

Climate Analysis- Trade and Industry Associations 2023

Trade and Industry association: Alignment with Paris Agreement

Avangrid discloses its trade and industry association¹ memberships and how these organizations align with our climate change policies and targets, with regards to the Paris Agreement goal for associations where the fees, relevance and impact are significant. The determination of significance is based on an assessment of the relevant facts and circumstances but will generally include annual fees of more than \$500,000.

In 2023, three organizations met these criteria: Edison Electric Institute (EEI), American Gas Association (AGA), and American Clean Power (ACP). In addition to that, Avangrid highlighted two other institutions with presence on advocating for climate topics – Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA) and The Business Council of New York State (BCNYS).

The evaluation takes into consideration the climate ambition and the climate relevance of the organizations, with the climate position being evaluated as **Aligned, Partial Aligned and Not aligned**². To analyze the institutions, Avangrid used public information found in corporate websites, statements, and social media presence.

Alignment with Paris Agreement - Trade and Industry Associations

Edison Electric Institute - EEI

Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is a leading association representing investor-owned electric companies across the United States. EEI advocates for policies and initiatives that drive innovation, sustainability, and reliability within the electric power sector.

Climate Position

Aligned - EEI plays a pivotal role in shaping policies by engaging in legislative discussion, regulatory affairs, and collaborative efforts. Their initiatives extend to promoting sustainability through commitments aimed at reducing emissions, investing in renewable energy, and supporting energy efficiency programs across the industry.

Many EEI member companies have announced voluntary commitments to further reduce their carbon emissions in the near- and long-term.

¹ Trade and industry associations: Trade associations that meet the requirements of Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(6) are exempt from federal income tax as **business leagues**.

² Definitions: **Aligned** - Have explicit support to net zero targets and 1.5°C scenario, active role in deploying positive narratives and positions on green transition. Engagement with the climate agenda at all levels (global, regional, local), with an intense range of activities in the key milestones. **Partial aligned** - Explicit or implicit support to net zero targets and 1.5°C scenario, but may also have divergent positions on aspects of Avangrid's climate position or have taken actions that are not consistent with Avangrid's clean energy strategy; **Not aligned** - Show very general support to climate the agenda, but detailed positions are not aligned with 1.5°C or presents positions contrary to the climate agenda and inconsistent with the 1.5°C scenario.

EEl has joined with several environmental and technology-focused non-governmental organizations to launch the Carbon-Free Technology Initiative (CFTI), which is focused on implementation of federal policies that can help ensure the commercial availability of affordable, carbon-free, 24/7 power technology options by the early 2030s.

Public information about the positioning of the association and its contribution to the main policy making processes and public consultations regarding energy transition and climate change is available through the following link: <https://www.eei.org/resources-and-media/testimony-filings-briefs#pageSize=10&sortBy=date&sortdir=Desc> .

2023 Highlights

- **Advocacy for the Inflation Reduction Act:** EEl advocated for provisions supporting clean energy technologies and grid modernization in the Act.
- **COP28:** The EEl delegation was in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to participate in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) to highlight the leadership of U.S. electric companies in reducing carbon emissions.

Main actions taken by Avangrid

- In 2023, Avangrid participated as a member of Edison Electric Institute. Also, Avangrid was one of 17 EEl Member Companies Involved in the federal funding for the development of seven regional clean hydrogen hubs—called H2Hubs—across the United States.
- Avangrid `s CEO integrated the EEl delegation in COP28.
- Participating in CERAWEEK by S&P Global which convened energy executives and policy officials in Houston (TX). Avangrid `s CEO participated in a plenary discussion on building the necessary low-carbon infrastructure needed for the clean energy transition.

American Clean Power - ACP

The American Clean Power Association (ACP) is the leading voice of today's multi-tech clean energy industry, representing over 800 energy storage, wind, utility-scale solar, clean hydrogen, and transmission companies. ACP is committed to meeting America's national security, economic and climate goals with fast-growing, low-cost, and reliable domestic power.

