

SLINGSHOT



2025

ANNUAL REPORT



TO OUR COMMUNITY LEADERS, SUPPORTERS, & PARTNERS ACROSS THE NORTHEAST—

2025 was hard.

The federal government began gutting environmental safeguards that protect our communities. ICE raids spread fear in the communities we organize alongside. Extreme weather, from wildfires to flooding, showed that climate chaos is here. And attacks on equity, justice, and democratic participation accelerated.

In moments like this, it's tempting to feel powerless. But here's what we know: **when neighbors organize together, we can win.**



Together, we achieved **13 major victories for environmental health and justice**. None of these wins came from waiting for someone else to step up. They came from neighbors knocking on doors, packing hearing rooms, building coalitions, and refusing to give up.

That's why our work matters more than ever.

Polluters refuse to clean up their messes. Governments fail to act. It's organized communities that force accountability and justice. The skills and relationships we build together protect us when institutions won't.

This annual report shares **stories of transformation**. Communities who turned fear into action, isolation into solidarity, and private pain into public power. We hope they bring you the same sense of possibility they bring us.

Thank you for being part of this movement. There is so much work ahead. **But there are also so many reasons to believe we can win.**

In solidarity,

MIREILLE BEJJANI

Co-Executive Director
she/they

DANA COLIHAN

Co-Executive Director
she/her



GROWING A COMMUNITY-CENTERED ORGANIZATION



Grassroots organizing is critical to protecting our environment, our communities, and our democracy.

That's why we work with communities for the long haul, building close relationships and people power to take aim at polluters. The people impacted by pollution know their community's needs the best, so **we invest deeply in their leadership.**

As communities strategize, build their base, and run their campaigns, leaders are **developing the skills they need to address any community threat.** That's the type of power and resilience that our communities need right now.



OUR YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

13

victories!

53

communities supported

38

community organizing workshops

208

leadership coaching sessions

45

actions with groups

19

calls to our support hotline

SETTING THE STAGE FOR SOLUTIONS

We're not just fighting dirty energy, poisoned drinking water, leaking landfills, and dangerous toxins. We're **forging powerful connections among communities**—building united movements for lasting change.

UNLOCKING A NEW CHAPTER OF ENERGY WORK



We've spent years organizing with communities around our dirty and polluting energy system. Time and time again, we've seen our regional grid operator, ISO-New England, hold us back. Last May, **we published a report on the practices of grid operators** across the country. It confirmed what communities have known for years: **ISO-NE failed on measures of transparency, accessibility, and accountability.** Through coordinated actions, our **Fix the Grid campaign** hand-delivered that report to decision makers in four states.

That powerful demonstration opened the door to more dialogue with our grid operator. As we discussed a new, community-first approach, big news broke. ISO-NE's CEO Gordon van Welie,

who had been resistant to change, retired after 25 years. With new leadership comes new opportunities. This new chapter is off to a good start—the incoming CEO has already agreed to meet with our campaign and hear our demands.

We also expanded our work on **"energy democracy"**—a framework that advocates for energy systems that serve people over profit, built on renewable energy and local power.

As ISO-New England prepares for its next 25 years of operation, Slingshot will be there, ensuring communities living in the shadow of fossil fuel infrastructure have every opportunity to push for a just, accountable grid that listens to ratepayers and prioritizes clean, affordable energy.



Photos by Marilyn Humphries Photography



FACILITATING
MEETINGS & TRAINING
WORKSHOPS



PAIRING COMMUNITY
GROUPS WITH LEGAL,
SCIENTIFIC, & PUBLIC
HEALTH EXPERTS

SLINGSHOT ORGANIZING TOOLBOX



TRAINING & DEVELOPING
GRASSROOTS LEADERS



CO-ORGANIZING
ACTIONS & EVENTS



CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES
ACROSS THE REGION

TURNING THE TIDE ON WASTE



Throughout the year, we bring community leaders from across the Northeast together to talk trash. Not the kind on the court—the kind that takes on Casella, WIN Waste, and the companies profiting from pollution. Through our **Trash Talks** gatherings, leaders who live in the shadow of dirty incinerators and leaking landfills share what's working, learn from each other's fights, and organize for zero-waste solutions.

