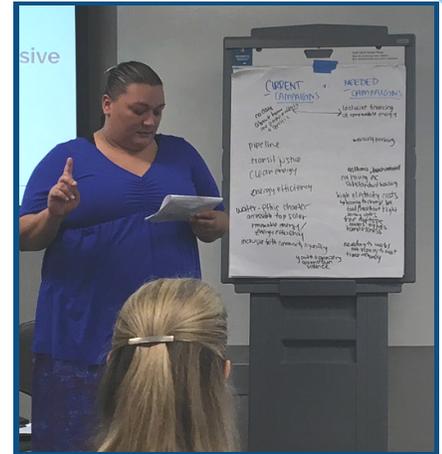
Sean Carroll, Organizing Hub Director, RE-AMP

Jessica, the lead facilitator, has a background rooted in grassroots organizing with frontline communities on issues of gender violence, homelessness, and state violence, and, I think, does some incredibly powerful organizing. Having someone from outside the climate movement frame the discussion helped us broaden and almost reimagine how we can do this work.



Jessica Raven, Executive Director, Collective Action for Safe Spaces:

Mysti Babineau [the co-facilitator for the training] is an incredible climate justice organizer, a local native organizer who also had the experience of someone working within a larger organization at MN350. She brought the perspective of local indigenous communities that need to be centered in environmental justice work.



Mysti Babineau leading a discussion of how our organizations' current campaigns meet the needs of frontline communities



Rachel Myslivy, Assistant Director, Climate and Energy Project:

Race is obviously a big part of intersectionality but so are gender and class [...]. Going to that training helped me recognize things I had been doing wrong, and it was good to learn ways I could reframe it. It didn't just say "you suck and you're bad person." Maybe there's things you've been doing and here's ways you can do them better, here's things you can do to be more intersectional, to bring more intersectionality to your work.

The agenda explored topics including:

Why are some environmental spaces all or mostly white?

What does tokenizing or coopting the work of others look like?

How do we (re)distribute resources justly in our movement?

To connect with resources from the training contact Organizing Hub Director, Sean Carroll, sean@reamp.org

Virginia Rutter, Minnesota Program Director, Solar United Neighbors:

I'm taking this training and sharing the materials from it with our Inclusion Working Group. We have a specific mission and our typical programming is helping people go solar, but there are still so many ways to improve access to solar and broaden the communities with whom we connect.



Raven: We can't do the work without the folks who are most directly impacted, and in order to bring those folks to the table you need to make sure that all of their needs are being met, that the mission is aligned with what their actual lived experiences are, and that the organizing spaces are safe and welcoming so they'll even want to be involved.





RE-AMP's Statement on Equity

In September the Steering Committee voted to adopt the network's first statement on equity. In the Fall of 2017, the Steering Committee began the process of centering equity in RE-AMP's work, recognizing that the network did not have a shared understanding of what we meant by equity. Through the winter and spring, staff and Steering Committee members outlined a process for going forward. In April 2018, a committee of RE-AMP members was formed and met through June. At the Annual Meeting, input was solicited from the network at-large and in the Fall of 2018, RE-AMP's Statement on Equity was approved by the Steering Committee. Going forward, this will help guide the network's understanding of equity.



Denise Abdul-Rahman, Environmental Climate Justice Chair, Indiana NAACP

As a member of the RE-AMP Steering Committee I can attest to the care and time spent to develop an equity statement. I think this is the crux to our foundation on the way forward to deeply and equitably decarbonize environmental justice communities and beyond.

We must rapidly transition to an equitable clean energy economy for a healthy climate, people, and other living beings. Our work to combat climate change must ensure that the structures perpetuating and exacerbating inequity are transformed. We must use processes that are centered around sharing power, influence and resources to bring about equitable outcomes. In devising proposed solutions, the voices of those most affected by climate change should be prioritized and supported—ensuring a meaningful role in shaping policy.

