

[View this email in your browser](#)



**FAITH COMMUNITIES  
GO GREEN**

---

**Sign up to discover new paths for  
green energy in Ohio:  
May 20 webinar with Brent Boyd**

Friday, May 9, 2025

---

**Dear Advocates for Creation,**

This month we invite you to

- Discover new allies for green energy and ways to win others;
- Take action to save federal green energy incentives; and
- Celebrate climate- and consumer-friendly elements of Ohio's new energy reform bill.

Please register now for our May 20 Zoom forum "Finding New Paths for Green Energy" with solar entrepreneur Brent Boyd, and invite friends, colleagues, and your congregation!

Yours,

Ted Bergh and Ariel Miller, FCGG Advocacy Co-Chairs



## May 20: Finding New Paths for Green Energy in Ohio, 7 pm, Zoom

In 2025, advocates need to be creative in promoting climate solutions despite a host of new obstacles. Brent Boyd, one of Ohio's leading solar entrepreneurs, will alert us to influential allies in the energy transition, and opportunities in Ohio's changing energy landscape. He will outline the "green + green" case you can use to persuade others. Please [register here](#) and share this invitation with your networks!

Brent Boyd (pictured, above) is the CEO of Solclusion Energy Group in Cincinnati, Chief Technology Officer for Global Energy Matters (GEM) in Columbus, and Co-Founder and Shareholder in Solar Power and Light (SP&L) in Miamisburg. Solclusion is a vertically-integrated solar and EV charging infrastructure development company. GEM is a humanitarian consultancy and developer providing energy solutions to support clean water, education, health, and economic development.

Over his four-decade career, Brent has designed and led projects throughout North America and Europe, and implemented solar projects for industry, municipalities, schools, universities, and nonprofits. He has served on numerous nonprofit boards including The Ohio State University Extension Service, Green Energy Ohio, and Drive Electric Dayton. He is a member of Refreshing

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

from Case Western in finance and strategy. He graduated from Archbishop Alter High School in Kettering.



**Support Clean Energy Tax Credits that Strengthen Our Communities**

### **Write Congress to preserve clean energy incentives**

Here is a crisp, clear call to action from our fellow creation advocates the Evangelical Environmental Network: "New clean energy tax credits and direct pay opportunities for households, churches, and schools have made it easier than ever to bring clean energy to our homes and communities.

"Unfortunately, there are attempts in Congress to take away these clean energy tax credits and community investments [even though they] have bipartisan support, provide local careers, keep America an energy leader, and give our children the healthy future they deserve. As Congress tackles budget reconciliation this month, join us in calling on your policymakers to stand strong and defend these important benefits! [Click here](#) to send your message and make your voice heard."

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▾



## General Assembly finally repeals coal plant subsidies!

On April 30, Ohio lawmakers finished passing HB 15 with nearly unanimous bipartisan support. This bill was supported by major consumer groups, business organizations, and environmental nonprofits, including the Ohio Environmental Council and Ohio Citizen Action. Thanks to all of you for your advocacy over the past four years!

To our delight, legislators rebuffed utility company pleas and enacted **major reforms to protect consumers**. This includes the immediate repeal of the OVEC coal plant subsidies imposed on all Ohio ratepayers by HB 6, the 2019 law at the core of the \$60 million dollar corruption case involving First Energy, Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder, and Public Utilities Commission Chair Sam Randazzo.

HB 15 also ends HB 6's subsidies for older solar farms. \$62 million had been collected from ratepayers for this subsidy, most of it unspent. After phasing out commitments to some solar projects, the bill redirects the remaining money into a revolving loan fund at 2% interest to **enable schools to finance energy efficiency projects or solar panels**.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

requires PUCO “to adopt rules and issue orders... to **encourage and promote large-scale governmental aggregation in Ohio**” (p.16, [bill analysis](#) by the Ohio Legislative Services Commission). Voters in a growing number of Ohio cities and towns have approved aggregation plans, with several of them (such as Cincinnati’s and Wyoming’s) specifying the purchase of renewable energy.

The **community energy pilot project did not survive** into the final bill. FCGG advocates had joined many environmental groups in pleading for this provision, which would have made it possible for congregations or nonprofits to build solar projects and share the energy and savings with others such as low-income renters. Advocates plan to introduce this idea again as a stand-alone bill.

The bill's consumer protections include **phasing out Electric Security Plans (ESPs)** through which utilities were able to add surcharges to customers' bills without a full rate review. ESP charges added millions to utilities' revenue at ratepayers' expense, with very little transparency. Now utilities must set rates based on market price of the energy and must undergo a complete rate review every three years.

The primary goal of the bill is to promote a rapid increase in Ohio's energy generation capacity because demand is expected to surge with the construction of data centers and other big users. Unfortunately, natural gas is likely to account for much of the new generation, but legislators are **finally open to an all-of-the-above approach** which could include renewable energy, such as behind-the-meter solar systems for large industrial facilities.

HB 15 **improves transparency on grid performance** by requiring utilities to publish heat maps and track power outages at the local level. The bill promotes investment in **Advanced Transmission Technologies** to increase the capacity of the existing grid.

At the beginning of 2025, we knew this bill was in the works, but the details were not public. It's inspiring to see legislators and stakeholders come together on solutions that include progress on economic justice as well as some openings for energy efficiency and renewable energy. These breakthroughs are welcome indeed after HB 6 killed Ohio's renewable energy portfolio standards and ended the requirements that utilities provide incentives for energy efficiency.

*Graphic above: Ohio Citizen Action. Thanks to Roger Sikes of Solar United Neighbors for convening calls throughout the progress of this bill to share news and discuss advocacy points for the community solar pilot.*

**We welcome your input on news and advocacy!** Please share with us what your congregation is doing to promote public policy and economic decisions that protect Creation. We look forward to connecting with you at the May 20 webinar! In the meantime, write to us at [advocacy@fcgg.org](mailto:advocacy@fcgg.org)

Yours in shared commitment to stewardship of creation,  
Ted Bergh and Ariel Miller, FCGG Advocacy Co-Chairs

**Subscribe**

**Past Issues**

**Translate ▼**

*All rights reserved.*

You can reach us at [advocacy@fcgg.org](mailto:advocacy@fcgg.org)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

