



Presentation to CLEAN Network  
March 2016



# The RE-AMP Story

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**Strategic Value of the Midwest**

**A Network Approach**

**Systems Thinking**

**Strategic Alignment**

**Our Model and Structures**

**Impact**

**Evolution**



# Clean energy for a vibrant Midwest

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## Why the Midwest?

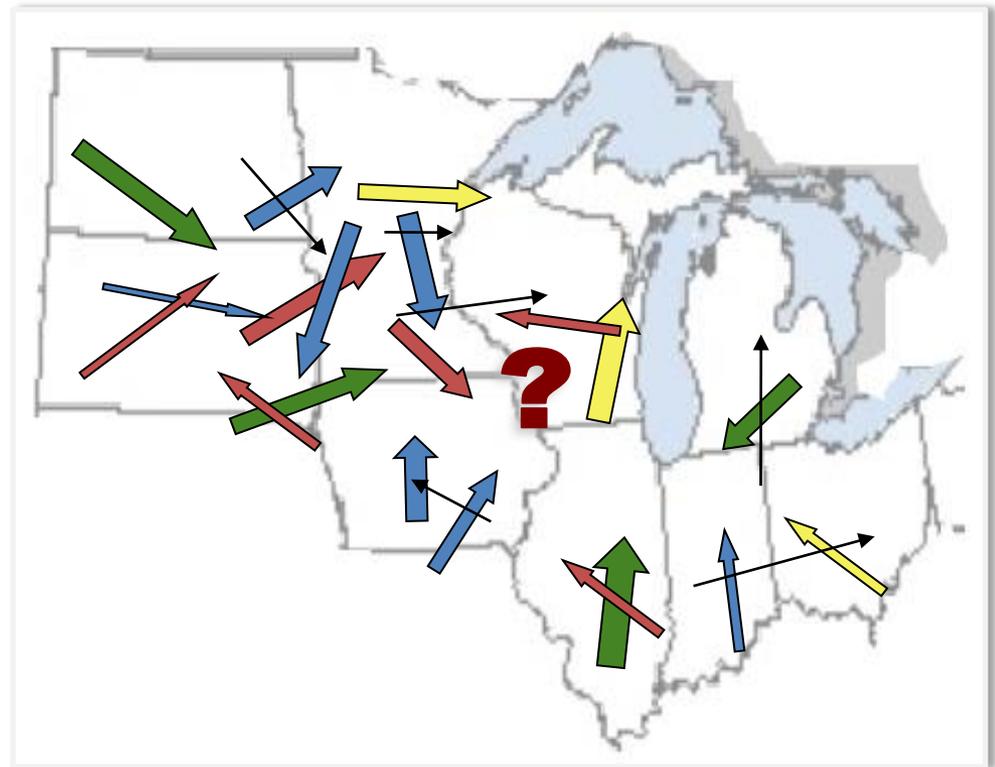
- Outsized pollution
- Opportunity for renewables coming online
- Set example for rest of country
- Both rural and industrial opportunities
- Began with amazing policy opportunities in multiple realms
- Lots of coal, and more being planned



# Why a Network Approach?

Usual Conditions are Fragmented, Non-aligned and Competitive

- Little dialogue among advocates
- No shared analysis
- Mostly informal program discussions b/w foundations
- No co-creation of strategy b/w funders and advocates



