



Union of
Concerned Scientists

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

IN THE FIGHT



**WE USE
SCIENCE
TO DRIVE
CHANGE**

UCS works to put science into action to build a healthier planet, a safer world, and a more equitable society. We are scientists, engineers, economists, activists, and everyday people working together to make change happen.

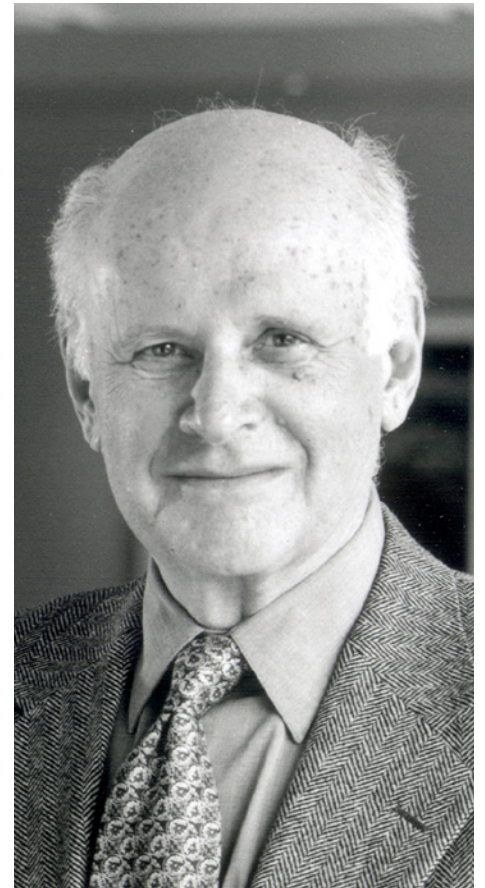
REMEMBERING UCS FOUNDER KURT GOTTFRIED

Everyone at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Kurt Gottfried, one of the organization's founders, who passed away in August at the age of 93.

Having survived the Nazis' Kristallnacht in 1938, Kurt's family emigrated from Austria to Canada, and he went on to earn a PhD in theoretical physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he met future Nobel laureate Henry Kendall. These two physicists, alarmed by the exploitation of university research for military purposes, were the driving force in establishing UCS in 1969. Dr. Kendall died in 1999.

Kurt served on the UCS board of directors since its inception and was a professor at Cornell University, where he authored a classic text on quantum mechanics. In his role with UCS he co-authored three books about the flaws in President Reagan's "Star Wars" missile defense scheme, and in 2004 he organized leading scientists to speak out against the George W. Bush administration's "manipulation of the process through which science enters into its decisions." Kurt was also deeply engaged in supporting scientists in the former Soviet Union and South America who were imprisoned for expressing views that conflicted with the dogmas of authoritarian rulers. In 2016, the American Association for the Advancement of Science awarded him its Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award.

As UCS Board Chair Anne R. Kapuscinski recalls, "Kurt was the epitome of a concerned scientist and an inspiration to all of us. We will miss his passion, kindness, dedication, and integrity, and we will strive to honor his lifelong dedication to building a safer world."





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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIR

Even when things looked particularly grim this past year, UCS stayed in the fight.

At the end of June, the Supreme Court restricted the government’s authority to regulate carbon emissions from the power sector. This ruling, which arrived during what UCS has designated Danger Season—the summer months when the deadliest impacts of climate change collide—dealt us and our allies a damaging (but not unexpected) blow. We spoke out through the media about it. We analyzed the impact. We took a moment to vent with each other.

And then we went back to work in the channels where we knew we *could* make progress: in coalition with our partner organizations, advocating for science-based policies with city and state legislatures, pressuring Big Oil and Big Agriculture to stop blocking urgently needed changes, and engaging with policymakers and regulators in Washington, DC.

We keep fighting because a livable planet is worth fighting for. And we keep fighting because *we can win*. Regardless of favorable or unfavorable political winds, who’s in or out of office, and what decisions are being handed down, we will find ways to make meaningful progress on the issues we care deeply about. We are unwavering in our commitment to use science that informs the best solutions for today’s problems, and to make sure those solutions work for everyone.

Just over a month after that Supreme Court ruling, Congress approved the largest-ever US investments in addressing climate change—mere days after the measure appeared doomed to defeat. UCS contributed the science that shaped these investments, so this big win restored our hope. And once again, after we spoke out through the media, analyzed the benefits, and took a moment to celebrate, we went right back to work.

