



**GREAT PLAINS  
INSTITUTE**

Better Energy.  
Better World.

# ***Influence: Driving America's Energy Transformation***

2020 Annual Report

**GREAT PLAINS INSTITUTE**



# Message from the President and CEO

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your ardent support of the Great Plains Institute (GPI). I want to personally thank each of you for making it possible for us to make progress on the climate challenge every day. As the evidence around us mounts, the urgent need to transform our energy system to benefit the economy and environment resonates more than ever before.

**We have the solutions; we just need faster, broader adoption.**

While the work is daunting and complex, GPI equips leaders to tackle the most pressing issues by helping them turn reliable data and analysis into broadly-supported, politically durable solutions. Our staff are increasingly called on by influencers across the country to ensure we reach a net zero-carbon economy on the timeline needed. Reaching key audiences through the power of the media is just one way we deliver on our mission. Seeing a small sample of our key performance indicators and earned media coverage on the following pages, I hope you will be impressed and encouraged by GPI's thought leadership in diverse and influential publications.

By supporting GPI at this critical time, you can be sure more people hear the message that meeting our climate obligations and restoring our economy in equitable ways are both achievable and urgent. Together we can accelerate meaningful action, from communities to Congress. We need your support more than ever before.

Thank you for the important role you play in creating better energy for a better world.

With deep appreciation,

Rolf

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rolf', written in a cursive style.

*“First things first, let’s help one another through this current crisis. Wouldn’t it be great if we can repurpose this global resolve to become better stewards of the one home we all share?”*

- ROLF NORDSTROM , PRESIDENT AND CEO

Advocates Hope Global Resolve Over Pandemic is Model for Climate Action, *Minneapolis StarTribune*

GPI works on solutions for the largest contributors to climate warming emissions. Here is a small sampling of achievements through our key performance indicators and earned media coverage.

5,372

**Public Charging Stations** in US central region states

*“It’s a critical enabler for enhanced electric vehicle (EV) adoption because a lot of people will be reluctant to buy an EV if they can’t take it on a road trip or longer distances.”*

BRENDAN JORDAN, VICE PRESIDENT, TRANSPORTATION AND FUELS PROGRAM

*Midwest Energy News*

9

**Utility and Regulatory Reform Projects** across three states

*“The grid is becoming more complex as the system is shifting from delivering electricity from power plants to including distributed energy resources like solar, wind and battery storage.”*

TREVOR DRAKE, SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER, ELECTRICITY & EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

*Wisconsin Public Radio*

8

**Bipartisan Bills** introduced and/or passed to implement recommendations in Federal Policy Blueprint for Carbon Capture

*“In energy and climate policy, it is fair to say there is too much emphasis on differences. We have been careful to focus on areas of common ground and build out from there.”*

BRAD CRABTREE, VICE PRESIDENT, CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

*Energy and Environment News*

1,185

**Climate And Clean Energy-Related Best Practice Actions** adopted in Minnesota

*“They (youth) spoke at the city council and to their elected officials and just kept drilling home this message of, ‘This is our home, too.’”*

JESSI WYATT, ENERGY PLANNER & ANALYST, COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

*Yale Climate Connections Podcast*

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large, multi-level steel truss bridge, likely a railroad bridge, spanning a river. The sky is a mix of purple, pink, and blue, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The bridge's intricate steel structure is silhouetted against the colorful sky. In the foreground, the bridge's lower levels and some lights are visible. A large white rectangular box is centered on the page, containing the text for the GPI Board Members.

# **GPI Board Members**

**Will Kaul, Chair**

Utility executive, retired

**Amy Skoczlas Cole, Vice Chair**

Trust In Food

**Priti Patel, Secretary**

Great River Energy

**Douglas Jaeger, Treasurer**

Ulteig Engineers

**Jessica Hellmann**

University of Minnesota

**Satish Jayaram**

Cummins

**Dan O'Neill**

Investment banker, retired

**Winthrop Rockwell**

Attorney, retired

**Deidre Sanders, PhD**

Deidre Sanders Inc.

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Philipp & Laura Muessig  
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Whitney Purdum  
Lance Reschke  
Nikita Schanzenbach  
Sheila Terryll  
Alexis Troschinetz  
Milkeessaa Waltajjii & Galaanee  
Saaqqataa  
Morgan Zehner  
Tingting Zhu in honor of Michael Luo

## Corporate, Foundation, and Public Support

### \$1,000,000 and above

Heising-Simons Foundation  
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

### \$500,000-\$999,999

Energy Foundation  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
McKnight Foundation

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

ClimateWorks Foundation  
Joyce Foundation  
New York Community Trust

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

Blandin Foundation  
Carolyn Foundation  
Great River Energy  
Linden Trust for Conservation  
Madison Gas and Electric  
Minneapolis Foundation  
Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI)  
Emily Hall Tremain Foundation

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

Anonymous  
Rucker Family Charitable Trust  
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency

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

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City of Benson  
Connexus Energy  
Dakota Electric Association  
Greenlots  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Minnesota Power/ ALLETE  
Otter Tail Power Company  
Poet LLC  
Ramsey Washington Recycling and Energy  
Stoel Rives LLP

### \$1,000-\$2499

Kline Nissan  
Nissan North America

### \$100-\$999

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute  
BTS Bioenergy  
Dairyland Power Cooperative  
Elk River Municipal Utilities  
Fresh Energy  
Myslajek, Kemp & Spencer  
Tesla Motors

*We try to be as accurate as possible and apologize for any mistakes. Please contact Development Director Morgan Zehner at mzehner@gpisd.net with any concerns.*

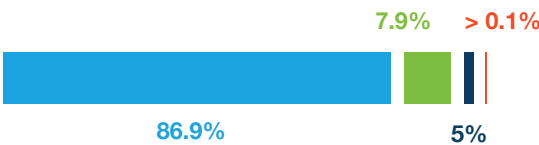


# FY2020

## Statement of Activities

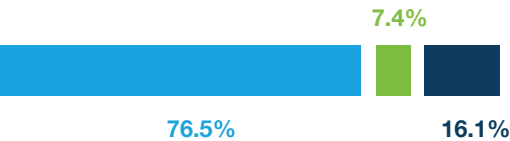
### Support & Revenue

Contributions	\$6,868,486	<div></div>
Government Contracts	\$624,747	<div></div>
Other Contracts	\$399,799	<div></div>
Other Income	\$7,622	<div></div>
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$7,900,654</b>	



### Expenses

Program Services	\$4,911,911	<div></div>
Fundraising	\$473,243	<div></div>
Management & General	\$1,031,401	<div></div>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,416,555</b>	
<b>Changes in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,484,099</b>	



*\*Unaudited financial statements*