RE-AMP Region

# Hypothesis

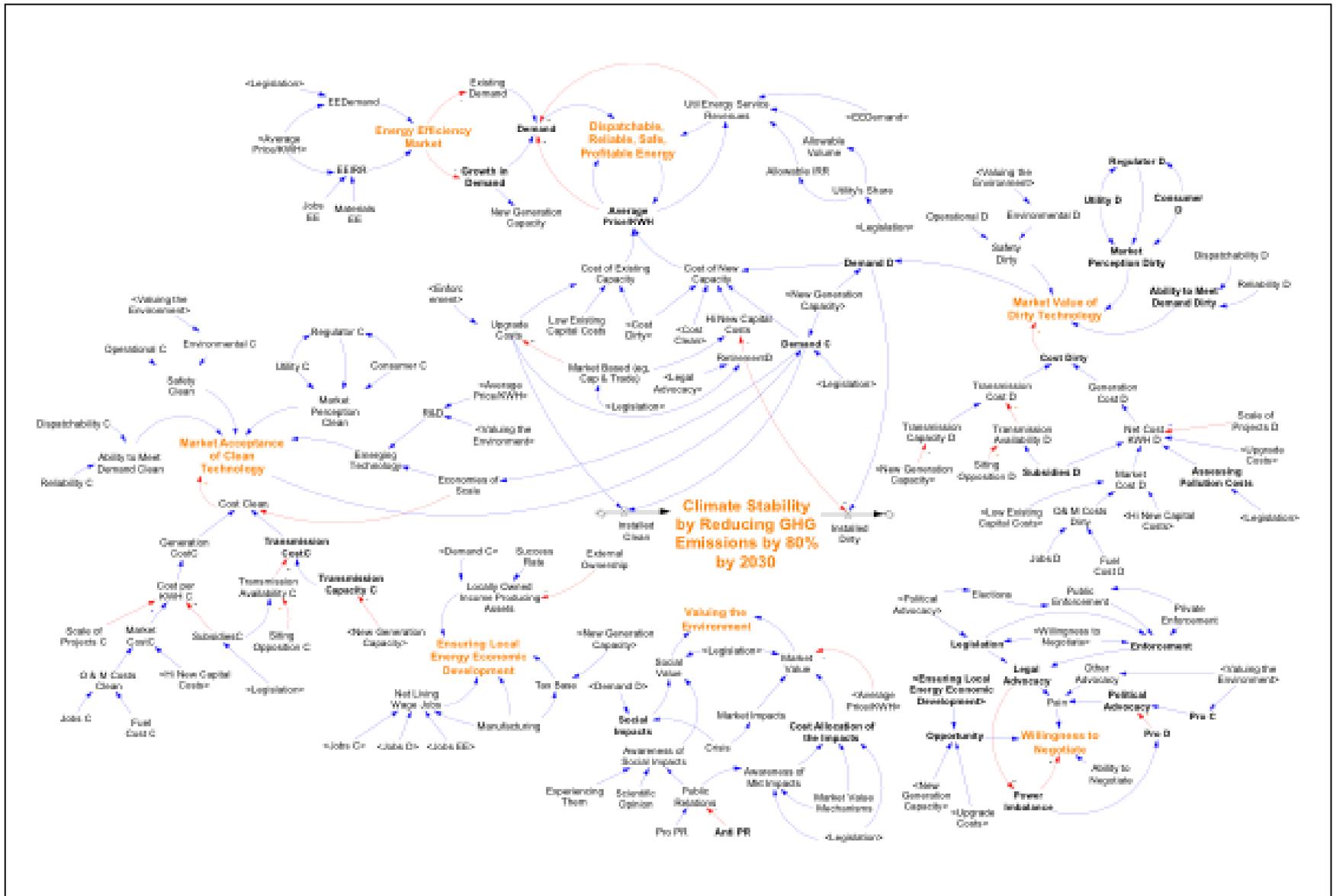
## Alignment is achievable and necessary

- BAU could not make progress needed
- Efficiency of resources
- None of us is smarter than all of us
- Create conditions for strategic dialogue and collaborative action
- Match complexity with systems thinking, shift the system strategically