To achieve this, we must first recognize key injustices in current energy and land use systems such as the inequitable health impacts of fossil fuel usage and the economic drain of energy and transportation costs on individuals and communities. We must also acknowledge the root causes of climate change that include among others: colonialism, slavery, genocide of indigenous people, private ownership of energy and the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of too few. When power shifts to people, we transform our future together for generations to come.



Facilitate Great Meetings: Accelerate Your Collaboration Training

In November, over 20 organizations attended the training in Woodstock, Illinois co-hosted by The RE-AMP Network and The Institute for Conservation Leadership to strengthen skills to plan and facilitate meetings.



Carol Hays, Executive Director, Prairie Rivers Network:

[The training covered] what are the sharpest tool sets, the best practices, to guide and facilitate conversations.



Melissa Gavin, lead trainer of Facilitate Great Meetings training:

Putting together an effective agenda was a big part and getting clear about what the desired outcomes of each part should be. We talked about facilitator tools or techniques, like stacking, which is kind of like making a queue for people to speak [...], and paraphrasing and mirroring. And then getting to some brass tacks, like chart writing, so scripting and what are some best practices for using flip charts.



Peter Skopec, State Director, WISPIRG:

The crowd was made up of many experienced facilitators, so what I found most meaningful was hearing from others how they deal with challenging groups or dynamics and how they keep meetings engaging.



Hays: So much of my work, my team's work, happens in collaboration. You can't do this work without being in collaboration, but collaboration is really hard and really messy.



Does a good facilitator go with rock, paper, or scissors?



The RE-AMP Modeling Bootcamp

In December, The RE-AMP Network partnered with Evolved Energy Research and the US Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project to hold the first RE-AMP Modeling Boot Camp. The three-day event had members working together to learn about modeling principles, engage in hands-on exercises, and apply what was learned to our Equitable Deep Decarbonization Framework.



Jessi Wyatt, GIS and Planning Assistant, Great Plains Institute

My favorite parts of the Boot Camp were the hands-on activities - which included work in Excel, but also an activity to prototype a new tool. The prototyping was a great segue into our discussion on carrying the work forward, because I got a better sense of how the others in the room were digesting things the content we'd been covering.



Amelia Vohs, Staff Attorney, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

The Boot Camp was a balance of intense learning with time to reflect, time to relax, and time to socialize and get to know the group.



Gail Francis, Strategic Director, The RE-AMP Network:

Together we designed the specifications for a microgrid, played with different scenarios for the deployment of electric vehicles and decreasing vehicle miles traveled, learned about environmental justice indicators, and talked about how we can use our new skills to help others in our Network. We worked hard and we had fun!



Jamil Farbes, Principal, Evolved Energy Research

I left with some new insights into how I approach modeling, and hopefully having offered insights into how to be part of an effective modeling exercise.



Lu Nelson, Policy Associate, The Center For Rural Affairs

The hands-on activities were certainly the highlight of the boot camp for me. Everyone was honest about their ability and didn't shy away from asking for assistance. It was difficult work but that made it rewarding when things would finally click.



RE-AMP members and partners in Chaska, MN for the first-ever RE-AMP Modeling Bootcamp

The 2019 RE-AMP Annual Meeting

The 2019 Annual Meeting will take place on June 3rd, 4th, and 5th in Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Sarah Shanahan, Community Manager, The RE-AMP Network:

We're hosting The Annual Meeting at Discovery World which is right on the shores of Lake Michigan. One of the things we'll be looking at this year is the intersection between climate and water recognizing that Milwaukee is a very important water city. We're also hoping to elevate transportation in our network: the first week of June is Bike Week, and Milwaukee just reopened its street car.



Seth Nowak, Senior Analyst, ACEEE and Annual Meeting Planning Committee member:

Milwaukee is the water city, on the Great Lakes, and has a great history of not only beer but water. That's an important theme that I want our Annual Meeting to present.

RE-AMP Action Teams in 2018

Action Teams are cross-state collaborations working to strategize within RE-AMP's systems analysis, Equitable Deep Decarbonization. In 2018, 53 organizations engaged in 11 Action Teams.



