

ENERGY



BUILDERS



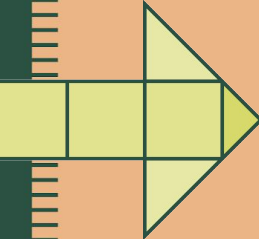
BUILDING
RURAL AMERICA'S
ENERGY FREEDOM
— WITH —
UNLIKELY ALLIANCES

Bold Energy Builders: Our Experience Matters

1. The clean energy future we need and have envisioned **starts and ends in rural America**. The land will power America's **next 100 years of power** and that land is mostly in rural communities.
2. Bold has a record of understanding, respecting and organizing rural Americans. We built the model. The model starts with **empowering, training and resourcing** local advocates. These **fight**s cannot be won from far away.
3. We have relationships with those that live in **small towns** — whose **rural land and labor** are the critical components for the clean energy transition — and we know they must be brought to the table and financially staked for this transition to be successful.



The People Who Live On The Land Matter



IF we do not create a new a model to organize WITH rural communities, who have the land needed for wind and solar energy, our country will remain locked into only fossil fuels which dictate price and leave behind pollution in our communities. The current model of wind and solar is not working. Communities feel disconnected and disrespected and not enough money is being left behind so rural people feel proud and part of building America's next 100 years of energy.



Our Mission



We can bolster the building of clean energy by growing local support and meeting with opposition while creating an economic model for large-scale projects that bring authentic benefits to a wide public in rural areas.

We believe the unlikely alliances needed for the energy transition will in turn start to transform the cultural divides that hurt the very core of our democracy.



Our Theory of Change

Ordinances that bring energy parity with fossil fuels (decommissioning, eminent domain, easements).

Community benefits, including dividends, that benefit the people living near clean energy projects.

Jobs are not only good-paying but are union jobs.

America is no longer dependent on fossil fuels which pollute our land and water.

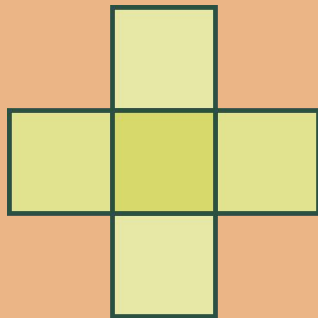


Energy Freedom & Land Justice

We are on the cusp of a massive energy transition that can bring **land justice and energy freedom**. Fossil fuels will no longer have total control of our energy supply.

ENERGY FREEDOM

Building more clean energy to benefit the climate, reduce pollution, eliminate dependence on oil, and create good-paying union jobs.

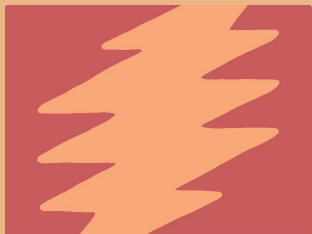


LAND JUSTICE

Tribal Nations and rural families benefit financially from clean energy and that the land is deeply respected at all levels from siting to decommissioning.



Time for a New Model



We can only make this transition a reality if we focus on rural communities who hold the majority of land that clean energy projects will be built on.



We need a new organizing model rooted in rural culture and new economic model – **The American Energy Dividend with Community Benefit Plans** – to ensure rural people, not just corporations, are building wealth.



Rural Viewed as the Problem

CHALLENGE

National climate organizations were critical in passing the IRA. Rural-based groups are needed for the next steps.

While the national conversation has been focused on climate action and a just transition, rural folks have largely been tagged as part of the problem rather than part of the solution.

- Climate groups are largely absent from rural America, and not prepared to deal with local concerns (real and imagined).
- If we keep conversations focused only on climate change and only on the coasts or in the halls of Congress we will fail.



Opposition & Disinformation

CHALLENGE

Rural America has largely been ignored by climate organizations and yet they have the land needed for our clean energy future.

The opposition and disinformation is growing at the local level:

- Disinformation from fossil fuel front groups gets spread often and the messages exploits ideological pressures (R vs. D).
- Clean energy is being zoned out of existence or voted down at the local level.
- State legislators are now targeting clean energy to limit their ability for expansion while giving fossil fuels projects a pass on items like decommissioning.



Ripped from the Headlines

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electrek

An activist group is stopping rural US solar farms with lies

Inside Climate News

The Choice for Rural Officials: Oppose Solar Power or Face Revolt



REUTERS®

U.S. solar expansion stalled by rural land-use protests



USA
TODAY

Counties are blocking wind and solar across the US

Challenge: ACCEPTED



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Build a National & State Model Focused on Rural



LOCAL BENEFITS \$

ELECT

ORGANIZE

RESOURCE HUB



Build a National & State Model Focused on Rural



1. **RESOURCE HUB** – The Bold Energy Builders will act as a national resource hub by creating tools (e.g. sample ordinances, fighting disinformation) and trainings for advocates everywhere.
2. **ORGANIZE** – In our pilot states—AZ, IL, NE, ND—we are building an organizing model and capacity that can win and be replicated in future places and fights while also helping any community with our model to bring more clean energy projects with more local benefits.
3. **ELECT** – Politics at the very local level is part of this work. We want to elect local candidates that support clean energy and put in place fair zoning and decommissioning.
4. **LOCAL BENEFITS** – Finally, and most importantly, we will introduce the **American Energy Dividend and Community Benefit Plan** that gives rural Americans a stake in the energy projects. We deeply believe this changes the game.