Working with regional utilities to add more renewable energy to the power grid. Working with environmental justice organizations to make sure policies intended to reduce emissions don’t place additional burdens on communities of color and low-income communities.

In these pages is a record of success that you made possible, with your own unwavering commitment to UCS and our proven formula of science and advocacy in service of a healthier, safer, and more just world. Thank you for staying in the fight with us and trusting us to find ways to make science-informed progress in any situation.


JOHANNA CHAO KREILICK
PRESIDENT


ANNE R. KAPUSCINSKI
CHAIR



FINDING A PATH FORWARD ON CLIMATE CHANGE

This summer, President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act—the most significant climate legislation in US history. UCS had been working with a broad coalition of partners to demand action to cut carbon emissions, invest in climate resilience, and ensure the United States would live up to its global commitments, and we provided the scientific foundation on which this landmark bill will reduce global warming pollution and shift the country toward renewable energy.

We celebrate this long-awaited and hard-fought win while recognizing that more needs to be done to reduce climate change threats, address environmental injustices, and create

a clean, equitable economy for all—beginning with effective implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act.

Its passage comes not a moment too soon. The United Nations’ most recent report on mitigating climate change had painted a damning picture: because of policymakers’ failure to cut heat-trapping emissions, atmospheric levels are now more than 50 percent higher than when the UN released its first report 32 years ago. UCS emphasized the threat by branding the summer months “Danger Season” for their increasingly deadly combination of floods, wildfires, severe storms, drought, and extreme heat, and a number of media outlets repeated the term.

Seeking progress at the state level, UCS published a new report with environmental justice groups in Massachusetts, Michigan, and Minnesota that demonstrates it is

possible for states to address climate change and meet 100 percent of their electricity needs with renewable energy by 2035. The data show a transition to renewables would also yield strong health and economic benefits.

The perseverance of our experts and staff over the past few years also proved critical to several state and regional victories. In the Midwest, the region’s power grid operator approved funding that will enable more than 53 gigawatts of new renewable energy to come online over time—enough to power 12 million homes each year. Oregon committed to achieve 100 percent clean energy by 2040 and then adopted strict heat protections for workers. And in Massachusetts, new 100 percent clean energy legislation will not only reduce emissions from power plants and vehicles but also incentivize cleaner ways to heat and cool homes.

KEEPING OUR DEMOCRACY STRONG

There is no escaping the fact that US democracy is under attack. During the past year, 19 states passed laws that will suppress voting, and several states including Arizona and Georgia made it easier to override the will of the people in fair and transparent democratic elections. The Center for Science and Democracy at UCS is using technical analysis and our powerful networks to fight back against these developments.

In 2022, the Center convened a task force of leading organizers, scholars, and activists to develop evidence-based methods for strengthening our democracy and, in July, UCS published *Achieving Multiracial, Multiparty Democracy*, the group's report and recommendations. Chief among them: the vital need to partner with community-based organizations to engage the many

chronic nonvoters who are mostly invisible to today's modern, data-centric political campaigns and who often fail to participate because they don't believe their vote counts.

In this election year, UCS is actively partnering with groups around the country to get these people to the polls. And, to bolster those efforts, we have been training scientists to understand the looming threats to our democracy so they can provide data analysis that supports both grassroots voting rights campaigns and litigation challenging unfair voting and redistricting plans.

The Center also continued its work as a leading voice on the need for scientific integrity in the federal government. Our recommendations were visible and prevalent throughout the Biden administration's January Scientific Integrity Task Force report, which called on agencies to bolster scientific integrity training for staff, allow dissenting scientific opinions, and build a more just and inclusive workplace for federal scientists.

HELPING COMMUNITIES FIGHT INJUSTICE

Many of the issues we work on at UCS deeply affect people of color, so we are increasingly placing these communities at the center of our campaign work. During the past year we contributed our scientific expertise to a number of local efforts seeking more just and equitable policies.

