

[Union of
Concerned Scientists

STAND UP
for
SCIENCE
[Union of
Concerned Scientists

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

*Science for a healthy planet
and safer world*





PUTTING SCIENCE INTO ACTION

Science-based policies protect people and our planet. At UCS we work to reduce global warming emissions; to develop sustainable food, power, and transportation systems; to fight the suppression, censorship, and manipulation of science; and to reduce the threat of nuclear war.

You—our supporters—have been the driving force behind our work for nearly 50 years.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIR

We're proud of our part in an unprecedented show of strength and public engagement by the scientific community and all who believe that facts, evidence, and expertise matter. We're also profoundly grateful to you for making this work possible.

At the time of this writing, we don't know the results of the midterm elections—and whether candidates who vowed to restore science to its rightful place in public decisionmaking prevailed. What we do know is that UCS staff, partners, and supporters poured their all into rallying as many people as we could to vote for science and the public good this year.

It's been a tumultuous but productive year, as our scientists and advocacy staff pushed to expand access to clean energy and transportation, reduce the threat of nuclear war, prepare people and communities for the impacts of climate change, and build a healthier food system. We've also worked tirelessly in opposing the anti-science policies proposed by the Trump

administration, with every tool at our disposal. Of course, we'd much rather be making progress than re-fighting battles we've already won. Nevertheless, our strategies for blocking many of the worst abuses of science have proven quite effective, as you'll read in the pages ahead.

We hope this report shows just how much your support helped us accomplish over the past year, even in the face of an intractable administration and Congress. We are energized, revitalized, and inspired anew by your commitment to stand up for science, and your dedication to UCS. There are heroic victories for a safer and more sustainable world in the pages ahead, and you are part of every one of them.



KEN KIMMELL President

ANNE R. KAPUSCINSKI Chair

DEFENDING SCIENCE FROM ATTACKS

UCS is fighting the Trump administration's attacks on science—up to 60 by our last count (which you can read about on the UCS website). Defending the progress we have made on so many fronts is a daunting task, but thanks to our active supporters we successfully warded off many bad outcomes over the past year.

UCS Science Network members provided the vocal backing we needed to defeat the appointment of three nominees for top agency posts who were each categorically unfit for their roles: a former talk radio host with no scientific training for chief scientist at the USDA, a chemical industry advisor for head of chemical safety at the EPA, and a climate change denier and fossil fuel advocate for head of the Council on Environmental Quality.

In January, our report documenting how the Trump administration has sidelined federal science advisory committees drew the attention of two key senators. At their request, the Government Accountability Office expanded

an investigation into whether political appointees at the EPA had improperly influenced the selection of committee members.

And when the Trump administration proposed a budget that would drastically cut research at multiple federal agencies, and members of Congress added provisions that would make it harder to enforce environmental laws, UCS experts educated the press and the public about what was at stake, and our supporters applied direct pressure to their legislators. As a result, the final budget preserved funding levels and even increased them in some cases, and nearly all the “poison pill” provisions were dropped.

UCS also saved the federal electric vehicle tax credit, funding for United Nations climate research, a NASA climate monitoring system, and the scientific foundation of the Endangered Species Act from the chopping block, and helped prevent several under-the-radar but potentially disastrous pieces of anti-science legislation from coming to a vote.





A SCIENTIST MAKES HER VOICE HEARD

“The most vulnerable groups in the United States would suffer from the Trump administration’s push to roll back important environmental regulations. I felt it was necessary to make my voice heard and advocate for underserved groups.

“As a scientist or engineer, it’s normal to feel nervous when considering or participating in advocacy, but UCS provides great resources to help, and myriad opportunities for involvement that suit your preferences. Since 2017 I have worked with UCS on many occasions, including speaking with Nevada senators about clean vehicle technology, and I felt empowered and useful because my expertise was directly used for influencing political action.”

CESUNICA E. IVEY

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-RIVERSIDE,
UCS SCIENCE NETWORK MEMBER

OPPOSING CORRUPTION AND CRONYISM

The Trump administration and its industry allies moved to sideline science whenever the evidence threatened to interfere with their agenda. UCS pushed back with every tactic we have honed in our nearly 50 years of experience.

INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS

UCS determined that an EPA plan to ease the “regulatory burden” on certain polluters threatened to increase toxic air pollution by as much as 25 percent. We exposed anti-science positions taken by the US Department of Agriculture’s new leadership, and glaring technical flaws in a report issued by the automakers’ trade association to argue for weaker fuel efficiency and emissions standards.