This is where movements grow. Groups taking on Casella's landfill expansions in **Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts** have used this space to build a shared strategy against one of the region's most aggressive waste companies. By bringing leaders together, we're turning isolated local fights into a united regional push for real change.

Waste injustice doesn't stop at state lines, so neither does our movement.

This year, we traveled to Louisiana as part of the **Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives' US Methane Reduction and Environmental Justice Cohort**.

We toured Cancer Alley and connected with groups fighting the same types of polluters that we are fighting here in the Northeast.

From landfill expansions to biomass proposals dressed up as "green" energy, the false solutions are the same everywhere. By sharing strategies across state lines, we're building the collective power needed to take on a national issue.



HOLDING THE LINE ON CLEAN WATER



We organize alongside communities contaminated by PFAS, the toxic "forever chemicals" linked to cancer and other serious health impacts. Together with leaders from more than **40 communities across 23 states**, we co-facilitate the **National PFAS Contamination Coalition**, fighting for clean water, accountability from polluters, and strong protections that prevent future contamination.

Our focus is supporting local organizing against PFAS contamination across the country, fighting bad bills at the state level, and working to protect the gains we've made. We issued a powerful statement opposing the Trump administration's proposed rollbacks to our hard-won drinking water standards, and members testified in opposition.



As federal rollbacks now threaten the national drinking water standards we fought for—protections for over 100 million people—we're doubling down on community organizing. This spring, we held a **Leadership Team retreat** bringing together leaders from around the country to strategize about the future of our PFAS work and identify where we can keep making progress regardless of federal policy shifts.

We're also investing in the coalition's long-term strength by building out communications and fundraising capacity, as well as planning the **2026 National PFAS Conference** in Arizona.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING HIGHLIGHTS

At Slingshot, we tackle environmental threats by taking aim at polluters and building community power.

Through workshops on campaign strategy, messaging, and more, **we equip local leaders with essential grassroots organizing tools**, enabling them to spearhead movements for change. From day one, we work alongside residents, facilitating meetings, coordinating actions, and expanding change-making capacity. Together, we are **building a network of leaders** to secure victories at the local, state, regional, and national levels. Thanks to your support, we worked with over **53 community groups** this year.



VICTORY!



ENERGY



WASTE



WATER



TOXICS

BURLINGTON, VT



The **McNeil Generating Station** is a wood-fired power plant located in Burlington's Intervale. The plant is the **single largest source of carbon emissions in Vermont** and contributes to deforestation. Despite efforts to close the plant, its owners are doubling down with a proposal to transform it into a biomass-burning plant. We've been **organizing alongside local leaders** to build the case for truly clean energy, laying the groundwork for the next phase of the fight to shut down the plant for good.



CLAREMONT, NH



A Better Claremont won a major victory in May when the NH Department of Environmental Services denied a permit for a toxic waste transfer station proposed near homes and an elementary school. Over **400 Claremont residents turned out to a pivotal public hearing** in March, delivering comment after comment about the facility's threat to their environment. **We organized alongside the group every step of the way**, helping them mobilize neighbors, prepare testimony, and build the sustained pressure that made this win possible.

SPRINGFIELD, MA



For years, a proposal for a new fracked gas pipeline has hung over Springfield. Over the summer, **Eversource** held a public meeting to try to make up for inadequate outreach. The **Springfield Climate Justice Coalition** organized over a hundred local residents to show up in force with a simple message: we don't want new dirty fossil fuel infrastructure in our community.