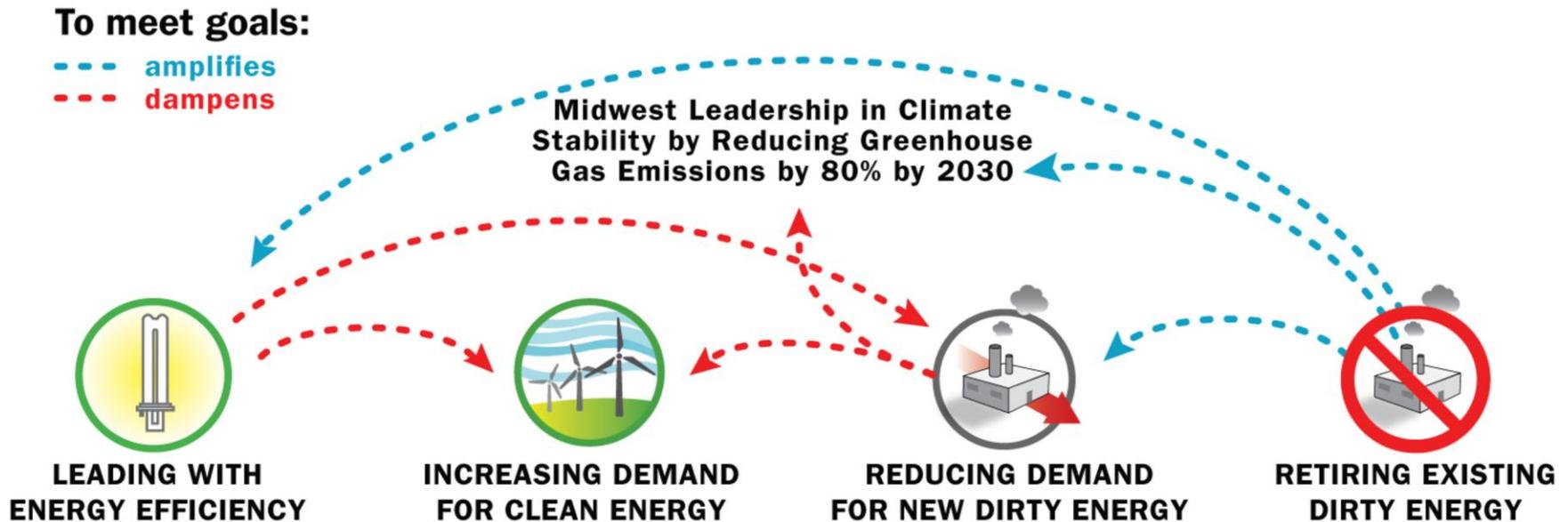


# RE-AMP SYSTEMS MAP

## Forces That Animate the Mid-West Energy System



# Our Insight!



Four leverage points need simultaneous intervention.

# Thinking systemically, acting collaboratively

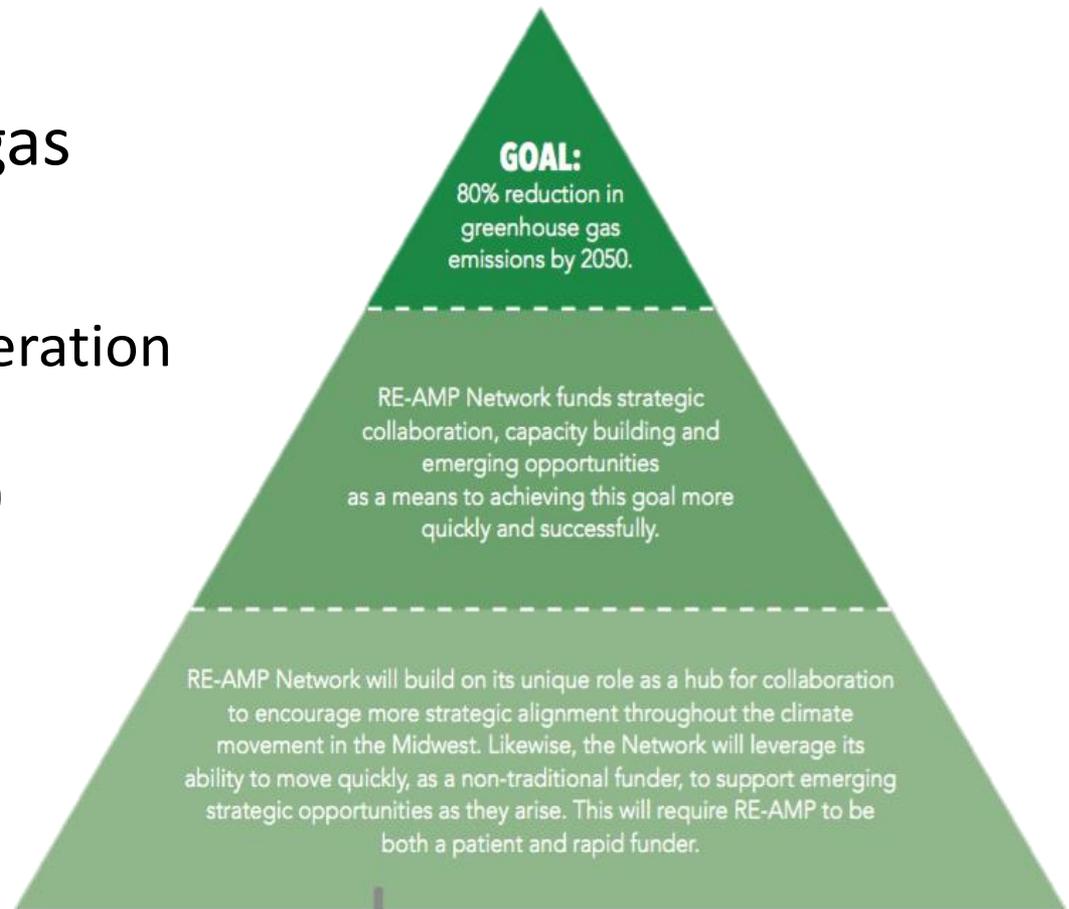
- Ongoing systems analysis
- Collaboration through strategic levers



