

# climate & clean energy

## **the challenge**

We are feeling the impact of climate change in Michigan. Severe weather events have caused hundreds of thousands of Michiganders to lose power. We have seen intense rain, widespread floods, and sewer backups. All this came on the back end of a decade marked by flooding and dam failures, high water levels and erosion that destroyed public and private property, major crop failures from erratic spring temperatures, and three polar vortexes.

At the same time, Michigan will be a destination for people seeking safe water, clean air, and a pleasant peninsula or two. We must face climate change head-on and grow the economy. Too often, however, we think of these objectives as tradeoffs: Environmental protection or economic development? Quality of life or cost of living? Invest in the future or live in the now? We must reject this zero-sum thinking. We can protect our natural resources and produce more affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy. We can bring supply chains home and lower costs for families.

## **what's next**

Take action to become a national clean energy leader, lower costs, and protect our land, air, and lakes for future generations:

- Enact a 100% clean energy standard. Produce all our energy from clean sources like wind, solar, nuclear, or other commonsense sources.
- Improve energy efficiency programs to lower utility bills. The cleanest, form of energy is energy you don't use.
- Empower the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), our state's utility regulator, by giving them more tools. Authorize them to incorporate climate and equity into regulatory decisions.
- Streamline permitting of clean energy projects through the MPSC to move faster, create more jobs, and get shovels into the ground.

According to a [recent report](#) from the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council, these actions and federal clean energy investments from the Inflation Reduction Act will save families \$5.5 billion in household energy costs by 2050, create 160,000 jobs, and bring home \$14.7 billion of federal funding back home to Michigan.