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# **THE LOW IMPACT HYDROPOWER INSTITUTE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**



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# A Word From Our Leaders

2023 was a year of new beginnings, marked by growth, significant milestones, and strategic initiatives that will position the Low Impact Hydropower Institute to meet the needs of an evolving, climate-focused energy landscape.

One of our primary achievements has been initiating major projects to enhance our organizational framework and outreach. Notably, we began a comprehensive update of our handbook to better integrate Tribal considerations and ensure it reflects our commitment to inclusivity and cultural sensitivity. With feedback from industry stakeholders during the public comment period, we will refine our standards and process further.

Another cornerstone project we embarked upon is defining low impact Pumped Storage by incorporating clear, outcome-oriented, science- and knowledge-based goals for each potential impact area. This project is now in full swing, and we're working diligently with a team of volunteer, multidisciplinary subject matter experts to develop an industry definition for Low Impact Pumped Storage, which is ultimately the first step toward a potential certification program.

In addition, we have agreed on a strategic path to explore international certification with the Hydropower Sustainability Alliance. This joint initiative underscores LIHI's global recognition as experts in environmentally sustainable energy production and the value of our certifications internationally while providing an opportunity to collaborate with partners with complementary strengths and offerings.

Recognizing the need for growth to meet LIHI's evolving role in promoting sustainable hydropower, the board approved the creation of two new positions. These roles specifically aim to expand our educational offerings and increase the value we provide to our certificate holders. We believe these additions will support our mission and drive our strategic objectives forward.

As we continue to build on these foundational projects to meet the global demand for sustainable energy standards, we remain committed to fostering organizational excellence while ensuring conversations on hydropower development include voices from historically marginalized communities.



**Brenda Pracheil,**  
Board Chair



**Shannon Ames,**  
Executive Director



IMAGE: LIHI Project #98 -  
Weybridge Project, Vermont





# GET TO KNOW LIHI

The Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to reduce the impacts of hydropower generation by certifying hydropower projects that have avoided or reduced their environmental impacts pursuant to the Low Impact Hydropower Institute's criteria.

## VISION

We envision a world where hydropower puts people and the environment first.

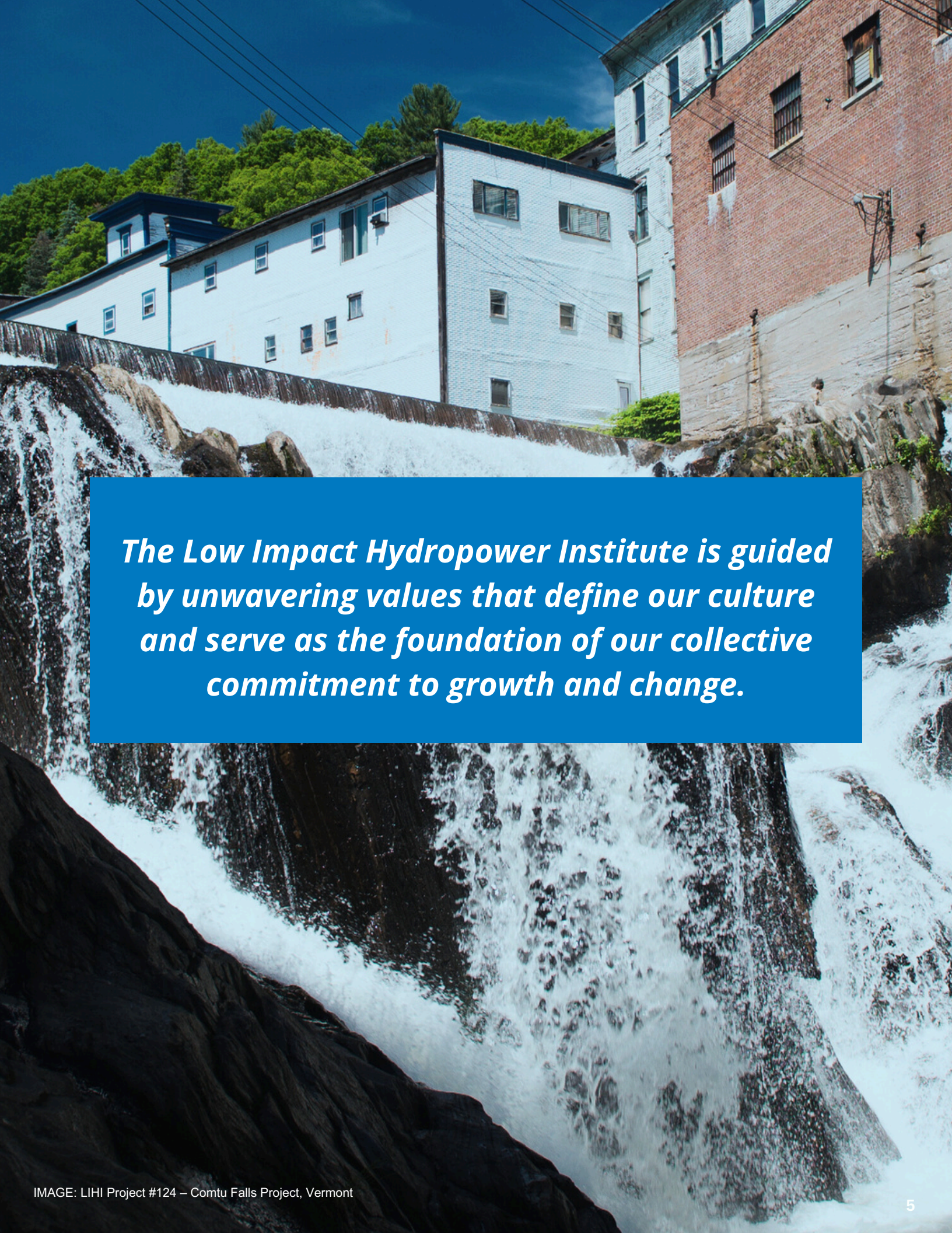
## MISSION

We recognize and support hydropower that prioritizes environmental, recreational, historical, and cultural resource protection.