# Thinking systemically, acting collaboratively

## Reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80%:

- ❖ from the electrical generation sector by 2030
- ❖ economy-wide by 2050



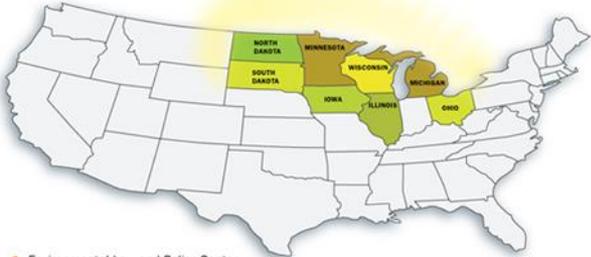
# RE-AMP Network Members: 2016



**PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS**

- 1000 Friends of Iowa
- 1000 Friends of Minnesota
- 1000 Friends of Wisconsin
- 350.org
- Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
- Alliance for Sustainability - Minnesota
- American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
- Apollo Alliance
- Apollo Alliance - Michigan Chapter
- Apollo Alliance - Ohio Chapter
- Buckeye Forest Council
- Center for Energy and the Environment
- Center for Rural Affairs
- Center on Sustainable Communities
- Center on Wisconsin Strategy
- Chicago Jobs Council
- Chicago Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Citizens Utility Board Illinois
- Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin
- Clean Air Muscatine (CLAM)
- Clean Energy Coalition
- Clean Fuels Ohio
- Clean Up the River Environment
- Clean Water Action Alliance of Minnesota
- Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund of Michigan
- Clean Wisconsin
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- Climate Organizing Lab
- CNT Energy
- Dakota Resource Council
- Dakota Rural Action
- Eco-Justice Collaborative
- Ecology Center
- Energy Action Coalition
- Energy Center of Wisconsin
- Environment Illinois
- Environment Michigan
- Environment Minnesota
- Environment Ohio

## THE REGION / THE NETWORK



- Environmental Law and Policy Center
- Faith in Place
- Fresh Energy
- Grand Aspirations
- Great Lakes Environmental Law Center
- Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association
- Great Plains Institute
- Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance
- Greater Lansing Area Clean Cities
- Green Energy Ohio
- Green For All
- Green Institute
- Greenspace NCR
- Growth and Justice
- Honor the Earth
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA
- Illinois Public Interest Research Group
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- Institute for Energy and Environmental Research
- Institute for Local Self-Reliance
- Intertribal Council On Utility Policy
- Iowa City Summer of Solutions
- Iowa Environmental Council
- Iowa Farmers Union
- Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
- Iowa Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Iowa Policy Project
- Izaak Walton League of America Midwest Office