Climate Position

Aligned - The American Clean Power Association works to champion policies that will transform the U.S. power grid to a low-cost, reliable, and renewable power system.

They have as goals to expand demand for renewable energy technologies at a national, regional, and state level; remove barriers of entry through regulatory, permitting, and siting reforms; establish long-term market certainty to ensure increased investment and manufacturing of renewable energy technologies; invest in a national electric grid that is reliable, secure, clean, and designed for a renewable future; and develop a robust, stable, and diverse renewable energy workforce.

Also, American Clean Power is leading the Clean Power for America project, a nationwide movement to support the smarter policies needed to unleash the promise of renewable energy.

Public information about the positioning of the association and its contribution to the main policy making processes and public consultations regarding energy transition and climate change is available through the following link: <https://cleanpower.org/resources/types/comments-and-filings/>

2023 Highlights

- **Clean Power Annual Conference:** ACP hosts this event to bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss clean energy solutions and policy advancements.
- **State Advocacy:** ACP actively works with state legislatures and regulators to enact policies that support clean energy development and consumer adoption.
- **U.S. Clean Energy Industry 2022 Annual Report:** This comprehensive report showcases the economic and environmental benefits of clean energy, highlighting its growth and job creation potential.

Main taken actions by Avangrid

In 2023, Avangrid's Vice President of Federal Government Affairs participated as a Member of the Board of Directors. Also, Avangrid had Senior Leadership participation in the ACP Diversity and Inclusion Committee, including an executive who participated as a speaker at Clean Power 2023 Energy Transition for All.

American Gas Association - AGA

AGA, founded in 1918, represents more than 200 local energy companies that deliver clean natural gas throughout the United States. There are more than 77 million residential, commercial, and industrial natural gas customers in the U.S., of which 95 percent – more than 73 million customers – receive their gas from AGA members.

AGA is an advocate for natural gas utility companies and their customers and provides a broad range of programs and services for member natural gas pipelines, marketers, gatherers, international natural gas companies, and industry associates. Today, natural gas meets more than one-third of the United States' energy needs.

As AGA members continue to meet these needs, AGA is committed to improvements in energy efficiency, consumer energy affordability, access to reliable energy, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Climate position

Not Aligned - American Gas Association advocates for a long-term role for fossil gas in the energy mix, exploring natural gas utility pathways to achieve net-zero emissions- AGA published a study "Net-Zero Emissions Opportunities for Gas Utilities" detailing potential scenarios of how natural gas could contribute to meet USA's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

Public information about the positioning of the association and its contribution to the main policy making processes and public consultations regarding energy transition and climate change is available through the following link: <https://www.aga.org/research-policy/#reports>

2023 Highlights

- **Engaged in policy discussions on the Inflation Reduction Act:** The AGA called for provisions that included natural gas, like tax credits for carbon capture and storage (CCUS) and RNG production. While the final bill didn't fully align with their objectives, they secured some gains for the industry.
- **Pushed for methane emission reduction regulations:** The AGA supported EPA's proposed rule revisions aiming to significantly reduce methane emissions from natural gas infrastructure. They advocate for technology-driven solutions rather than outright bans on new pipelines.
- **Continued advocating for natural gas with lawmakers:** The AGA participated in Congressional hearings and meetings highlighting the role of natural gas in a lower-carbon future, emphasizing its reliability and affordability.

Main taken actions by Avangrid

In 2023, the President of UIL Holdings, subsidiary of Avangrid participated as a member of AGA`s board.

The Business Council of New York State - BCNYS

The Business Council of New York State, is the leading business organization in New York State, representing the interests of large and small firms throughout the state. Its membership is made up of more than 3,000 member companies, local chambers of commerce and professional and trade associations.

Climate position

Aligned - The Business Council focuses on achieving 70% renewable energy by 2030, a decarbonized electric generating sector by 2040, and state-wide net-zero emissions by 2050.

