

## Dear Allies in Climate Justice:

Wei Ji 危机 – the Chinese conjoining of crisis and opportunity – has profound meaning today. As we mourn horrendous global conflict and devastating climate disasters - spurred largely by struggles over natural resources, policing of fossil fuels, and extractive natural resource management – we also herald the growing popular consciousness towards protection of “Pacha Mama” and the support of frontline communities building a Just Transition with a visionary and oppositional economic framing that centers sustainability, resilience, decentralization, improved health, and economic well-being.

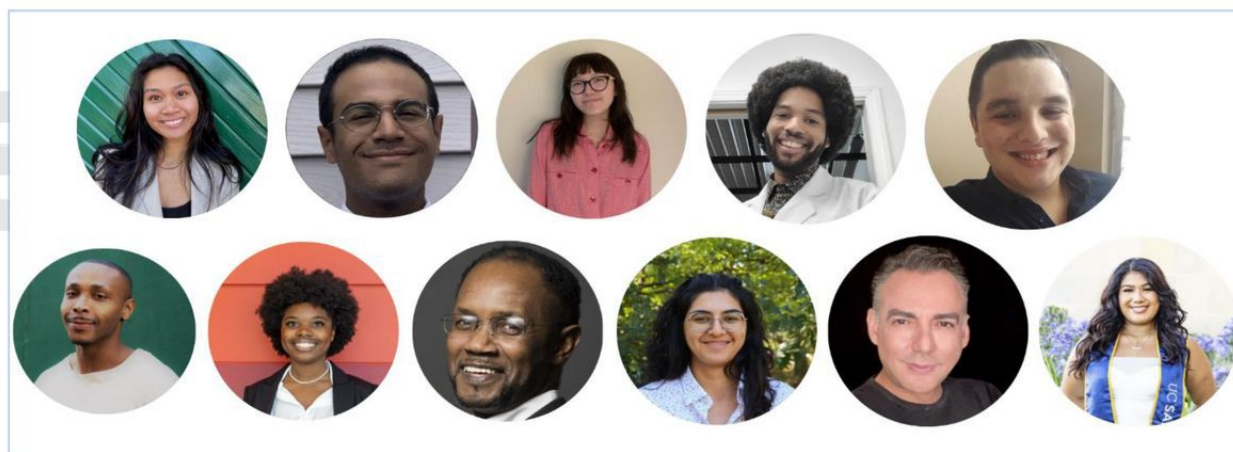
This is the new “another world is possible” game plan being supported by the [People's Solar Energy Fund](#), and we are proud that PSEF is entering 2024 in an incredibly strong position –

- having built *three* BIPOC-centered capacity-building programs that are thriving (see photos);
- having painstakingly crafted two vital member services (an affordable solar insurance program and a credit guarantee cost savings vehicle);
- being close to sealing the deal on a new and significant capital investment from a major foundation;
- having secured substantial operating dollars to enable a bold, great leap forward in our network’s unique niche of community-owned solar;
- having submitted two applications - in coalition with allied sister organizations - for accessing some of the substantial federal climate remediation dollars that should begin flowing by next summer;
- and being ready for a major revamp of our website and communications infrastructure.



In early November, both PSEF Co-Directors joined in-person with climate justice leaders from around the country for the national strategic convening of the *Energy Democracy Project*. It was a powerful affirmation of values and principles rooted in community and commitments to not only “renewables” but the decentralization of our energy system and pathways forward that do not cause further harm to the earth and frontline communities.

It was deeply inspiring, and also humbling, as many of those present – who are crafting local energy alternatives, waging state legislative fights, organizing against large utilities, and more – looked to PSEF for guidance on concrete strategies for the growing interest in undertaking community-driven development: the real “how-to” information, the financing and technical assistance.



*Our team of Solar Leaders in Capacity (SLIC) interns - one of our three capacity-building programs.*



From the **Movement for Solar Capacity and Leadership** retreat in Minneapolis — where we learned together, visited George Floyd Square, and honored the Purple Legend!

**We're excited to accept this challenge** – stepping into the new year with additional hiring and contractual services to meet the varied needs of our growing membership, and ready to provide broader, open-source sharing of critically needed field knowledge. Of particular concern is ensuring the field's readiness for accessing those billions of dollars pending from the Biden Administration - either directly or via the many state and local intermediaries through which the funds will flow.



A number of PSEF's community partners in Communities of Color Building Solar Capacity (CBCS).

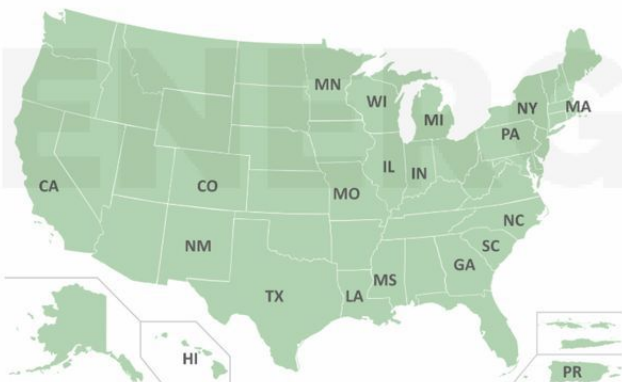
In sum – our message to you is primarily a big THANK YOU and a report-out on the great work that your support has enabled this past year. If you are able to continue your support, know that it will be well-used in 2024 for substantial growth in the cutting-edge field of community-owned solar – a transformation that you can feel proud of having helped to create.

*M Owens*

Mitty Owens, Co-Director

*M. Mafojane*

Mmakgantsi Mafojane, Co-Director



Today, PSEF members and program participants span 19 US States and Puerto Rico.