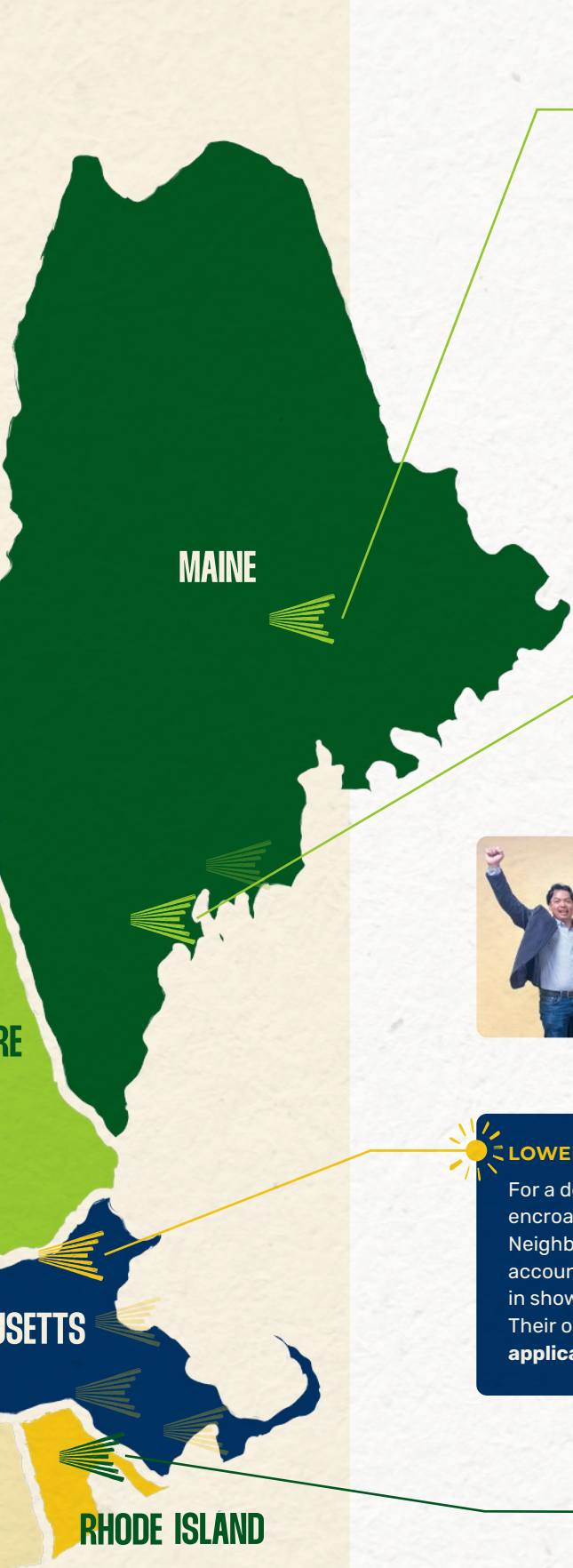


VERMONT

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MASSACHUSETTS

CONNECTICUT



OLD TOWN, ME

For years, leaders with **Don't Waste ME** have been pushing for a **zero-waste future**. Over the past year, we supported the group to organize rallies alongside citizens of the **Penobscot Nation** to oppose the expansion of Juniper Ridge Landfill, to contest the Department of Environmental Protection's ruling that minimized Environmental Justice considerations, and to win passage of a bill providing free PFAS testing for homeowners abutting landfills.



Photo by Sunlight Media Collective

BRUNSWICK, ME

Victory! After months of organizing, **Brunswick United for a Safe Environment** won a **unanimous town council vote** against a proposal to truck 85,000 tons of sludge annually to a biodigester on Brunswick Landing—a neighborhood still reeling from a devastating PFAS foam spill. We supported the group in mobilizing hundreds of community members to oppose the project. Leaders also secured the removal of the remaining PFAS-laden firefighting foam from the former naval air base.



LOWELL, MA

For a decade, a Markley Group data center has been encroaching on residents' health, privacy, and quality of life. Neighbors formed **Honest Future for Lowell** to push for accountability and transparency. We supported the group in showing up at city meetings and delivering public comments. Their organizing **forced the company to withdraw their application for increased diesel fuel storage**.



PROVIDENCE, RI

In Rhode Island, we're supporting a growing network of leaders working for a **Just Transition** in the state. For the **Racial & Environmental Justice Coalition**, this means building **new economic and energy systems that benefit all people**. As REJC creates new partnerships, we've been connecting them to potential allies, assisting with group building, and supporting their membership development.





DALTON, NH

Leaders with **North Country Alliance for Balanced Change** won a major **victory** when the state denied **Casella's permit for a proposed landfill** near Forest Lake. This decision is a huge step toward protection of the environment and the communities in the region. Now NCABC is taking legal action to counter the developer's lawsuit and appeal of the denial. The group continues to fight tirelessly for local control around waste decisions across New Hampshire.



