

# G P I

REAT

LAINS

STITUTE

*Our Shared Future*  
2019 Annual Report



**GREAT PLAINS  
INSTITUTE**

Better Energy.  
Better World.



# An Accelerating Institution

Thank you for being a supporter of clean energy solutions that will leave our children and future generations with a better environment – and stronger economy. Thanks to you, Great Plains Institute (GPI) is increasingly at the forefront of energy and climate conversations across the country.

The last year was pivotal for GPI as we acted on our strategic plan to add serious horsepower to the organization. GPI's rapid growth in reach and impact had stretched the internal capabilities needed to support our accomplishments. Thus, our number one priority was to add key positions to free up our CEO to focus on the speed and scale required to serve our mission, provide deeper expertise in financial management, forecasting and administration, and significantly increase our fundraising efforts to match GPI's potential for impact.

We have seen GPI's organizational capabilities expand and internal efficiencies improve with the hiring of our first ever chief operating officer and new director-level leaders of the development, finance, and administration functions. These professionals will allow us to solidify and expand our revenue growth and move forward as an enduring institution that perpetually accelerates clean energy solutions and the empowerment of communities.

It is critical that GPI is ready to seize this moment to accelerate the decarbonization of the energy system. With the alarming regularity of climate impacts becoming a daily part of the news, the momentum to take meaningful action is building. And while a coherent federal climate policy would be helpful, GPI's impact and collaborative approach demonstrates what's possible even without it. Utilities, corporations, consumers, states, cities, counties, and especially young people are simply demanding action. The market is demanding action. Changes are coming; our job is to accelerate them.

GPI's role is unique and critical. Barriers to progress are not primarily economic or technical, they are institutional. GPI is uniquely positioned to work with institutions that are struggling to reconcile the interests of their diverse stakeholders. GPI does this through the coalescing of industry actors around policy reform, the convening of state-level government leaders to find common ground and greater impact across their jurisdictional boundaries, empowering local governments and grassroots advocates, and driving legislative and regulatory action by the federal government.

As a nonpartisan organization that only advocates for the solutions derived from its many stakeholder groups, GPI is an honest broker that facilitates creative problem solving. This model continues to attract more and more participants who have a stake in transforming our energy system.

This is what is essential about GPI – and why my board colleagues and I work tirelessly to make sure your trust and support is well-placed.

At the dawn of arguably our society's – and planet's – most important decade, I want to thank you for your support and assure you that every day GPI strives for operational excellence and the best possible stewardship of your limited resources in our quest for a clean energy economy.

Sincerely,



Will Kaul  
Board Chair

## Great Plains Institute Board of Directors

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**Will Kaul**, *Chair*

Utility executive, retired

**Douglas Jaeger**, *Secretary*

Ultig Engineers

**Dan O'Neill**, *Treasurer*

Investment banker, retired

**Jessica Hellman**

University of Minnesota

**Satish Jayaram**

Cummins

**Priti Patel**

Great River Energy

**Winthrop Rockwell**

Attorney, retired

**Amy Skoczlas Cole**

American Public Media Group

LEADING

29

**States in work to transform to a low-to-zero carbon electricity grid.**

MORE THAN

30

**Industry leaders participated in the steel and carbon capture delegation to United Arab Emirates, Belgium, and Netherlands.** The lessons learned will inform and inspire the work of several ongoing federal and state policy and deployment initiatives.

1,185

**Clean energy projects completed by MN cities and institutions through GreenStep Cities.** More than 130 Minnesota cities, about 45 percent of the state's population, take part in this voluntary challenge and assistance program to achieve sustainability goals.

32

**Diverse organizations recruited to create and advocate for a broad clean fuels policy to decarbonize transportation.**

5

**Industry Leading Publications:**

- Road Map to Decarbonization in the Midcontinent
- Midwestern Clean Fuels Policy White Paper
- Federal Policy Blueprint (released by the GPI-convened Carbon Capture Coalition)
- Analytical White Paper: Overcoming Barriers to Expanding Fast Charging Infrastructure in the Mid-continent Region



# Together we change climate change.

With support from partners, donors, and funders like you, we are making incredible strides toward the transformation of our energy system to benefit the economy and environment.

In 2019, Great Plains Institute (GPI) increased our impact at the local, regional, and national levels. Momentum is building.

We released the second in our series of road maps to a zero-carbon future for the vast center of the country. Created by consensus, this road map focuses on transportation – the largest emissions contributor in the US. Now, we are working on additional road maps focused on buildings and industry. All told, our road map series will encapsulate broad-reaching, scalable solutions for four of the five largest contributors to climate-warming greenhouse gases.