- League of Michigan Bicyclists
- Leighty Foundation
- Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota
- Marianist Environmental Education Center
- Michigan Energy Alternatives Project
- Michigan Energy Options
- Michigan Environmental Council
- Michigan Interfaith Power & Light
- Michigan Land Use Institute
- Michigan League of Conservation Voters
- Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
- Midwest Environmental Advocates
- Midwest Renewable Energy Association
- Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
- Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
- Minnesota Environmental Partnership
- Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
- Minnesota Project
- Minnesota Public Interest Research Group
- N.I.C.E. / Enerchange
- National Catholic Rural Life Conference
- National Wildlife Federation - Great Lakes Office
- National Wildlife Federation - National
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Neighborhood Energy Connection
- Ohio Citizen Action
- Ohio Environmental Council

- Ohio Interfaith Power and Light
- On the Commons
- Plains Justice
- Policy Matters Ohio
- Prairie Rivers Network
- Progress Michigan
- Protestants for the Common Good
- Public Interest Research Group in Michigan
- Renew Wisconsin
- Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago
- Restoring Eden/Christians for Environmental Stewardship
- River Network
- Rural Advantage
- Save Our Unique Lands
- Sierra Club - Dacotah Chapter
- Sierra Club - Illinois Chapter
- Sierra Club - Iowa Chapter
- Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter
- Sierra Club - Michigan Chapter
- Sierra Club - National
- Sierra Club - North Star Chapter
- Sierra Club - Ohio Chapter
- Sierra Club - South Dakota Chapter
- Sierra Student Coalition
- State Environmental Leadership Program
- The Climate Group - Chicago
- Transit for Livable Communities
- Transition US
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Valley Watch, Inc
- Voices for Earth Justice
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council
- Will Steger Foundation
- Wind Energy Foundation
- Wind on the Wires
- Windustry
- Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative
- Wisconsin Council of Churches
- Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation
- Wisconsin Environment
- Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light
- Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters
- Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group