Charles Griffith, RE-AMP Steering Committee Member, The Ecology Center:

One of the difficult financial decisions Steering Committee had to make [in 2017] was we couldn't have all these funded working groups [...] and we had done some evaluations and surveys of our network that showed that there were mixed feelings about the value and effectiveness of that working group structure. [...] We had gotten a little stuck in our silos at times, and the emerging issues that people were dealing with on the ground were cross-sector and didn't fit in neatly into our structure [...]. And so, the Action Teams were born out of that to have regional collaboration and strategy development [...], to be multi-state conversations around critical emerging issues.

Gail Francis, Strategic Director, The RE-AMP Network:

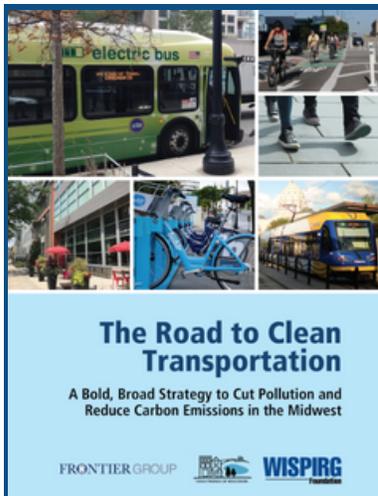
The change to Action Teams has enabled more people to step into leadership roles and allowed people to take on specific pieces of the work they're interested in.

Cassie Steiner, Sierra Club, member of the Pipelines Action Team:

We knew that a lot of people in the network were working on pipelines, but there had never been a dedicated space to talk about that in the previous network structure.

Peter Skopec, WISPIRG, leader of the Understanding the Role of New Mobility Options and Car-light Communities in Cleaning Up the Transportation Sector Action Team:

Our Action Team was created to help answer questions about how reducing carbon emissions from transportation fits into the Equitable Deep Decarbonization Framework. There's a pretty good understanding in the environmental community that we need to transition to cleaner fuels and electric vehicles and electrify the transportation system, but something we just don't know is what role strategies that reduce driving should play [...]. Essentially, what we were able to show was that if we just focus on electrification and transitioning our current transportation system -- which is very focused on driving, and being able to drive, and being able to afford to drive -- if we just transition that system into an electric system, we're not going to solve a lot of those problems. By focusing on things like public transportation, making investments in walking and biking infrastructure, making more compact communities where people live, work, and shop, and if we more adequately assess the cost of driving by doing things like parking reform and carbon pricing [...], we can create a cleaner transportation system that works better for everyone and creates communities where people want to live and work, and will be happier in the end.



Report produced out of the Understanding the Role of New Mobility Options and Car-light Communities in Cleaning Up the Transportation Sector Action Team



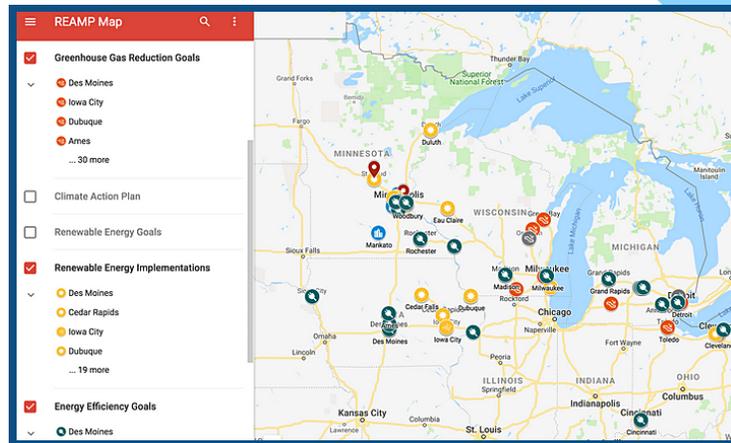


Robin Lisowski, WECC, leader of the Space and Water Heating Action Team:
Space and water heating which is huge for Equitable Deep Decarbonization, because, behind transportation, it's the biggest source of emissions for users, and it's particularly important for the Midwest where we have so much coal and natural gas.