In the Kansas City, Kansas, neighborhood of Armourdale, for example, we determined that pollution shortens the life expectancy of residents by 22 years. That's because generations of discrimination have forced people of color and low-income people to live next to multiple pollution sources. Similarly, the Indigenous and low-income communities close to where nuclear weapons have been produced and tested, and where uranium is mined, were almost never notified about radiation exposure—a textbook example of environmental racism. People suffering from related illnesses were eligible to receive money through the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), but that was set to expire in 2022. UCS, with community members and

coalition partners, held dozens of meetings with Congress that helped secure a two-year extension of RECA, buying time to pursue a longer-term extension and expansion.

In Highland Park, Michigan, UCS partnered with a local group to analyze and recommend changes that would make renewable energy more accessible to residents, and we followed up that analysis with a case study analyzing how a potential solar-plus-storage microgrid could give the city's Parker Village neighborhood—and other “smart” neighborhoods like it—greater control over its electricity supply and reliability.

On the West Coast, UCS climate scientist Pablo Ortiz Partida has been urging California to help communities in under-resourced parts of the state prepare for climate change. And he has personally stepped in to help: for instance, when the San Joaquin Valley had fallen three to four years behind in its assessment of local climate impacts, Ortiz Partida worked with the region's research team to complete it. In addition, he helped a team of experts review more than 60 groundwater sustainability plans—totaling 130,000 pages—and

make recommendations for how the state can continue to provide clean water to all Californians.

Working with communities such as Highland Park and the San Joaquin Valley, UCS experts gain valuable understanding about how to design solutions in a way that not only gives the affected communities a say in decisions that affect their lives, but can also be replicated in other areas.



D

Disinformation, or false information shared with the deliberate intent to mislead, has become endemic in our lives—and this is by design. Political interest groups, corporations, and their lobbyists seek to confuse and manipulate the public, to distract, divide, and demoralize communities, so they can control the narrative for their financial, political, or ideological gain. UCS has a multipronged approach to counter these efforts.

First, we call it out when we see it, making it visible to the public so people can think critically about what they're reading or hearing. For example, when ExxonMobil attempted to appear climate-friendly by pledging to cut its operational carbon emissions—but made no mention of how it would reduce emissions from the burning of its products—UCS spotlighted the deception in a statement that was picked up by ABC News and Reuters. We also collaborated with allies in Colorado to brief state legislators and the public on the findings of our report *Colorado Targeted by Fossil Fuel Industry's Disinformation Playbook*, and a UCS exposé on anti-climate legislation peddled by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) ran in multiple outlets.

Second, we pressure companies to change their policies. After months of negotiation with the Climate Disinformation Coalition, of which UCS is a steering member, both Pinterest and Twitter announced improvements in how they address disinformation on their platforms. Pinterest vowed to “keep false and misleading claims around climate change off the platform” entirely, while Twitter banned “misleading” climate-related advertising.

Finally, we train scientists and pro-science activists to spot disinformation and shut it down. We published a toolkit on our website that educates the public about how to do this (tip #1: never share false or misleading information online, even if you're trying to debunk it). UCS staff presented this advice and much more to nearly 300 supporters during an eight-hour webinar in April, and we followed this up by training a group of scientists to track and counter disinformation in partnership with community organizers. We also distilled the key lessons from these trainings into videos that have been shared more than 13,000 times to date, calling on supporters to hold social media companies accountable for the disinformation appearing on their platforms.



**PUSHING
BACK
AGAINST**

DISINFORMATION



MAKING CARS AND TRUCKS CLEANER

Cleaning up our nation's transportation sector—the largest source of US global warming emissions—is one of the most effective ways we can mitigate the effects of climate change. And we're proud of the substantial progress made in the past year.

Nationally, UCS harnessed the power of our members to submit more than 17,500 comments on the federal government's proposed carbon emissions standards for passenger cars and trucks, resulting in a stronger final rule. And our analysis and advocacy contributed to the Biden administration's actions to boost the electric car market by providing tax credits for vehicle purchases and funding charging stations nationwide.

At the state level, UCS helped persuade the California Air Resources Board to adopt standards requiring automakers to sell an increasing number of zero-emissions vehicles. We also co-facilitated a group working to ensure that California's investments in charging infrastructure directly benefit lower-income communities and

communities of color, and supported calls to increase the number of charging-capable parking spaces at multi-family housing developments.

In Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington, UCS helped build momentum for cleaner trucks. We conducted various analyses in close collaboration with partners that shined a spotlight on the problem of truck pollution and documented the climate, health, and economic benefits these states would see if they adopted California's Advanced Clean Truck rule, which requires increasing sales of zero-emissions trucks. All five adopted the rule, and for the communities of color and low-income communities crisscrossed by major trucking routes in these states, this represents an important step toward cleaner air.