**FOUNDATION SUPPORT**

- 11th Hour Project

- Argosy Foundation
- Carolyn Foundation

- Crown Family Philanthropies
- Energy Foundation

- Flora Family Fund
- Garfield Foundation

- George Gund Foundation
- Growald Family Fund

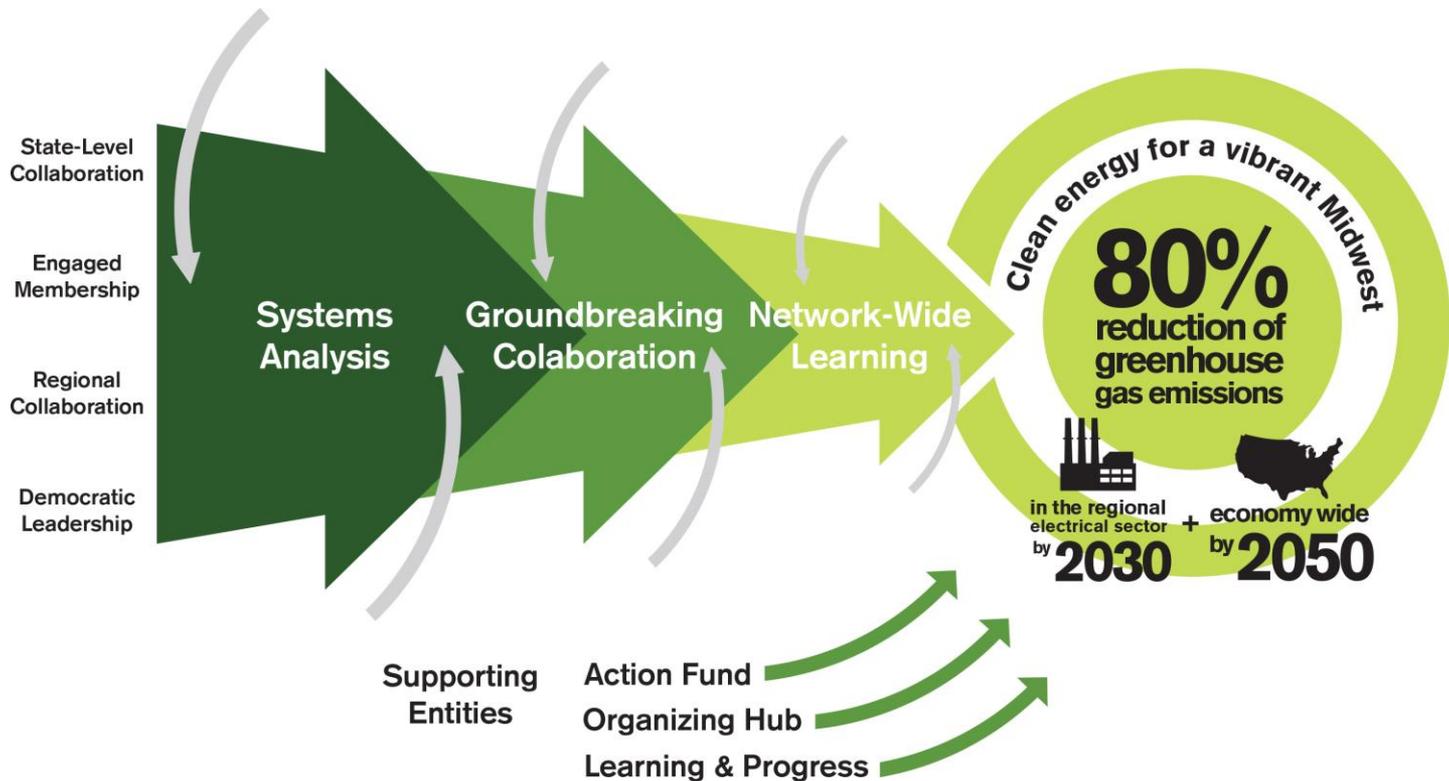
- Joyce Foundation
- Kendeda Fund

- Kresge Foundation
- McKnight Foundation

- Rockefeller Family Fund
- Surdna Foundation

2017 – More than 170 member organizations

# RE-AMP's model for success



**Regional Collaboration**

- Energy Efficiency Working Group
- Clean Energy Working Group
- Global Warming Solutions Working Group
- Coal Working Group
- Transportation Working Group

- Local Solutions Working Group**
- Foundation Working Group
  - Faith Caucus
  - Environmental Justice Caucus
  - Youth Caucus
  - Rural Caucus