Kathy Kuntz, Cool Choices, member of the Space and Water Heating Action Team:

An organization like WECC has deep expertise in how the electrification piece of that happens, but by working with a bunch of other organizations across the Midwest they get more insights into how equity plays out in different places, how building stock varies, how different weather conditions might affect what we're going to pick for technology. There's just a richer set of information framing what's going on than what any entity could do on its own.



Interactive map of city climate data created by the City Climate Mapping Action Team



Jackson Koepfel, Souldarity, leader with the Convening for Local Power Action Team and the Blueprint for Energy Democracy Action Team:

As Highland Park [Michigan] was facing austerity, we used clean energy as a pathway out of that, and the Action Team is about making a model and a valuable case study that others can replicate. [...] A lot of times we get pulled into a dichotomy of technical expertise and community vision when it's actually about the fusion of these two, and I think the tools and outcomes we're coming up with [through our Action Teams] will be powerful and effective for the whole Midwest.

Sean Carroll, Organizing Hub Director, The RE-AMP Network

I feel like the Action Teams are really the lifeblood of our network: they're how we come together and take a deep dive into the tough challenges and then figure out what to do about them.



Skopec: RE-AMP has a really good framework for giving organizations in the Midwest a sense of where we should be focusing our energy if we want to create a better system. It was a great way to bring people together from across the region -- and diverse range of people -- not just policy people, and not just researchers, and not just organizers or advocates, but all of those people basically.



Action Teams serve as "strategy rooms" to develop regional strategies to combat climate change.

See the full list of Action Teams at www.reamp.org/resources/action-teams

State Tables



For the last decade, RE-AMP members have come together at the state level to strategize on how to build power for the long-term. In 2018, over 250 individual climate leaders participated in RE-AMP State Tables in seven states.

Cary Shepherd, *Illinois Environmental Council, Illinois State Table member:*

We've been building power in a few ways. Our listen, lead, share town halls have allowed us to talk about what energy progress has been made and what participants would like to see in the future. We've also been able to secure a number of candidates to our 100% campaign.

Kathryn Savoie, *Ecology Center, Empower Michigan Table coordinator:*

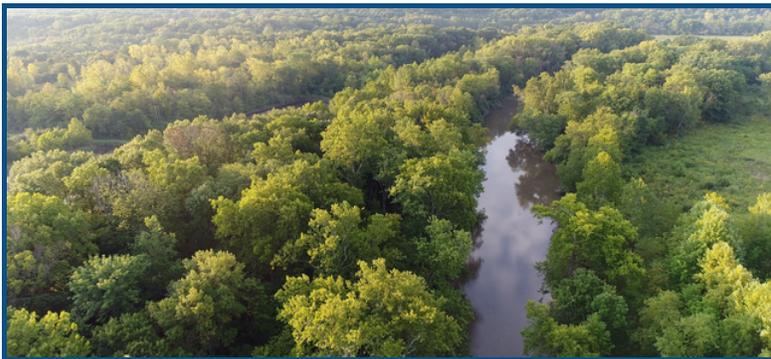
We identified some clear projects like Michigan Public Service advocacy [...]. We are working with Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition which has launched a campaign that was the result of the conversations we had at the table. So we're proud to be a place where ideas are generating that lead to action in the real world. It's a real power building effort that will lead up to the IRP (Integrated Resource Plan) coming out in March of 2019. It's an example of where we have good conversations with diverse groups of people to find where we align and can push together. We worked really closely with the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition to host a Summit in September [...]. The Energy Justice track was co-developed with Empower Michigan members which looked across urban, rural, and environmental justice.

