

# Year in Review – 2025

## Leaders in Energy



**Attendees:** Janine Finnell, Executive Director and President; Bill Brandon, Vice President; and John Gaffigan, Acting Secretary/Treasurer

### **Introduction and Background on LE Mission and Programs<sup>1</sup>**

For over a decade, Leaders in Energy (LE) has been working to help accelerate a clean, green transformation—what we call “The Big Green Shift.” LE began in 2012 as a LinkedIn group and has grown into a global community of people who care deeply about clean energy, sustainability, and building a livable future. We are a diverse, interdisciplinary, and welcoming network that serves as a beacon to inspire and spark collaboration among people from multiple geographic areas, generations, skill sets, and interests.

Around the world, communities are grappling with rising climate impacts. While this past year brought setbacks in climate and clean energy policy at the federal level in the United States, we're confident that the momentum for positive change remains strong among the many. Environmental progress is continuing at the state and local levels in the U.S. and in other countries. Supporting new innovations—from clean energy jobs to circular economy systems and more, at local and global level—remain vital for our collective well-being.

### **The power of community is more important than ever.**

Within our Leaders in Energy community, we know that technology alone won't solve the climate crisis. It's the people behind the innovations who turn vision into action. LE

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<sup>1</sup> Mission and Introduction pulled from 2025 Giving Tuesday message to LE Community.

has focused on the necessary transition to decarbonizing and reducing our ecological footprint—by sharing knowledge, cultivating leadership, building community, and spotlighting solutions that regenerate rather than deplete our world.

Over the years, we have developed programs in numerous areas that serve to highlight and share best practices via:

- Career and workforce programs that open pathways into the green economy;
- Circular economy, green finance, and green technology events and demonstrations;
- The Four Gen Awards to honor sustainability leaders of different ages and disciplines;
- A growing Ambassador Program that connects people in the U.S. and globally seeking to scale and accelerate clean energy and sustainable solutions.

## **2025 Activities**

### **Ambassador Program**

Victor Nwaneri, Program Director of the LE Ambassador program, conducted monthly meetings with the Ambassador Leadership Team. Members share about sustainability innovations in their local areas, benefit from each other's feedback, and learn about best sustainability practices in other regions around the globe. Current efforts include the development of a pilot circular economy project in Bangalore, India focused on repairing/reusing LED lights; sustainability and climate coaching to help cultivate eco-conscious responsive leaders; and sharing on renewable energy projects in Algeria.

### **Orientation Sessions (for intake of volunteers and Ambassadors)**

Several orientation sessions were held during the year to introduce the organization to interested volunteers.

### **Blog Articles**

Articles included:

[Recap of Regeneration-Electrify Everything Event](#), December 11, 2024, By Christy Amada, posted in January 2025).

[Earth Day Reflections: Where Innovation Meets Action in Our Clean Energy Future](#), By Victor Nwaneri, April 22, 2025

[Earth Day: A Personal Meaning](#), by Kaifi Jamil, April 22, 2025

### **Newsletters**

[Earth Day: How We Can Create a Better Future Together... plus upcoming events](#), Earth Day Edition, April 2025

[Support Leaders in Energy on Giving Tuesday \(Share a little of your green to help our green cause\)](#), December 2, 2025

### **Internal Meetings**

--Series of meetings with Bill Brandon exploring sustainable biofuel educational activities/webinars

--Meeting with Carol McCaffrey and Christy Amada on LE Communications and Strategy (August 2025)

-- Fundraising meeting presented by Ashu Jain.

### **LE Leadership Team Members –**

Linda Mansdorf, after many years of dedicated volunteering and leadership, moved on and helped in the selection process for a replacement, Volunteer Director. Peter Ayoola expressed his interest in the position and was selected.

Christy Amada expressed her interest in joining the Leadership Team. She drafted a communications plan for LE.

### **End-of-Year Financial Status –**

See addendum Excel document on LE 2025 Expenses and Income.

Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025 – This was the first time that LE developed and sent out a Giving Tuesday message. A small amount of donations was received, and the message was also helpful in letting our community know about our presence.

### **End-of-Year Summary Report for Posting on LE Website**

These items on 2025 activities will be pulled into an end-of-year summary report as we have done in previous years and posted on our website.

### **Discussion Items for Annual Meeting included:**

Activities for 2026

Exploration of adding new leadership to help infuse organization with new energy

Responsibilities and roles needed for organization and its durability

Finances and fundraising