**State-Level Collaboration**

- IL, IA, MI, MN, ND, OH, SD, WI



How we collaborate

# Midwest hub for climate action

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Regional alignment

State-based capacity building

Effective campaigns

Commitment to learning

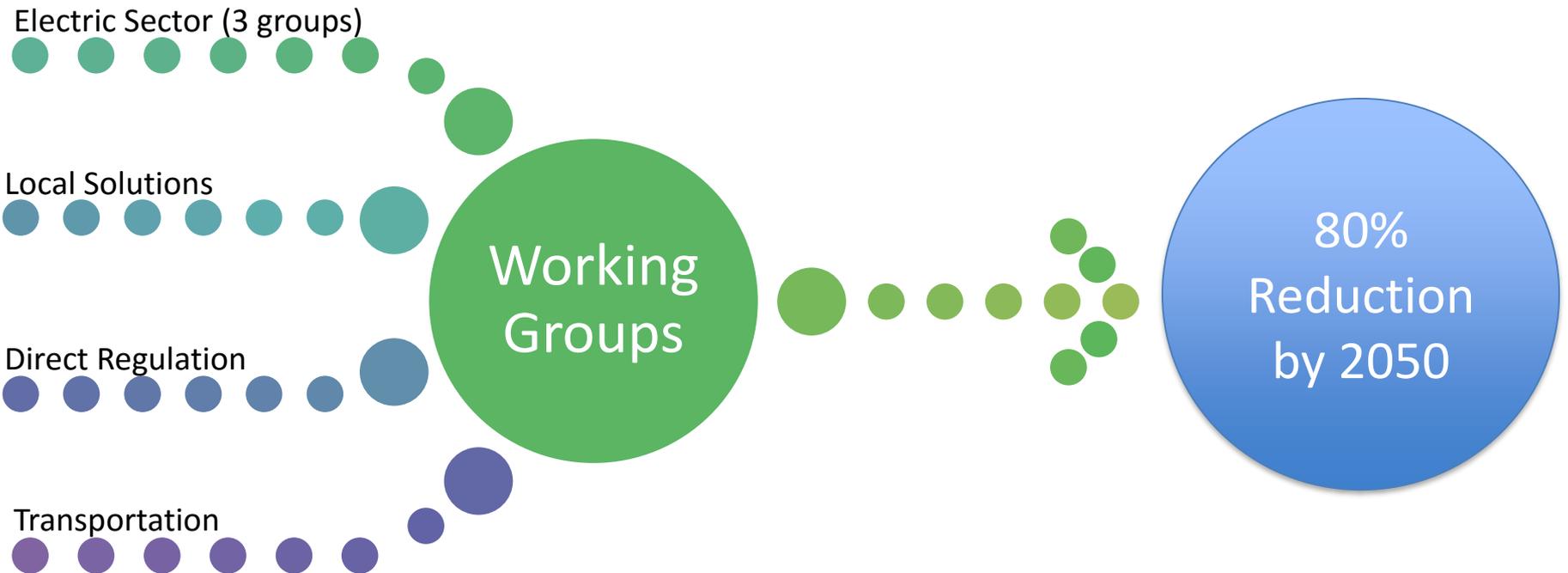
Climate and energy funding

Regional energy headlines



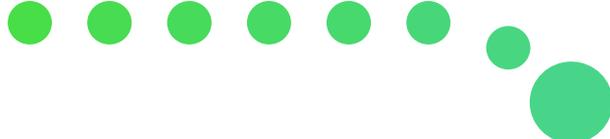
# Working Groups

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# Caucuses

Youth



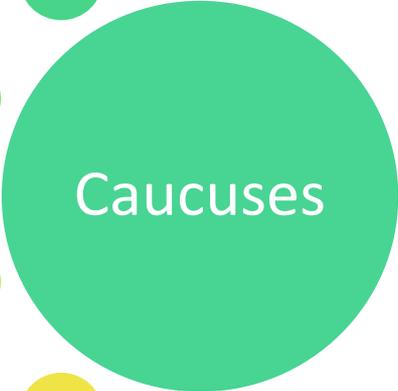
Environmental Justice



Faith



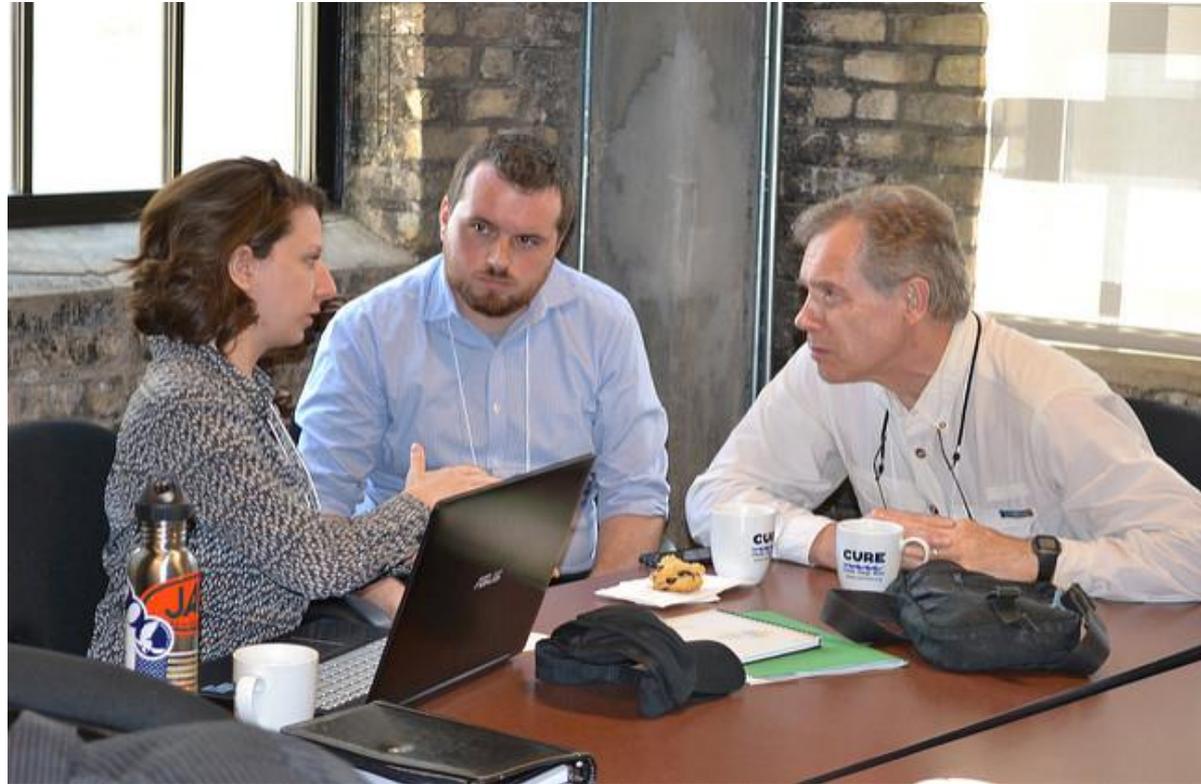
Rural



# Strategic alignment across the region

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RE-AMP members collaborate and align their strategies across the region through their participation in working groups and caucuses.



# State-based capacity building

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RE-AMP supports advocates in collaborating and building shared capacity on a state-by-state basis.



# Annual Meeting

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**Everyone comes together once a year to help set the direction for our Network.**



# Climate and energy funding

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A pooled fund (\$2.1 million)  
Collective decision-making  
Informed by intelligence on the ground



# Effective climate campaigns

- Campaign Excellence Conference
- Peer Learning Circles
- Deep and ongoing support of three climate change campaigns in Ohio, Michigan & Iowa
- Written guides for campaign planning
- Express Campaign Assistance
- Webinar series



# Commitment to learning

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RE-AMP seeks to foster learning and transparency across all of its activities.

Members participate in a culture of learning by connecting and sharing best practices across the region.



# Regional energy headlines

## MIDWEST ENERGY NEWS

[News](#) [Opinion](#) [Books](#) [40 Under 40](#) [About](#)



### Regulators warn updated grid needs updated reliability rules

By EnergyWire

As tomorrow's grid is reshaped with more wind farms, solar arrays and gas-fired plants, experts warn that new regulation will be needed to ensure that these resources provide the frequency support and other essential services.