However, a road map by itself won't solve the challenge. So, last fall, GPI gathered leaders from a broad range of states to explore options for bold multi-state action. This gathering was the first step toward catalyzing the largest number of collaborators to take the boldest actions toward a carbon-free future.

We've proven it can be done. The national Carbon Capture Coalition group includes three of the nation's largest

environmental organizations as well as a broad cross-section of industries, energy companies, and organized labor. More than 70 participants strong, the coalition was instrumental in putting a national price on carbon through the reform of a key federal tax credit. This group includes two of the nation's largest environmental organizations as well as energy companies and organized labor. On the regional level, we see increasing momentum to create a policy landscape that ensures wide-scale deployment of this technology.

In his role as director of the Coalition, Vice President of Carbon Management Brad Crabtree testified before Congress about the need for economywide carbon capture to reduce industrial emissions. Those emissions account for one-third of global carbon emissions and are growing at twice the rate of total emissions. GPI led a US delegation to the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, and the Netherlands to demonstrate the success of the technology in the cement industry.

While electricity continues to be the second-largest contributor to US emissions, we are working with a growing number of states and utilities that realize the business case for clean energy. As more corporations and governments make commitments to a carbon-free future, we have the data-informed solutions and implementation know-how to make those declarations a reality.

There is incredible power when we come together. GPI manages the Sustainable States Network that connects sustainability, resilience, and climate mitigation across 12 US states. Minnesota's Green Step Cities, which GPI co-created with our partners

ten years ago, has grown to 135 cities strong in our home state — representing roughly 50 percent of the state’s population.

In short, your faith in us is well-placed. GPI has again earned the four-star rating from Charity Navigator and the Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar. These recognitions place GPI in the top tier of nonprofits nationally for transparency and fiscal accountability.

I hope you are heartened by our accomplishments, which wouldn’t be possible without our supporters. I look forward to working with even more of you to ensure our clean energy solutions will benefit the environment and economy for our children and generations to come.

With deep appreciation,



Rolf Nordstrom  
Chief Executive Officer

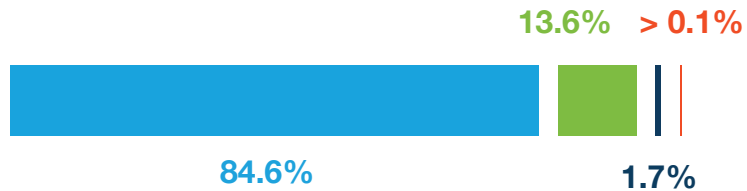




## Statement of Activities

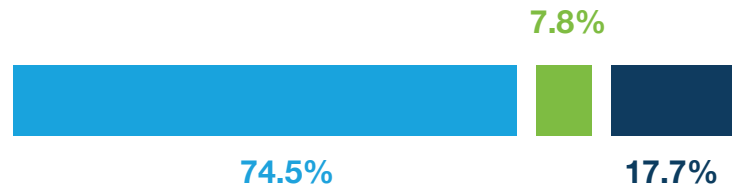
### Support & Revenue

Contributions	\$4,515,415	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Government Contracts	\$727,483	<span style="color: green;">■</span>
Other Contracts	\$92,255	<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span>
Other Income	\$3,815	<span style="color: red;">■</span>
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$5,338,978</b>	



### Expenses

Program Services	\$3,946,433	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Fundraising	\$413,695	<span style="color: green;">■</span>
Management & General	\$940,375	<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,300,503</b>	
<b>Changes in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$38,475</b>	