SCIENTIST SURVEYS

To assess the state of science in the federal government, UCS has been surveying agency scientists since 2005. Our 2018 survey revealed that staff cuts and censorship are affecting agencies’ ability to protect public health and the environment; many scientists also reported that agency leadership is unqualified or even hostile to the agency’s mission.

DOCUMENT REQUESTS

Through the Freedom of Information Act, UCS exposed the political motivation behind the EPA’s attempt to exclude independent health

analyses from its decisionmaking. The resulting outcry forced the EPA to allow more public input into that policy. We also uncovered the Trump administration’s suppression of a government study showing that certain toxic chemicals prevalent on military bases endanger health at levels much lower than the current standard. Our work prompted the study’s release.

LAWSUITS

By bringing scientific evidence into the courtroom, UCS is bolstering several legal challenges to reckless EPA actions. Together with allies, we persuaded a federal court that the EPA must implement an Obama administration rule to protect communities from chemical disasters; in two other cases we are suing to block the rollback of vehicle standards vital to combating climate change (see p. 15) and to stop the elimination of independent scientists from science advisory boards in favor of industry insiders.

MOVEMENT BUILDING

UCS brought more than 130 science advocacy organizations together to launch Science Rising, a long-term effort to elevate the importance of science in policymaking. We trained scores of scientists to organize their peers, and deployed thousands of UCS supporters ahead of the midterm elections.





In April, UCS brought scientists and technical experts from eight states to Washington, DC, for meetings with their elected representatives on the importance of funding government research. The effort paid off—see p. 4.



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ALERTING NEW AUDIENCES TO CLIMATE RISKS

To build the broad coalition of people we need to spur government action on climate change, UCS reaches out to people of all backgrounds, helping them understand that the impacts of climate change are already here, and directly affecting all of us.

While extreme weather events such as hurricanes justifiably get the headlines, UCS has spent the last two years educating coastal communities about the growing threat of tidal flooding caused by rising seas. In 2017 we showed the enormous scale of the threat: 170 communities could be chronically inundated in less than 20 years. And in 2018 we analyzed the value of the property at risk: more than 300,000 homes currently valued at \$117.5 billion could be lost within the life span of a 30-year mortgage issued today.

The report *Underwater: Rising Seas, Chronic Floods, and the Implications for US Coastal Real Estate* was cited by the media more than 1,000 times in just over two months, in national outlets (ABC,

CBS, CNN, Telemundo, Univision, *USA Today*, and the *Washington Post* among others), a broad swath of local markets around the country, as well as trade publications for industries UCS had never engaged before, including building design and construction, insurance, mortgage banking, and real estate.

UCS has been working to ensure this information gets into the hands of people in the communities often hit the hardest by climate impacts—communities already overburdened by a history of neglect or discrimination. We presented the report's findings at a conference of Hispanic and Native American journalists in Miami and at a meeting organized with allies in Houston who are still recovering from Hurricane Harvey. Earlier in the year we co-sponsored a conference in Arizona devoted to climate impacts on tribal culture, and a discussion among experts in Oakland about the intersection of climate change, infrastructure, and environmental justice.

CLEAN ENERGY CAN'T BE STOPPED

Despite the Trump administration's efforts to prop up the country's oldest and dirtiest power plants, the market for clean energy continues to expand. UCS helped accelerate that expansion in numerous venues during the past year.

CALIFORNIA

The Golden State committed to generate all of its electricity from 100 percent carbon-free resources by 2045, and UCS and our allies made it possible. Beginning two years ago, we conducted sophisticated modeling to show that California could make the switch while also growing one of the world's biggest economies, and our experts' work proved critical in persuading the legislature that the state's electricity grid could reliably run on clean energy.

MICHIGAN

UCS also helped put Michigan on the path to a modern electricity grid—our advocacy ensured the state's utilities will follow through on recent commitments to increase

their use of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and give fair and robust consideration to battery storage and carbon emissions reductions.

