

# 2023-2027

## ▶ Strategic Plan Summary

For more than half a century, **Earthjustice** has wielded the power of the law to fight for a sustainable, livable planet: with healthy communities, thriving biodiversity, and a clean energy future.



**Our strategic plan is expansive, forward-looking, and achievable.**

**We've assembled the world's preeminent team** of environmental and energy lawyers, pioneering a fearless approach that deploys legal expertise alongside our partners to advance a movement that achieves lasting change.

We always work in partnership and center justice in all that we do, which is why we maintain the trust and respect of our thousands of clients and partners, from large organizations and Tribes to local community groups.

We've elevated our allies' and clients' voices in the courtroom, halls of Congress, and state capitols — and fought for a legal system that levels the playing field to put people's interests over powerful polluters'. Our partners' knowledge and lived experience, combined with our legal and policy expertise, prevails.

Most importantly, we've fought to ensure that countless people breathe cleaner air, have access to safe water, and can thrive on a planet that is safer and more sustainable for generations to come.

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**As we look ahead, Earthjustice will continue to grow, fight, and win — delivering real results for real people with the visionary approach this moment demands.**

The most urgent fights we face will continue to evolve and escalate in the years ahead:

**The fight to stave off climate collapse** and build a clean energy future;

**The fight for clean air and water** and safe, livable communities for everyone;

**The fight to avert the biodiversity crisis** that threatens all life on Earth;

And **the fight for the integrity of our legal system** — so that all people can fight for their dignity and security against environmental harms and injustices.

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**Our strategic plan** positions Earthjustice to *win* those fights. It's a plan that leverages our unique expertise, our commitment to justice, our orientation toward equitable justice, and our deep relationships to maximize the impact we can make in every community. And it's a plan

for all seasons: a dynamic, scalable strategy that prepares us to thrive no matter the political or economic headwinds — to hold the line when facing hostile administrations, courts, or legislatures, and charge forward to make gains whenever possible.

Our strategic plan is expansive, forward-looking, and achievable.

**We're not just holding the line on the gains we've already won —**

we're expanding the ways we can drive change today, and also answering the future needs of our movement.

**We're not just beating back threats —**

we're extending rights and strengthening protections, and laying the legal groundwork for long-term progress.

**We're not just litigating —**

we're using the weight of our credibility, expertise, and relationships to shape the laws, standards, conversations, and perspectives that will define our future.

**We're not just winning cases —**

we're convening allies and power brokers to build a bold justice-oriented movement with the strength and savvy to win over the long term.



**1** We will **combat the climate crisis** — and accelerate toward a safer, healthier, more equitable future through the just transition to clean energy.

We'll do it by:

- Ensuring that the clean energy investments in the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act** deliver results quickly, broadly, and fairly, and don't turn into handouts for polluters
- Securing new federal regulations to help meet **2030 greenhouse gas reduction targets**, protect health, and hold polluting industries accountable for the true costs of their products
- Pressing to **transition America's power sector to 100% clean electricity** by 2035, and electrifying buildings, industries, and the transportation sector with that clean power
- Thwarting industry efforts to lock in **long-term fossil fuel infrastructure and petrochemical facilities**, and putting an end to further oil, gas, and coal leasing, extraction, and exports
- Shepherding the creation of a **sustainable clean energy supply chain** that is governed by modern, ethical laws which safeguard the environment and the integrity of Tribal and public lands
- Harnessing our relationships with **partners and advocates from the local to international level** to scale the adoption of effective climate solutions to maximize global climate progress
- Aiding **environmental law organizations around the world** to further the global transition from fossil fuels to clean energy
- And **maintaining our flexibility and innovative culture**, so that we can head off emerging threats and seize new opportunities

**2** We will promote **healthy communities free from pollution and toxic exposure** — and partner with communities that have historically borne the burden of environmental harms.

We'll do it by:

- Standing alongside communities directly impacted by pollution, elevating their stories, and providing legal muscle to their fights — particularly **communities of color and frontline and low-income communities**
- Combining our local fights into large-scale campaigns that advance **broader structural change**— reforming broken regulatory agencies, closing industry loopholes, and driving new legal and policy approaches at all levels
- Closing gaps in **pollution and chemical regulations**, and reimagining government programs so that they deliver better on the promise of protecting all people
- Advocating for **deep investments in clean energy** that directly benefit communities that have been historically impacted by the fossil-fuel industry
- Exposing and alleviating the **systemic failures** that conspire to overburden Black, brown, indigenous, immigrant, and low-income communities — including inadequate monitoring, lax enforcement, and structural disregard for the cumulative impact of different pollutants
- Defending and advancing essential **federal environmental protections** for clean air, clean water, safe drinking water, and protections from hazardous chemicals
- Reining in **agricultural pollution** and reforming policies to generate incentives for beneficial agricultural practices

**3** We will put the **biodiversity crisis** front and center to stop the exploitation of natural resources and industrial encroachment on critical ecosystems that threaten the foundations of life on Earth.

We'll do it by:

- Spurring ambitious regulatory federal action to protect **vulnerable species and habitats**
- Defending and restoring **priority ecosystems**
- Expanding our work to curb the impacts of **pesticide nutrient pollution**
- Combatting **threats to ocean biodiversity**, including mineral, oil, and gas resource extraction threats and overfishing
- Pressing our leaders at all levels of government to recognize the **value of biodiversity**, not just the value of extractable resources
- Supporting **indigenous-led fights** to preserve native ecological land stewardship
- And **instilling a biodiversity lens** into every facet of our broader work — ensuring that all of our work maximizes our positive impact on climate, community health, and biodiversity

From left: A wind farm (Yuhan Liao); CAUSE Co-Executive Director Lucas Zucker hugs Dayane Zuniga, student activist and CAUSE member, at a celebration in Oxnard, CA, to mark the end of the Puente Power Plant (Chris Jordan-Bloch / Earthjustice); A gray wolf (Jasper Doest)



Jim Pew, Director of Federal Clean Air Practice, in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. Matt Roth for Earthjustice

**4** We will fight not only in the courts, but for the integrity of courts — exercising **the power of the law** and realizing a legal system that delivers **equal justice for all**.

We'll do it by:

- Shining a light on the **anti-environment agenda** of ultra-conservative judges and right-wing legal movements
- Exerting our influence, advocacy, and partnerships to help **rebalance the federal bench**
- Crafting litigation strategies that overcome **unjust legal doctrines and hostile courts**, and sharing the depth of our relevant legal expertise with allied progressive litigators
- Bringing cases on behalf of **local partners who articulate irrefutable harms** and compelling calls for change
- Protecting the **environmental and energy legal and policy gains** already won from industry lobbying and litigation
- Expanding our capacity to drive change through **state-based advocacy** in progressive jurisdictions

**Today, Earthjustice stands at the nexus of these core issues** — and at the confluence of a movement that must act boldly, swiftly, and together if we are to meet our goals. As the urgency of this moment rises, so will our efforts to meet it.

*We will continue to bolster our local, national, and international footprint, fortifying our partnerships with communities and allies everywhere.*

*We will continue to center justice, and push for our movement to be more equitable, inclusive, and community-focused.*

*We will continue to grow our team — and expand the boundaries of our vision, exploring every field and pathway where we can make progress.*

*And we will remain an indispensable force for positive change: a bullhorn for community voices, a bridge between allies, and a sword and shield for our planet.*

**Because the Earth needs a good lawyer — now more than ever.**



# EARTHJUSTICE

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