Unaudited financial statements

# Our Donors & Members

## Annual Giving Contributors

### GAME CHANGERS

#### \$5,000 and more

R. Michael & Sharon Conley

### INNOVATORS

#### \$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous

Kate Coward

Will & Claudia Kaul

Priti Patel & James Hilbert

Tom Rock & Melissa Raphan

Winthrop Rockwell & Barbara Wood Rockwell

Bob & Elinor Williams

### CONVENERS

#### \$1,000 - \$2,499

John & Catherine Baumgartner

Amy & Paul Biewen

Keith Brown

Larry & Carol Goode

Jessica Hellmann & Larry E Latarte

Frederick Haas & Sarah Nordstrom

Doug & Laura Jaeger

Alexandra Klass

Rolf & Kathy Nordstrom

Dan O'Neill & Nancy Etwiler

Derek & Diane Rucker

Jonathan & Sarah Wilmshurst

#### \$500 - \$999

Sara Bergan

Bradley & Julie Blue

Kathleen Bryant & Jonathan K. Lindfors

Doug Cameron

Michael Cummings

Andrew Doroschak & Ginge Anderson

Margaret Ehrhardt in honor of George Ehrhardt

Betsy Engelking

Ronald E. Erickson & Phyllis A. Reha

Wendell & Sue Fletcher

Pam Jewson & Pete Swenson

Pete Johnson

Gregory Libson

Dana Lonn

John Pendray

Doug & Tammy Scott

Hendrik & Gretchen Vroege

#### \$100 - \$499

Philip & Kathleen Adam

Mark Ahlstrom & Debra Debruin

Iver & Nancy Anderson Charitable Gift Fund

Ken Bearman & Karla Larsen

Amanda Bilek & Michael Sheedy

Candace Campbell

Page & Jay Cowles

Anne Deardorff & Robert P. Anderson

James Dorsey & Dee Gaeddert

Sharon Murphy Garber

Megan & Dan Goodrich

Philip Goodrich

Todd & Jennifer Graham

Joe & Marlys Harbinson

Barry & Anne Hofer

Carolyn Jackson

John & Thelma James

Jim Jones

Virginia & D. Charles Jordan

Kurt Kelsey & Mary Lynch

Patrice Lahlum

Jim & Susan Lenfestey

Luke Moore

Laura & Philipp Muessig

Brent Nelson

Harry Nordstrom

Sarah Johnson Phillips

Andy & Cheryl Polzin

Sandry Wersan Family Fund

Daniel Segal

Lola Schoenrich & Peter Oppenheim

Craig & Mo Shaver

Doug Shoemaker & Pat Schoenecker

Laurie & Mark Sigel

Brendon & Carissa Slotterback

Joe Strommen

Mary T'Kach

Peggy Trezona & Charles Peek

Connie & Michael Volcke

William Weber

Jason Willett

#### \$1-\$99

Anonymous

Kathryn Barber & John Schleicher

John & Robin Bellamy

Susan Blom

Jennifer & Jason Christensen

Jean & John Dahlke

Klara Droessler

Chris Duffrin & Jennifer Love  
Austin Findley  
Lewis Gilbert  
Steven Huso  
Jukka & Susanne Kukkonen  
June Mathiowetz  
Alan Mitchell  
Teresa Morrow  
Gail Nosek  
Phil Platt  
Lance Reschke  
Eric Schroeder & Kim Harbinson  
Kari Tyson  
Milkeessaa Waltajjii & Galaanee  
Saaqqataa  
Kerry Wang  
Susan Winsor & David Zanussi  
Tingting Zhu in honor of Michael Luo

## Corporate, Foundation & Public Support

### \$500,000 AND ABOVE

Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust  
McKnight Foundation  
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

### \$100,000 - \$499,999

Combined Jewish Philanthropies  
Energy Foundation  
Heising-Simons Foundation  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur  
Foundation  
Joyce Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$99,999

Archer Daniels Midland Company  
Glenrock Energy  
Great River Energy  
Linden Trust for Conservation  
Madison Gas and Electric Company  
Occidental Petroleum  
The Cummins Foundation  
The Cynthia & George Mitchell Foundation

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

BP  
Brightmark Energy  
ClearPath  
Jupiter Oxygen  
Linde  
Minnesota Power / ALLETE  
Mitsubishi Heavy Industry America  
OGCI Climate Investments  
Otter Tail Power Company

Peabody Energy  
Prairie State Generating Company  
White Energy

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

ChargePoint, Inc.  
City of Benson  
Connexus Energy  
Fagen, Inc.  
Greenlots  
Mortenson  
Rucker Family Charitable Trust  
Siemens  
Sourcewell  
Stoel Rives LLP

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Christianson, PLLP  
Dan O'Neill and Nancy Etwiler Family  
Foundation  
Elk River Municipal Utilities  
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.  
Kline Nissan  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
National Audobon Society  
Nissan North America  
RE-AMP

The Nature Conservancy  
Utility Works Union of America, AFL-CIO

### \$100 - \$999

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute  
American Lung Association  
Austin Utilities  
Cargill  
Center for Energy and Environment  
Dairyland Power Cooperative  
Dovetail Partners, Inc  
Fresh Energy  
Myslajek Kemp & Spencer  
Par Energy Solutions  
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power  
Agency  
Tesla, Inc.  
Xcel Energy



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# Transforming the energy system to benefit the **economy and environment**