Scott Skokos, *Dakota Resource Council, North Dakota State Table Coordinator:*

Because of the table, we have relationships that we wouldn't have had otherwise with tribal communities and labor. There are some things that aren't climate focused that we need to do to make a difference in North Dakota. For example, when the Supreme Court targeted indigenous people by not allowing PO Box IDs, the coalition took different roles to help people get the ability to vote. We're also working together on a ballot initiative to create an ethics commission.

Carol Hays, *Prairie Rivers Network, Illinois State Table Down-State Caucus member:*

The downstate caucus formed in 2017 as a way to bring downstate voices to the conversation. Like most Midwestern states our power plant resources are distributed along rivers across the state in small communities and very large urban areas, and as those resources begin to shift, it will be felt across every region in the state. Thinking about what a just transition means for Illinois, we need to think about it in multiple contexts: urban, small towns, and rural.



Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, Illinois' only federally designated National Scenic River, which is threatened by coal ash pollution from the shuttered Dynevig Vermilion Power Station. The river is not only beautiful and ecologically diverse, it is an economic engine for the Vermilion County area in E. Central Illinois, attracting over a million visitors a year who enjoy the river and surrounding scenic areas. A just transition for these communities includes clean up and remediation of coal pollution.



Kathy Kuntz, *Cool Choices, Wisconsin State Table leadership team member:*

We're working in five different areas of the state -- none of those are Madison and Milwaukee -- and while there's amazing things going on in each of those areas, the drivers are a little different. If enough diverse, local places can be talking about the benefits of clean energy policies and public transportation, we can build momentum, perhaps, to flip the conversation statewide.

Nathan Shepherd, *Iowa Policy Project, Iowa State Table Coordinator:*

We had a meeting dedicated to the Equitable Deep Decarbonization framework and trying to identify Iowa specific benchmarks and opportunities. That conversation, along with member participation in the Equitable Deep Decarbonization Summit and the continued focus of equity in the Network [...] has set up a lens for us to look at things that wouldn't have happened otherwise.



The Iowa State Table created a power analysis which they used to identify locations for solar tours with legislators and grassroots leaders

Brett Benson, *MN 350, Minnesota Climate Table Coordinator:*

I think one of the reasons we're growing, and we've added a dozen or so members over the last several months, is because we can explain to folks that we do three things: it's capacity building, it's collaboration, and it's equity. [...] Most of our members are in the Twin Cities area, so we wanted to be intentional at looking outside the Twin Cities, and we also prioritized membership and support of organizations led by people of color or that do work in spaces that serve marginalized communities.

Trish Demeter, *Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio Energy Table Steering Committee member:*

The Ohio Energy Table has been working together since 2013. We've grown, we've changed, and there's been a lot of iterations.

Rachael Belz, *Ohio Citizen Action, Ohio Energy Table Steering Committee member:*

We need more racial equity in our social justice and climate movement. We need geographic equity in Ohio -- Cleveland needs something different than Dayton, and they need different things than Zanesville or Marietta. [...] We've created an Ohio Equity Team charged with helping people access resources and information [...], and bringing in more organizations to the benefits of being a RE-AMP member. Our equity team hosted a training [in November 2018] [...] and that's helped us reach more people beyond just Ohio Energy Table.



The Wisconsin Climate Table's local initiatives campaign has worked to identify key municipal and county level policies in five strategic communities across the state



Kuntz: We did an equity training last summer [with the YWCA] and it generated some real meaningful conversations about privilege, bias, and how we hadn't worked well together in the past. Without the RE-AMP structure really pushing us to have those conversations collaboratively, they wouldn't have happened in that way.



Demeter: There was a fixed charge rate increase fight with the PUCO (Public Utilities Commission of Ohio), and we used coordinated efforts to fight on the legal front and through a grassroots effort, and using those coordinated tools we were able to defeat the rate increase through a great marriage of using attorneys and grassroots organizers. Equally so, because our communications team was able to turnout social media content, which was so useful for smaller organizations that don't have dedicated communications staff, they're developing more capacity and doing it in a coordinated way means we're speaking in one voice and speaking at the right time.