VICTORY!



ENERGY



WASTE



WATER



TOXICS



SHAFTSBURY, VT

In Shaftsbury, community members are facing **PFAS contamination from plastics manufacturing giant Saint-Gobain**—the same pollution that has spread from the plant in North Bennington where residents there won restitution and cleanup in 2016. Together, we helped residents connect with their neighbors, understand their options, and **build the collective power to fight back**. The community has chosen to **pursue a class action lawsuit** against Saint-Gobain. We'll remain in their corner as this fight moves forward.



TAUNTON, MA

Between dust preventing them from opening windows, tremors knocking things off the walls, and early morning trucks rousing them from sleep, neighbors of the Dauphinais concrete plant in Taunton have had enough. We supported the **Weir Concrete Dust Busters** in taking action. The group submitted complaints, regularly gave public comment, and monitored noise and air quality. **They are building the case for their Board of Health to enforce town bylaws.**



HARTFORD, CT

In Hartford, Quanishe Flippen and her neighbors are **fighting for clean air and renewable energy in their neighborhood**. Frog Hollow has some of the highest rates of emergency room visits for asthma in the country. The fracked gas power plant still being used to heat buildings in the neighborhood is a key culprit. When the state announced plans to pour millions into new gas equipment, **residents came together in coalition with the Sierra Club to push for geothermal heating instead**. After months of grassroots organizing, the state announced they are pausing the project to explore these options in Hartford and across the state.





BERLIN, NH

Community members like Rachel Fillion and Monique Gagnon knocked on doors for months to alert their neighbors about the risks associated with W.L. French's proposed contaminated soil landfill. We supported residents in coming together to form **ACT Berlin**, to build opposition to the proposal. The group has already **gathered nearly 900 petition signatures against the proposed landfill**, sending a clear message that Berlin won't be a dumping ground.



WISCASSET, ME



Neighbors sprang into action when they learned that Wiscasset officials had signed a non-disclosure agreement with an unknown company to explore development of a **hyperscale AI data center, shutting residents out of local decision-making**. Such a facility could consume millions of gallons of water daily and jack up electricity rates. We supported community members in forming **Protect Wiscasset**, a group whose goal is to stop the project and support responsible development in their community.



BOSTON, MA



In the heart of Boston's Longwood Medical Area stands **MATEP, a fossil fuel power plant spewing harmful emissions** into one of the city's most densely populated neighborhoods. Alongside residents, medical professionals and students, our **MA Clean Peak Coalition has been pushing for decarbonization steps to reduce this pollution**. In June, our team hit the streets in Jamaica Plain to talk with neighbors about this dirty power plant and invite them to take action, **connecting with over 700 people**.



NEW BEDFORD, MA



After years of organizing, members of **Citizens Against the Parallel Products Project stopped a proposal for what would have been the largest trash transfer facility in the state**. We worked alongside residents to hone a consistent message, design creative visuals, and make opposition indisputable. Leaders like Wendy Morrill, Tracy Wallace, and their community showed how persistent pressure and strategic people power can win.



FEATURED COMMUNITY LEADERS



LAURENE ALLEN
Merrimack, New Hampshire

Laurene Allen never set out to be an activist. As a clinical social worker, she spent her days supporting others, until 2016, when she learned her town's drinking water was contaminated with toxic PFAS. She rearranged her entire schedule, teaching herself the science, meeting with neighbors, and educating decision makers. She co-founded **Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water**, supporting the organizing that led to the shutdown of their Saint-Gobain facility, and serves on the leadership team of the National PFAS Contamination Coalition. This year, she was awarded the **Goldman Environmental Prize**, often called the "Green Nobel," for her powerful organizing work.