### TODAY'S HEADLINES

March 01, 2016

#### DAILY DIGEST

**98-year-old pipeline being considered to move oil from Michigan to Canada**

#### U.S. ENERGY NEWS

**New Jersey bill would set 80 percent renewable standard**

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What does it all  
add up to?

# Game-changing victories

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- Stopped the massive coal rush!
- Using renewable and efficiency policies to drive market shifts.
- Stopping highway boondoggles and pushing to make cities walkable, enjoyable, and sustainable.
- Over 150 coal plants in the RE-AMP footprint have been slated for retirement—with a focused priority on working with communities.



# Always evolving

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- Establish “state” tables for in-state clean energy progress, informed by regional opportunities
- Movement-building
- Campaign Excellence Conference
- Network Mindset Practicum
- Systems Thinking Academy
- Sharing best practices
- Environmental Justice Caucus & special EJ re-grants fund
- Steering Committee equity & diversity workshop (embedding practices in the Network and expanding to include new partners)



# Challenges/opportunities are always present

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- Natural gas
- Limitations of original systems mapping (didn't contemplate potential of battery storage for example)
- Changing demographics
- Political landscape is a moving target
- Resource constraints, still reliant on climate and energy funding
- In a network, each members has own organizational commitments
- Rapid growth has presented cultural challenges to our roots in systems thinking



# Lessons learned

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- Understand the system you are trying to change
- Involve both funders and non-profits as equals from the outset
- Design for a network, not an organization and invest in collective infrastructure
- Cultivate leadership
- Create multiple opportunities to connect and communicate
- Remain adaptive and emergent – and committed to a long-term vision



# Questions? Feedback?

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