Savoie: [Without the Empower Michigan table] we wouldn't be having the important conversations across the environmental, justice, and faith communities.



Demeter: We're bringing to bear multiple sets of tools and we're coordinating. This group is pretty well equipped to add to the capacity of our members, whatever the capacity is, and we're not overly specialized.

Webinars

The RE-AMP Network hosted 15 webinars in 2018, to explore topics critical to the climate movement, share the insights from RE-AMP Action Teams, and build campaign planning skills.



Cassie Steiner, PR and Outreach Associate, Sierra Club

I feel like the webinar that came out of the Pipelines Action Team was one of the best webinars I've seen on this because we were really pushed to center Equitable Deep Decarbonization as the frame we presented it in, and so, it put people upfront over the infrastructure.



Tanessa Lewis, host of the "Engaging Local Communities on Climate Resilience" webinar:

I live in North Minneapolis, and what got me involved was seeing climate change and weather in my lifetime. When the tornado hit in 2011, my mother's house was directly affected [...]. The webinar told the story of the process of how three agencies came together and planned social gatherings of community conversations in regards to climate change -- what it is, how it affects us, and what we can do to plan for it and try and prevent it. [...] You have to include the people in the areas you're trying to get through to, you have to.

In 2018, RE-AMP Network webinars included:

Why You Should Talk About Health When You Talk About Climate Change

Pipeline Briefing: Lines 3 & 61

Utilizing a Racial Equity Toolkit

Midwest Climate and Clean Energy Statehouse Round-Up

Introduction to EJSCREEN

Global Migration and Climate Change w/ Refugees International

See the full list and watch recordings at: www.reamp.org/resources/webinars

Principles of Equitable Environmental Policy

1. Develop policies that compensate for disproportionate structural and environmental vulnerabilities
2. Ensure that the needs of frontline populations are met
3. Reject policy strategies that shift risk or vulnerability from one group or community to another
4. Create formal methods of community oversight and accountability, particularly from frontline communities
5. Develop policies and strategies that build the capacity of all individuals and communities, with priority given to frontline communities
6. Design strategies and activities that respect the culture of involved groups and areas



44 RE-AMP members joined Marcus Franklin and Marnese Jackson from the NAACP for the “Tools for Policy Analysis with an Equity Lens” webinar in April



Brian Smith, host of the “Building Relationships with Communities Impacted by Environmental Health Issues” webinar:

I was aiming to give a 101 and basic checklist for organizers looking to partner with research institutions and scientists, reflecting on my own work in Detroit working with The CURES Center (Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors) [...]. So researchers know how to partner with community members, and communities can set expectations for researchers who want to come in and engage.

New RE-AMP members in 2018

In 2018, The RE-AMP Network added five new members



Brian Smith, Community Relations Specialist, The Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors at Wayne State University:

I got interested in RE-AMP for several reasons. The first is personal, because I’m from an environmental justice community. I’m also looking to build my network, to be in solidarity with others, and to connect the dots between what the Center is looking at in Detroit with communities who are dealing with the same issues. CURES is researching the effects of climate change contributors and climate change impacts. [...] The overall purpose for me to be in these spaces is to connect and to translate research science so it can get traction on the advocacy side.



Virginia Rutter, MN Program Director, Solar United Neighbors:

Solar United Neighbors was excited to become a part of RE-AMP to find ways to maximize our impact in Ohio and Minnesota. We rely on organizational partners to create our best success.



Matt Ohloff, Senior Campaign Organizer, Iowa CCI:

One of our theories of change is that the only way to beat organized money, which is mostly what we’re up against, is with organized people [...]. Having the State Table and the RE-AMP Network as a way to come together with like minded organizations to push for a shared agenda is absolutely essential. Shortly after joining the table, we were interested in joining the RE-AMP Network because we saw how much we got out of the state table as an organization.