JANIELA QUIÑONES & MIA AMARAL
Salem, Massachusetts

Janiela and Mia are students at Salem State University who want to help their community build a better future. That's why they're interning with **Salem Alliance for the Environment (SAFE)**, a local powerhouse group currently **focusing on electrifying the port infrastructure that will be critical for offshore wind**. Mia brings her background in environmental sustainability and community-based research to the work, while Janiela, who grew up in a Puerto Rican household speaking both Spanish and English, manages SAFE's Spanish translations to make sure the group's message reaches everyone. We've helped Janiela and Mia learn the ropes of **climate communication** so they can be strong advocates for their community's needs, especially as Massachusetts plans major electric system upgrades for years to come.



BRADY WINN & RICHARD DAVIS
Wiscasset, Maine

When Brady Winn found out that the neighboring **town of Wiscasset was considering a hyperscale AI data center**, she knew she couldn't stay quiet. An optimistic go-getter, Brady started talking to her neighbors and doing a lot of research. Through her rabble-rousing, she met Richard Davis, a retired music professor living in Wiscasset, who shared her concerns. Richard's background made him particularly worried about the noise pollution that a data center could bring into the community. We've been supporting this dynamic duo in forming **Protect Wiscasset** and building their strategy to fight back.

JOE ANZO
Berlin, New Hampshire

Joe Anzo is a data scientist and active runner, who moved to the White Mountains in 2025 to be closer to friends and the beautiful running trails in the area. He values a strong community and believes that an **important pillar of that is protecting our neighbors, including animals, and the environment**. When a friend shared news of a proposed toxic soil landfill, Joe knew he wanted to take action. Joe jumped into **organizing with the newly formed ACT Berlin** to protect his community.



ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

We are sincerely grateful to the following **organizations** for their **financial support** in 2025:

Barr Foundation
 Broad Reach Foundation
 Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts
 Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
 Energy Foundation
 Environmental League of Massachusetts
 Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
 The Grassroots Fund
 The Harris and Frances Block Foundation
 The Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation
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 Island Foundation, Inc.
 Lawson Valentine Foundation
 Maine Community Foundation
 New England Biolabs Foundation
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
 New World Foundation
 Onion Foundation
 Orchard Foundation
 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

GRASSROOTS SUPPORT

We'd like to thank the **donors** who contributed an **exceptional gift** to support Slingshot's work organizing alongside frontline communities, including anonymous donors:

CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$5,000 OR MORE:

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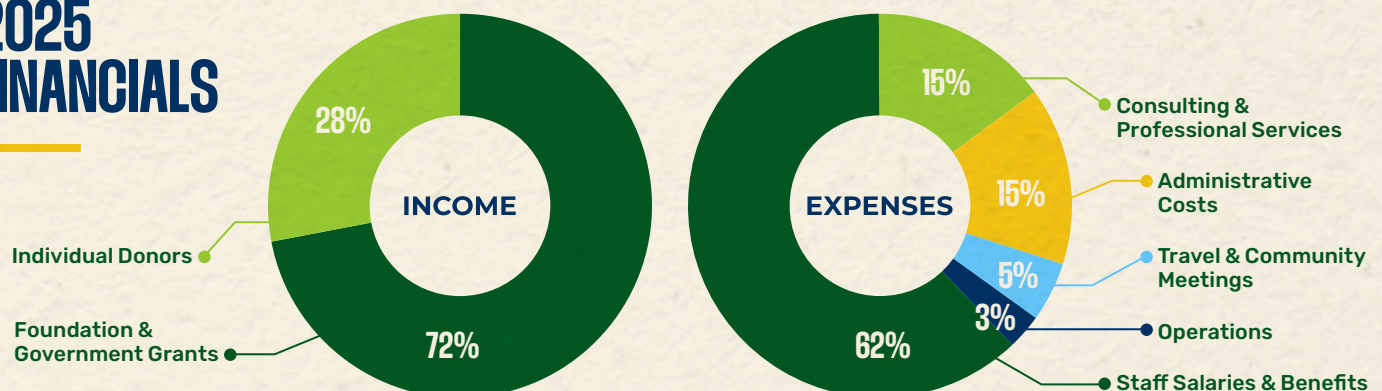
CONTRIBUTIONS BETWEEN \$1,000–\$4,999:

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2025 FINANCIALS





OUR REGION

MAINE

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MASSACHUSETTS

CONNECTICUT

RHODE ISLAND

VERMONT

OUR TEAM

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