Lastly, a new UCS analysis of the life-cycle emissions (including manufacturing and disposal/recycling) of electric and gasoline vehicles showed that, on average, electric vehicles produce roughly half the global warming emissions of a similar gasoline vehicle—an advantage that has grown as the electricity grid has gotten cleaner and vehicle technology has improved.

AVOIDING NUCLEAR WAR

When Vladimir Putin issued a veiled threat that he might use nuclear weapons if anyone tried to intervene in his war of aggression against Ukraine, the world was reminded that this existential danger is every bit as real as it was at the height of the Cold War.

UCS has been working since our founding in 1969 to reduce the risk that nuclear weapons might be used, and during the past year we addressed the problem through multiple channels of influence.

We pressured the Biden administration directly with a letter signed by 700 scientists (including 21 Nobel laureates) calling on the president to take four specific actions that would immediately make the world safer, and we then emphasized these actions in a subsequent meeting with the deputy national security advisor and National Security Council staff. We also helped draft a letter from 74 US and Japanese legislators urging President Biden, with Japanese

Prime Minister Kishida's support, to declare that the United States will not use nuclear weapons first under any circumstance—a campaign pledge that Biden has yet to fulfill.

Through the Back from the Brink coalition, which UCS helped to launch, we continued to build support at the community level. Boston, Chicago, and Minneapolis joined hundreds of other cities, towns, and organizations in adopting a resolution demanding action by the president and Congress. And we began making the case to our supporters that changing US policies on nuclear weapons is also a matter of racial equity, since the development and testing of nuclear weapons has harmed already vulnerable communities.

UCS also played a key role in preventing the United States from increasing tensions with China and potentially putting Asian Americans in harm's way: when the Senate passed a disastrous bill that would have made negotiation with China on security matters impossible and encouraged a witch hunt to root out Chinese "influence" in the United States, we worked with members of the House to reject it. We then helped craft a House version that replaced those dangerous provisions with provisions that encourage working with China on arms control and climate change. President Biden signed the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 into law without any of the harmful language.

DEMANDING A FAIR FOOD SYSTEM

After decades of deregulation, some of the United States' largest food companies have unfairly consolidated their power over farmers, workers, and consumers. For example, just four companies—Cargill, JBS, National Beef, and Tyson Foods—control 85 percent of the beef market. As the power of Big Ag has increased, farms have grown in size but dwindled in number, locking out young farmers, beginning farmers, and Black farmers. UCS is using science to illustrate injustices and improve opportunities in our food system.

We are focusing on Tyson Foods as emblematic of all that has gone wrong in US agriculture. Two years ago, we demonstrated the degree to which Tyson wields near-monopoly control over chicken in its home state of Arkansas, giving it license to fix prices, abuse workers, and pollute communities. This past year, a new analysis estimated the extent of Tyson's influence over US farmland: nearly 10 million acres—an area almost twice the size of New Jersey—are used to grow the crops that feed the animals in its supply chain. This matters because these crops

(corn and soybeans) are currently grown in ways that contribute to erosion, water pollution, and climate change. Tyson could lead US agriculture in a better direction, but it has only pledged to shift 20 percent of the cropland under its sway to more sustainable practices—and has taken concrete steps on a mere 5 percent.

In a major turnabout after rejecting our ads criticizing Tyson, the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* published a column by a UCS economist on the need for more competition in the meat industry (which the Biden administration is pursuing). Shortly thereafter, in recognition of our prominence on this issue, the *CBS Evening News* worked with UCS and interviewed Food and Environment Program Director and Senior Scientist Ricardo Salvador for a segment linking skyrocketing food prices to Tyson's swelling profits.

Also, to help ensure that policymakers pay attention to the perspectives of people threatened by injustices in our food system, UCS and our allies nominated candidates for the US Department of Agriculture's new Equity Commission and its Subcommittee on Agriculture, which will recommend ways to remedy discrimination and disparities within the agency and its programs. Four of our nominees made the cut.



After more than a decade of foundational work by UCS to hold the major fossil fuel companies accountable for their role in climate change, the companies are feeling the heat. In Congress, the House Oversight Committee held a series of hearings titled “Fueling the Climate Crisis: Big Oil’s Disinformation Campaign.”