Vicki O'Day, Development Director, RREAL:

RREAL was invited by Patty O'Keefe [from Sierra Club and the MN Climate Table leadership team] to apply for the 2018 MN Climate Table. Located in Northern Minnesota, RREAL works closely with neighboring tribal nations and nationally with Community Action Agencies to deliver solar energy assistance alongside the national Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). We are interested in extending our work within rural Minnesota through the Minnesota Climate Table and within the RE-AMP network states beyond the Minnesota border.

Looking Forward to 2019 and Beyond



Peter Skopec, WISPIRG, RE-AMP Steering Committee member:

Especially in light of the UN Climate report, we understand it's really urgent to be doing this work and to be doing it from a lot of diverse perspectives, and how to do this as quickly and effectively as possible while also thinking about, what does this mean for people, and making decisions in a way that's fair.



Melissa Gavin, Chief Network Officer, The RE-AMP Network:

The IPCC report might give some folks the impression that we have to act immediately, and we do [...], but only by focusing on some of these economic and racial and these other inequities and injustices, can we get to real progress on climate change.



Charles Griffith, Ecology Center, RE-AMP Steering Committee member:

Coming off the recent midterm elections, we have some bright spots with more opportunities politically to move our agenda forward.



Bismarck, North Dakota

Michael Noble, Executive Director, Fresh Energy:

You now have governors in several Midwest states that are committed to climate action. The governors in Minnesota, in Illinois, in Wisconsin, in Michigan all campaigned on climate action and climate ambition and taking it up a notch, and that creates an exciting opportunity. It's the argument that we all do better when we all do better.



Jessica Collingsworth, Union of Concerned Scientists, RE-AMP Steering Committee member:

The Steering Committee met in September and had a great conversation about doubling down on Equitable Deep Decarbonization, ensuring work done through Action Teams all goes back to that, and how we can align the State Tables' work with Equitable Deep Decarbonization.





Gavin: Part of what RE-AMP is doing is helping members to understand both the moral and strategic imperative to focus on equity through climate solutions [...]. At the end of 2018 we'll be hosting a modelling bootcamp that focuses on how to shape campaigns using equity data, for example, health impacts, energy poverty, and other metrics. [...]. We'll be hosting two mini-Equitable Deep Decarbonization Summits for State Tables in 2019 [...], and it's pretty important that RE-AMP continues to offer trainings on things like structural racism and how to apply a racial equity lens to climate work because in a lot of cases, that's the only access our members have to trainings like that.



Nicole Montclair-Donaghy, Dakota Resource Council, RE-AMP Steering Committee member:

I want to be a part of building connections for my community to the outside world, for people that have never dealt with tribes, to help facilitate those conversations [...]. RE-AMP is creating a system that other organizations can replicate in working with communities that are a challenge to work in, and I think RE-AMP has an approach to going into these communities and being willing to let the people on the ground speak for themselves, and that's how you build power.



Rachael Belz, Ohio Citizen Action, RE-AMP Steering Committee member:

We're in this new phase of a RE-AMP 2.0. We're not starting from scratch -- but we aren't finished either [...]. Something happened this year and it's looking like a much different network and in a really exciting way. There are more and more opportunities for members to do it themselves, to interact, or give input.

RE-AMP Network Leadership

2018-2019 Steering Committee members

Denise Abdul-Rahman, NAACP

Rachael Belz, Ohio Citizen Action

Jessica Collingsworth, Union of Concerned Scientists

John Farrell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Charles Griffith, Ecology Center

Susan Hendershot, Interfaith Power & Light

Nicole Montclair Donaghy, Dakota Resource Council

Peter Skopec, WISPIRG

Jessica Tritesch, Sierra Club

Liz Veazey, We Own It

RE-AMP Staff

Melissa Gavin, Chief Network Officer

Sarah Shanahan, Network Community Manager

Gail Francis, Strategic Director

Sean Carroll, Organizing Hub Director

Abby Lerner, Network Coordinator

An Oral History of RE-AMP in 2018 was created by Sean Carroll, Margaret Plumart, Sarah Shanahan, and Abby Lerner with help from many others.