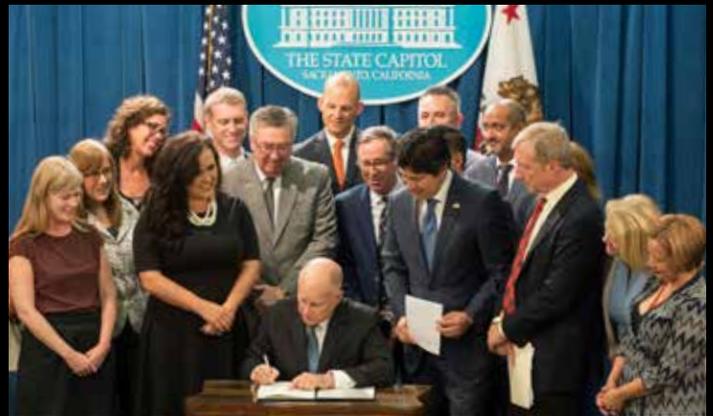
OFFSHORE WIND

Fueled by a 2016 law UCS supported, Massachusetts utilities signed a contract for 800 megawatts (MW) of new offshore wind energy—enough to power almost 500,000 homes—at a price about half what was anticipated. Rhode Island announced a 400 MW offshore wind contract the same day, and Connecticut soon followed with a 200 MW deal. With other East Coast states similarly committed to large-scale purchases, the stage is set for significant expansion of this largely untapped clean energy resource.

ENERGY STORAGE

UCS secured a 46 percent increase in federal funding for energy storage programs by convening a meeting of recognized experts in the field, combined with engagement by UCS Science Network members.





In recognition of the role UCS played in California's decision to move to 100 percent carbon-free electricity, UCS Western States Office Director Adrienne Alvord (second from left) was invited to share the stage as Governor Jerry Brown signed the bill.



UCS Senior Scientist David Wright discussed the North Korean missile program with Tom Brokaw on a national television broadcast at the height of the crisis.

A VOICE OF SANITY ON US SECURITY POLICY

As the leaders of the United States and North Korea threatened each other with escalation and retaliation, journalists turned to UCS for a realistic assessment of the crisis. Our experts are recognized as the go-to source for accurate information about North Korea's missile program, as attested to by the fact that a single UCS blog post about a November 2017 test launch was cited in more than 1,500 articles—on the same day—by such high-profile outlets as the Associated Press, CBS, CNN, Fox News, the *New York Times*, Reuters, the *Washington Post*, and *USA Today*.

We used the media spotlight to make the case that diplomacy has worked with North Korea in the past and could again, and our reasoning prevailed for the time being.

Meanwhile, UCS pushed back against the Trump administration's dangerous nuclear weapons policy, which includes deployment of a new lower-yield warhead that could be used on the battlefield. UCS analysis shows there is no rationale for this warhead given the many lower-yield warheads the United States already fields. This plan moves US policy in exactly the wrong direction, by

provoking other nations to build up their arsenals and increasing the likelihood that nuclear weapons will be used. Another dangerous (and long-standing) policy UCS is working to change is the president having sole authority to order the launch of nuclear weapons.

Our cultivation of new allies who can increase the pressure for change is bearing fruit: the US Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted a resolution—using language UCS helped draft—calling for the United States to take five key steps that would reduce the risk of nuclear war.

HOLDING FOSSIL FUEL PRODUCERS ACCOUNTABLE

Some of the world's biggest fossil fuel producers have been misleading the public for decades about their role in climate change, and UCS is steadily ratcheting up the pressure on these companies for their deceptive practices.

In September 2017, UCS climate scientists broke new ground by co-authoring a peer-reviewed paper that determined each fossil fuel company's contribution to increases in temperature and sea levels around the world. This analysis and others provide the scientific underpinning for a growing number of lawsuits that seek restitution for climate damages; several are under appeal but others brought by Rhode Island and municipalities in California, Colorado, Maryland, and Washington State continue to move forward.

Several actions taken by fossil fuel companies during the past year show our work is having an effect:

- ExxonMobil followed the examples of BP, ConocoPhillips, and Royal

Dutch Shell in quitting the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a lobbying group UCS has exposed for regularly misrepresenting climate science.

- ConocoPhillips improved transparency around its lobbying activities in response to engagement by UCS and shareholders who were informed by our 2016 *Climate Accountability Scorecard*.
- BP corrected misleading statements about climate science on its website after UCS and our allies pressured the company's leaders.
- The fossil fuel industry's trade association launched the ironically named Manufacturers' Accountability Project (MAP) with the sole goal of discrediting lawsuits brought against its members. MAP has publicly criticized UCS for the leading role we've played in using science to achieve justice—a clear sign our campaign is making the industry nervous.