Public information about the positioning of the association and its contribution to the main policy making processes and public consultations regarding energy transition and climate change is available through the following link: <https://www.bcnys.org/legislative-memos>

2023 Highlights

- **Renewable Energy Conference:** Focused on the work of the Climate Action Council established under the CLCPA to implement the Act's mandates. The panels explored the goals for development and deployment of offshore wind and solar resources, the reduction in fossil generation, and adding energy storage.
- **Annual Environmental Conference:** They presented an Annual Environment Conference, in November 2023, which covered key Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) programs and regulations. Topics included carbon emissions, water quality, remediation programs and presentations from DEC leaders and industry experts addressed issues affecting business operations, such as PFAS standards, permit reviews, and environmental justice.

- **Climate advocacy:** the Business Council advocates for climate transition campaigns, addressing concerns related to energy prices, reliability of the energy grid, and the overall economic climate.

Main actions taken by Avangrid

Membership.

Clean Energy Buyers Association - CEBA

A business association that activates a community of energy customers and partners to deploy market and policy solutions for a carbon-free energy system, focuses on unlocking markets for energy customers, catalyzing communities of customers for deployment, and decarbonizing the grid for all.

The strength of organization has been – and will be – rooted in the team of people and our efforts to develop solutions and advocate for a decarbonized energy system. They will continue to catalyze our community to be greater than the sum of its parts through education, programming, collaboration, innovation, and activation.

Climate position

Aligned - The CEBA plays a crucial role in advocating for clean energy policies, supporting decarbonization efforts, and fostering collaboration between businesses, governments, and environmental organizations.

In collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, the CEBA established the Secretariat for Secretariat for the Clean Energy Demand Initiative (CEDI). This initiative aims to maximize engagement from leading companies interested in investing in clean energy infrastructure to meet their commitments.

Also, in the 2030 Strategic Plan, CEBA outlined a strategic plan to shift the American electricity grid toward being 90% carbon-free by 2030. Additionally, their goal is to fully decarbonize the global economy by 2050.

Public information about the positioning of the association and its contribution to the main policy making processes and public consultations regarding energy transition and climate change is available through the following link: [Advocacy Updates Archives - CEBA \(cebuyers.org\)](https://cebuyers.org/advocacy-updates-archives)

Highlights 2023

- **Response for Call for Evidence on the Effectiveness of the Use of Environmental Attribute Certificates in Corporate Climate Targets:** The Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA) submitted a response in a Call for Evidence on the Effectiveness of the Use of Environmental Attribute Certificates in Corporate Climate Targets, issued by Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), highlighting the importance of market certificates, especially energy attribute certificates (EACs), in grid decarbonization and supply chain emissions management.
- **Clean Air Task Force join letter:** CEBA and CEBI signed a Clean Air Task Force letter with 15 other companies, academics, NGOs, and data providers, urging WRI and WBCSD leaders to improve location- and market-based reporting in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol's Scope 2 Guidance and to add new and separate consequential impact accounting and reporting disclosures. As the letter notes, CEBA is confident that including these three elements would best ensure the accuracy, effectiveness, and relevance of an updated Scope 2 Guidance.
- **Call for Modernizing Federal Permitting:** CEBA, representing more than 400 companies and organizations across the United States, in May 2023, released principles calling for Congress to

modernize, appropriately resource, and streamline federal permitting for clean energy and transmission projects without compromising the integrity of the environmental review process.

Main actions taken by Avangrid

Avangrid is a member of the advisory board.

Trade Associations: Misalignment with Paris Agreement

In 2023, Avangrid identified in its climate analysis of material trade associations that American Gas Association is not aligned with Avangrid's climate position. Avangrid recognizes that AGA understands the need for climate action, but the institutions differ in their views on the role of natural gas in the future energy mix. Avangrid has invested heavily in clean energy technologies, while AGA primarily represents the interests of the traditional natural gas industry.

Overall, once a relevant and structural policy position misalignment and its origin have been identified, the company will reinforce the engagement of Avangrid's group representatives in the area where the misalignment has emerged.

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