2019 was an extremely busy and successful year for the Montana Renewable Energy Association. In a multitude of ways, the MREA was able to protect and encourage the implementation of renewable energy in Montana throughout the year.

We held our annual Montana Clean Energy Fair in Bozeman for the second year with a huge turnout of supporters and renewable energy enthusiasts. Our fair offers a myriad of activities and presentations all focused on providing information and guidance to advance the presence of renewable energy in MT. The MREA partnered with other local organizations to offer widely attended expos this year. The Missoula Clean Energy Expo with Climate Smart Missoula and the Helena Sun Run and Expo with the Helena Vigilante Runners and Sleeping Giant Citizen Council were both great successes.

As always, the MREA spent much of its time and resources on policy and advocacy issues. Some of the key issues we worked on were protecting tax credits for renewables, preserving contract lengths for Qualifying Facilities, increasing public engagement in utility supply planning, and advocating for privacy protections with the advance of Smart Meters. One of our biggest achievements in 2019 was the successful effort to protect net-metering rates in Montana. This is arguably one of MREA’s largest victories to date, and a huge win for renewable energy businesses and supporters across the state. More information on this is included in greater detail in this annual report.

The momentum of the MREA is growing faster and stronger thanks to your continued support. Your vision of a cleaner and greener energy base in Montana is driving the growth of this technology here and fuels the evermore successful efforts of the MREA. We still have much to do and accomplish and, now more than ever, we need your support. Please continue to be a part of our global solution. I thank you in advance for your generous support of our important and critical activities.

My Best to you,

Henry Dykema
President, Montana Renewable Energy Association
MREA is a leading voice for renewable energy advocacy in Montana. In the 2019 legislative session we fought an uphill battle while attempting to pass proactive renewable energy legislation, but were unable to overcome strong opposition. Meanwhile, we were successful in defending other key policies from repeal. A few of our priority bills included:

- **HB22**: Extend contract lengths for QF (e.g. large scale) renewable energy projects, providing economic certainty to developers. *Died in the Senate Energy Committee.*

- **HB78**: Require utilities to hold semi-annual public meetings on resource planning in order to increase transparency and allow greater public input. *Died in the Senate Energy Committee.*

- **HB144**: Repeal renewable energy tax credits used by thousands of Montanans. *Defeated in the Senate Tax Committee. Big win for renewable energy!*  

Thank you! MREA works hard during the legislative session to protect good policies, oppose bad ones, and - most importantly - to engage our members and the greater renewable energy community in citizen advocacy to achieve our goals. Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit comments, send emails, make phone calls, and especially to those who came up to Helena in person to testify. Your actions ensured our success this session!
The Montana Public Service Commission rules in favor of MREA and Vote Solar to preserve rooftop solar and reject the utility's proposal!

In September 2018, Northwestern Energy filed a general electric rate case with the Montana Public Service Commission asking them to significantly reduce the value of energy credits earned by net-metering customers across the state. More specifically, the utility's proposal would have ended retail-rate net-metering, implemented a new and completely separate rate class, and imposed a punitive demand charge on customers utilizing rooftop solar and small wind systems.

MREA partnered with national solar advocacy group Vote Solar and national environmental law firm EarthJustice to intervene in the case and protect net metering. We spent fourteen months working through thousands of pages of testimony and questions, including two full weeks in Helena for all-day hearings at the PSC. In a unanimous (5-0) decision, the Montana Public Service Commission adopted the recommendations of Vote Solar/MREA to maintain current net-metering rates and reject the utility's proposal. This is a huge win for MREA, for our renewable energy community, and for Montanans across the state!

We owe a huge thank you to our partners, Vote Solar and EarthJustice, and to the community of Montanans who supported our work and especially to those who made public comment on the case. This was a team victory, and we're thrilled to be part of that winning team!

On the ruling: “Montana joins other states in recognizing that customers have the right to produce and consume electricity they generate from the free sunlight that shines on their property every day – without discrimination from utilities.” David Bender, EarthJustice
2019 Clean Energy Expos

2nd Annual
Missoula Clean Energy Expo
MREA was thrilled to co-present the 2nd Annual Missoula Expo with our friends at Climate Smart Missoula. Stationed at Caras Park in the heart of downtown Missoula, hundreds of people spent a portion of their Saturday afternoon interacting with more than 20 businesses and organizations leading the way towards a clean energy future. Attendees learned how to go solar, heard from City and County elected leaders about local initiatives in the community, and learned from experts who busted common myths about renewable energy, transportation, and other important topics.

Helena Sun Run & Clean Energy Expo
New to 2019 was the first annual Helena Sun Run & Clean Energy Expo, presented by MREA in partnership with the Sleeping Giant Citizens Council and Helena Vigilante Runners. An impressive turnout of guests had Central Elementary School packed with eager renewable energy enthusiasts learning about clean energy technologies, policies, and the bright future ahead. We were especially thrilled and honored to be joined by Mayor Wilmot Collins, who made a special appearance to deliver a keynote address discussing the urgency and importance of supplying Montana and its people with clean energy solutions.

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

Mayor Wilmot Collins & MREA Exec. Director Andrew Valainis
Montana Clean Energy Fair

9th Annual - August 10th - Bozeman, MT

700+
Individual Attendees

25
Electric Vehicles on Display

20
Informational Booths

10
Educational Workshops

Clean & Green Sponsors
- Turner Foundation
- Clearwater Credit Union
- J.C. Kennedy Foundation

Gold Level Sponsors
- Montana Energy Office / DEQ
- Coffman Engineers
- Independent Power Systems
- Alternative Energy Resources Organization

Silver Level Sponsors
- Bozeman Green Build
- City of Bozeman
- Harvest Solar
- Liquid Solar
- Sundance Solar Systems LLC
Mission Statement

To expand the use of renewable energy in Montana, to affect public policy in favor of renewable energy, and to educate and inform the residents of Montana of the benefits and uses of renewable energy.

Industry Engagement

Education & Outreach

Policy & Advocacy

Revenues

- 40% Program Services Revenue
- 60% Contributions & Grants

Expenses

- 17% Program Services
- 83% Administrative Services

Thank you to all of our Members and Supporters!
Learn more at montanarenewables.org