#1

National Resource Hub

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We recognize that there are already groups and advocates in rural America on our side. Our mission is to give them the **tools and resources** needed to win.

- **Create a national “support model” for individuals.** Giving us a head start in identifying and utilizing advocates across the country. This is a tool used in elections but we can use for organizing as well.
- **Create economic models and policy papers** around the American Energy Dividend and zoning as well as to push back on disinformation efforts.
- **Create social and digital channels** to disseminate information and amplify positive stories and messages. As well, have channels and content ready to counter disinformation.
- **Create communication resources** that includes websites, news clips, content creation, etc. so local organizers have easy access to information they can share and learn from.





#2

Organize, Empower, Embolden

At the heart of our effort will be our ability to organize, empower and embolden **local advocates**, **leaders** and **groups**. We will:

- **Hire organizers in our pilot states (AZ, IL, NE, ND)** that will be housed with a state-based group to create long-term infrastructure versus us “parachuting” into a community.
- **Identify, train and resource** local advocates and groups to carry the fight.
- **Experiment and build out an organizing model** that can be carried to communities using lessons from our 15 years of pipeline fighting.
- **Provide “mini-grants” to local efforts** that are already organized.
- **Expose and counter disinformation.**
- **Create local coalitions of unlikely alliances** to focus on specific fights.





#3

Elect Local

Our focus is to identify and elect “**champion**” and “**movement**” candidates at the power board, local commissioner and state legislative level where permitting, siting, zoning, decommissioning and eminent domain decisions are made.

In each state, we will target at least **5 candidates** at the local and state legislative level that have a role in zoning, siting, decommissioning and property rights.

Our support would include:

- Political communications (mail, billboards, media, digital, texting)
- Field support (voter registration, canvass, phones)
- Grants to groups working on election(s)





#4

American Energy Dividend + CBAs

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It is time to **re-think the economic model** of solar and wind. Instead of just a handful of people getting paid for a land easement and the town getting property tax dollars, we need to ensure everyone is benefiting.

At the center of our campaigns will be the concept of Community Benefit Agreements, including an Energy Dividend that will **change the game in rural America** and our clean energy future.

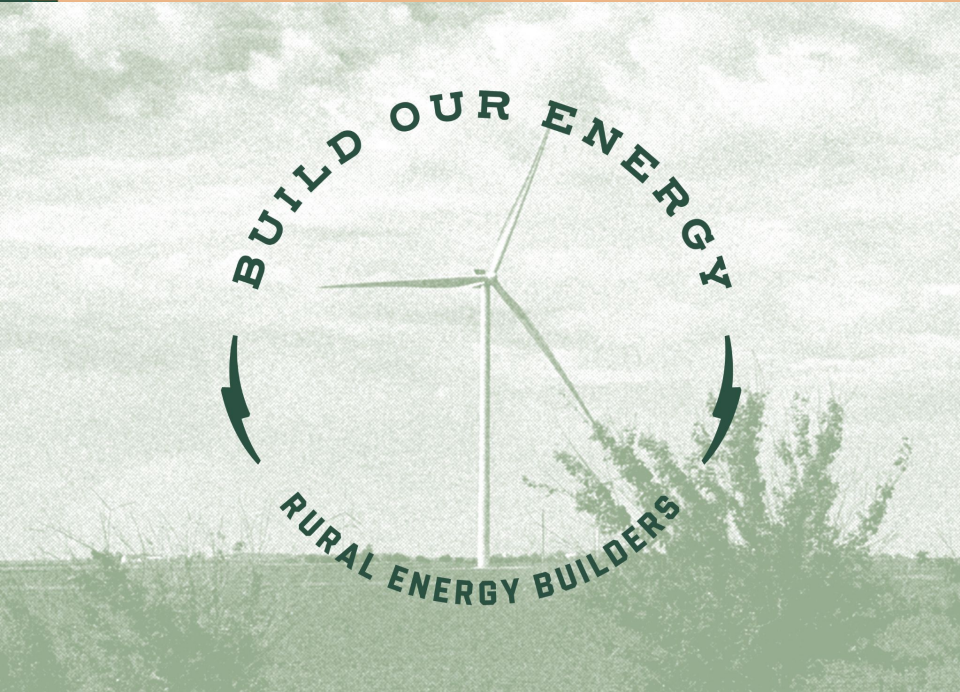
While the exact parameters will be decided, the premise is that residents of a community or service zone should **get a financial dividend** for large scale projects.



Join Us

This is only the beginning.

<https://boldenergybuilders.us/>



A photograph of a wind turbine in a rural landscape. A circular logo is overlaid on the image. The top half of the logo contains the text "BUILD OUR ENERGY" in a curved path, and the bottom half contains "RURAL ENERGY BUILDERS" in a curved path. Two lightning bolt icons are positioned on the left and right sides of the circle, pointing towards the center.

BUILD OUR ENERGY

RURAL ENERGY BUILDERS



A photograph of solar panels installed in a rural landscape. A circular logo is overlaid on the image. The top half of the logo contains the text "BUILD OUR ENERGY" in a curved path, and the bottom half contains "RURAL ENERGY BUILDERS" in a curved path. Two lightning bolt icons are positioned on the left and right sides of the circle, pointing towards the center.

BUILD OUR ENERGY

RURAL ENERGY BUILDERS