DEMANDING A FARM BILL THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

“I so appreciate being part of the briefings, meetings, and congressional education days convened by the UCS Good Food For All team, to be able to think together and talk with our communities and policymakers about building a more racially inclusive farm bill.”

CATHERINE SANDS

FOUNDING DIRECTOR,
FERTILE GROUND, AND LECTURER,
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS-
AMHERST STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL
OF AGRICULTURE

US farm policy currently encourages the production of unhealthy processed foods and promotes industrial farming systems that harm our water and soil. In 2018, UCS rallied opposition to a farm bill proposal in the House of Representatives that would have worsened these problems, and built support for science-based solutions among farmers and other people who are often ignored in policy discussions dominated by agribusiness lobbyists.

Ahead of farm bill debates, we organized a meeting of the Good Food For All (GFFA) collaborative—representing groups including Farmworker Justice, the National Black Food and Justice Alliance, and the Native Farm Bill Coalition—to learn from each other and strategize. Participants called for a more racially equitable bill in more than 35 meetings on Capitol Hill, and in a letter to Congress that UCS helped draft.

Meanwhile, UCS surveyed more than 2,800 farmers about the federal policies they want to see. Nearly three-quarters said they would

support a farm bill that prioritizes sustainable agriculture, and more than 70 percent said they would be more likely to back political candidates who share those priorities.

UCS also made the case for strengthening—rather than slashing—farm bill programs that have reduced hunger and increased access to nutritious foods. For example, we developed a series of infographics debunking myths about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly called “food stamps”) and sent legislators a letter signed by 200 public health professionals testifying to its merits.

Faced with opposition to the House version of the farm bill, Congress let the existing law expire without passing a replacement. It was unclear at the time of this writing whether any replacement would pass in 2018, but UCS is keeping up the pressure for a strong bill that ensures farmers can succeed while protecting the environment, and all people can put healthy, affordable food on the table.

FIGHTING TO KEEP VEHICLES CLEAN

The federal fuel efficiency and emissions standards UCS worked hard to secure in 2012 were on track to save drivers an average of \$6,000 at the pump and keep 500 million tons of global warming pollution out of the atmosphere by 2030. Automakers have been doing well too, breaking sales records in 2015 and 2016. Yet the Trump administration has set out to undo the standards, so UCS is devoting every possible resource to preserving them while simultaneously pushing for progress in other areas.

One giant step backward we managed to prevent in 2018 was the Trump administration's attempt to stop enforcing a ban on so-called

“glider” trucks: new big rig bodies concealing old, dirty engines. These vehicles emit many times more toxic air pollution than trucks with new engines, so UCS experts and our partners testified on the need for the ban and persuaded the EPA's science advisory board to review the decision. After more than 26,000 supporters weighed in via social media, and another 14,000 via email, the EPA announced it would continue to enforce the ban.

UCS also won a series of forward-looking victories in California. In May, spurred by a letter from UCS and our partners as well as comments from our experts

at public meetings, the city of San Francisco committed to shifting its entire bus fleet to zero-emissions vehicles by 2035. This followed our 2017 success in persuading Los Angeles to do the same.

The state also approved more than \$750 million in new infrastructure capable of supporting at least 60,000 electric cars and 15,000 electric trucks; UCS had testified repeatedly for more than a year about the benefits that could accrue to the state. Finally, we helped California legislators shape and pass a first-of-its-kind bill that establishes climate emissions targets for ride-sharing companies such as Lyft and Uber.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal year ending September 30, 2018

REVENUE

The Union of Concerned Scientists continues to benefit from the generosity of our more than 130,000 members and foundations, who work in partnership with us to build a healthier and safer world. In fiscal 2018, the majority of our support—72 percent—came from generous individual donors, while support from foundations represented 22 percent of our revenue. Planned giving represented another 5 percent of revenue. Our donors responded very generously to support our new and increased work in this challenging political climate.