With a letter citing UCS research, the committee summoned the CEOs of BP America, Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Shell (among others) to testify, then subpoenaed internal documents that promise to shed further light on these companies’ campaigns to spread disinformation about how their products contribute to global warming.

In the courts, two landmark cases—one in Hawai’i and one in Massachusetts—took major steps forward into the

legal discovery phase that allows the plaintiffs to obtain the release of internal company documents and correspondence. UCS is tracking 29 major lawsuits that have been filed against fossil fuel companies, 21 of which cite our research. And in the event that expert witnesses are needed as these cases move ahead, the UCS Science Hub for Climate Litigation co-authored a guide to help climate scientists and others prepare.

Finally, two documentary series—one aired by the PBS series *Frontline* and another streaming on Paramount+—drew upon UCS research to further public understanding about the extent of Big Oil’s deceptions. In the latter, *Black Gold*, which looks specifically at the devastating scope and impact of ExxonMobil’s climate disinformation campaign, UCS Editorial Director Seth Shulman discusses the 2007 UCS report he co-authored, *Smoke, Mirrors & Hot Air*, which was among the first to expose ExxonMobil’s efforts to undermine climate science.

BUILDING THE CASE AGAINST BIG OIL



FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal year ending September 30, 2022

REVENUE



The Union of Concerned Scientists continues to benefit from the generosity of our more than 109,000 members and foundations, who work in partnership with us to build a healthy planet and safer world. The majority of our support—90 percent—came from generous individual donors through outright and planned gifts, while support from foundations represented 9 percent of our revenue.

EXPENSES



Eighty-eight percent of every dollar donated to UCS in fiscal year 2022 directly funded our program work, with the remaining 12 percent spent on the critical administrative infrastructure and fundraising that support our programs. With an annual budget of more than \$50 million, UCS continues to strengthen our unique ability to help solve our planet's most pressing problems with the power of independent science.

Note: These results had not been audited at press time; for our audited results, visit the UCS website at www.ucsusa.org/about/funding-financials.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal year ending September 30, 2022

OPERATING REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	UNRESTRICTED (WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS)			RESTRICTED (WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS)	TOTAL
	GENERAL	BOARD DESIGNATED	TOTAL		
Membership and contributions	\$23,928,166		\$23,928,166	\$6,571,654	\$30,499,820
Foundation and other institutional grants	5,000		5,000	4,207,505	4,212,505
Net investment income (loss)		(8,023,211)	(8,023,211)	(979,500)	(9,002,711)
Realized planned gifts	6,368,191	6,368,191	12,736,382		12,736,382
In-kind contributions	136,000		136,000		136,000
Other revenue	113,590		113,590		113,590
Net assets released from restriction	27,455,454		27,455,454	(27,455,454)	
Total operating revenue and other support	58,006,401	(1,655,020)	56,351,381	(17,655,795)	38,695,586
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Programs:					
Center for Science and Democracy	12,685,426		12,685,426		12,685,426
Clean Transportation	7,817,849		7,817,849		7,817,849
Climate and Energy	17,978,405		17,978,405		17,978,405
Federal Action Campaign Team	783,461		783,461		783,461
Food and Environment	4,213,625		4,213,625		4,213,625
Global Security	3,893,429		3,893,429		3,893,429
Legislative	238,205		238,205		238,205
Total program expenses	47,610,400		47,610,400		47,610,400
Supporting services:					
Fundraising	3,454,198		3,454,198		3,454,198
General and administrative	3,300,339		3,300,339		3,300,339
Total supporting services expenses	6,754,537		6,754,537		6,754,537
Total operating expenses	54,364,937		54,364,937		54,364,937
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	3,641,464	(1,655,020)	1,986,444	(17,655,795)	(15,669,351)
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	8,060,164	50,494,451	58,554,615	21,856,436	80,411,051
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$11,701,628	\$48,839,431	\$60,541,059	\$4,200,641	\$64,741,700

Note: These results had not been audited at press time; for our audited results, visit the UCS website at www.ucsus.org/about/funding-financials. Shaded area indicates operating budget.

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The National Advisory Board of the Union of Concerned Scientists builds philanthropic, scientific, and political impact by bringing together diverse partners to provide financial support, advice, and counsel to UCS leadership that shapes and informs our strategies.

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