72%

MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTIONS

22%

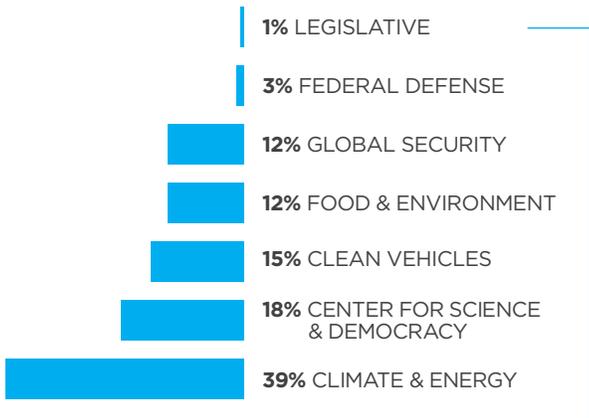
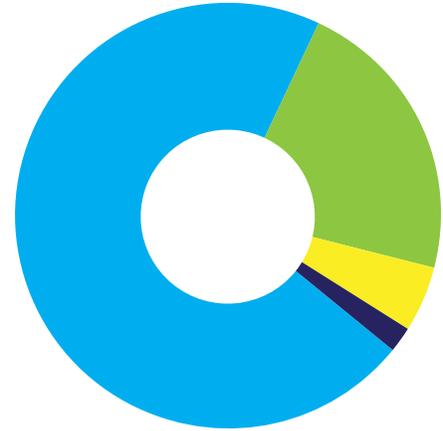
FOUNDATIONS

5%

PLANNED GIFTS

1%

OTHER



EXPENSES

Eighty-seven percent of every dollar donated to UCS in fiscal 2018 directly funded our program work, with the remaining 13 percent spent on the critical administrative infrastructure and fundraising that support our programs. With an annual budget of \$37 million, UCS continues to strengthen our unique ability to help solve our planet's most pressing problems with the power of independent science.

87%

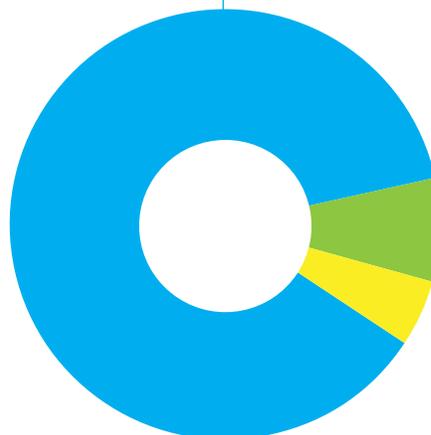
PROGRAMS

8%

FUNDRAISING

5%

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE



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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal year ending September 30, 2018

OPERATING REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	UNRESTRICTED			TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
	GENERAL OPERATING	BOARD DESIGNATED	TOTAL			
Individual contributions	\$25,339,107		\$25,339,107	\$1,532,490		\$26,871,597
Foundation and other institutional grants	113,333		113,333	8,120,791		8,234,124
Net investment income		1,968,864	1,968,864	114,705		2,083,569
Bequests and net annuities	830,397	928,476	1,758,873			1,758,873
In-kind contributions	383,626		383,626			383,626
Other revenue	488,868		488,868			488,868
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Appropriation of cumulative gains	1,175,460	(1,175,460)				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	8,482,940		8,482,940	(8,482,940)		
Total operating revenue and other support	36,813,731	1,721,880	38,535,611	1,285,046		39,820,658
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Programs:						
Climate and Energy	12,403,430		12,403,430			12,403,430
Center for Science and Democracy	5,704,760		5,704,760			5,704,760
Clean Vehicles	4,915,383		4,915,383			4,915,383
Global Security	3,864,318		3,864,318			3,864,318
Food and Environment	3,845,685		3,845,685			3,845,685
Federal Defense	1,074,736		1,074,736			1,074,736
Legislative	419,960		419,960			419,960
Total programs	32,228,272		32,228,272			32,228,272
Supporting services:						
Fundraising	2,820,895		2,820,895			2,820,895
General and administrative	1,764,564		1,764,564			1,764,564
Total supporting services	4,585,459		4,585,459			4,585,459
Total operating expenses	36,813,731		36,813,731			36,813,731
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE TRANSFER FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES		1,721,880	1,721,880	1,285,046		3,006,926
Transfer for capital expenditures	988,422	(988,422)				
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	988,422	733,458	1,721,880	1,285,046		3,006,926
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	6,053,727	34,946,033	40,999,760	4,575,291	185,435	45,760,486
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$7,042,149	\$35,679,491	\$42,721,640	\$5,860,337	\$185,435	\$48,767,412

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

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THANK YOU

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