**319** CERTIFIED FACILITIES





*The Low Impact Hydropower Institute is guided by unwavering values that define our culture and serve as the foundation of our collective commitment to growth and change.*



# LIHI'S

## CORE VALUES

- **Water Stewardship:** Natural flowing waters are essential to healthy life on earth. We strive to protect water's natural, social, and cultural values.
- **Low Impact Hydropower:** Hydropower can operate in a low impact way that ensures ecosystems and human communities can thrive. We support Low Impact hydropower that achieves this goal as a valuable resource in the clean energy transition.
- **Transparency:** Transparency builds trust and fosters accountability. We seek public input and communicate openly and honestly about the considerations underlying our decisions.
- **Integrity:** Inclusivity and consistency lead to higher quality outcomes. We value different viewpoints and approach our decisions with neutrality, devoid of personal interests or external pressures.
- **Data-driven:** Quality information leads to better decisions. To ensure our actions are grounded in science and reason, we rely on data, facts, and evidence, and we evolve if new information calls for change.
- **Collaboration:** Common ground and shared goals are the path to progress. To do this, we encourage kind, open, and candid conversations with all individuals and organizations regardless of affiliation. We value and actively seek diverse perspectives to build mutual understanding and enduring connections.

# CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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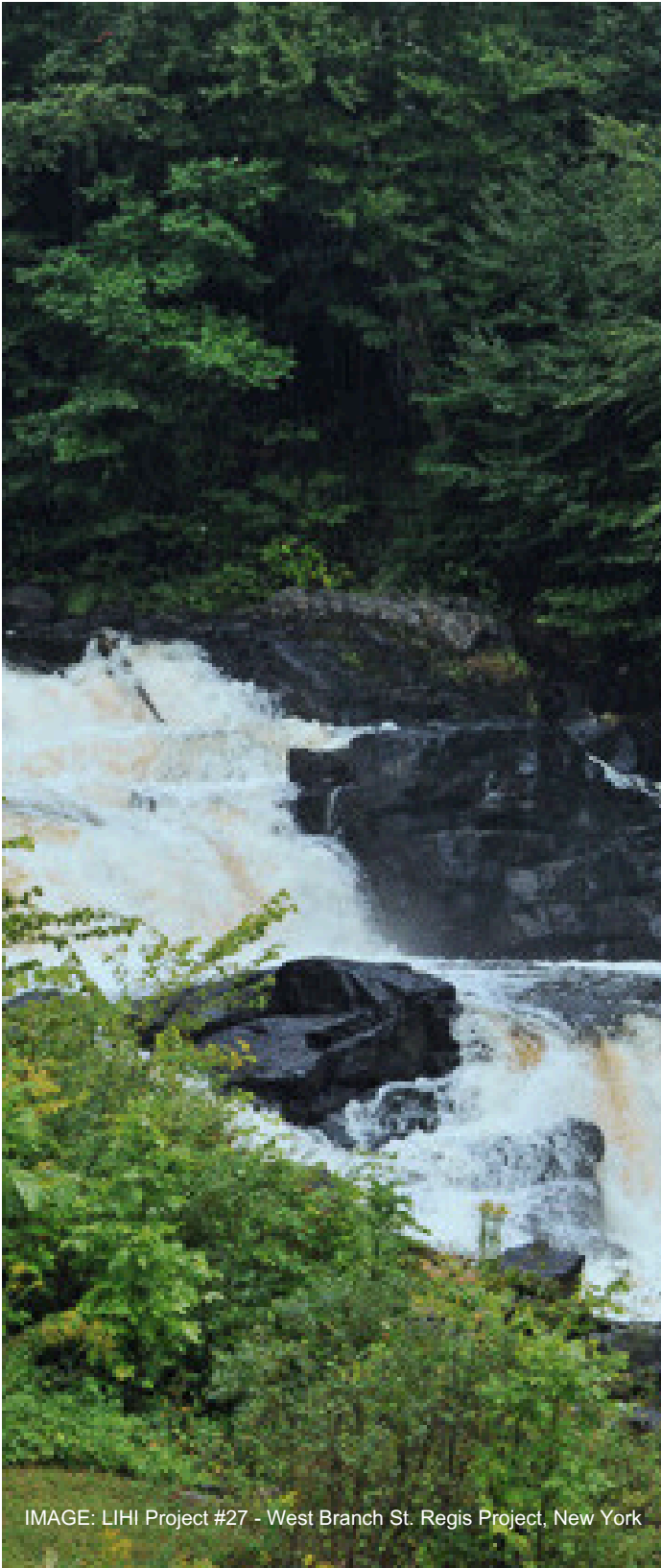


IMAGE: LIHI Project #27 - West Branch St. Regis Project, New York

## WHAT IS LIHI CERTIFICATION?

LIHI Certified® hydropower assures consumers that their hydropower-based electricity has been independently verified as being protective of river habitat and resources, while giving owners access to regulatory and voluntary power markets that can provide a return on their environmental and social investments.

**184** Certificates Active  
in 2023

in **24** states, on **101** rivers, and **13**  
canal systems.

Annually, they supply nearly **4,500**  
**MW** of capacity and **16,700 GWh**  
of electricity.

## CRITERIA & STANDARDS

Applications for Low Impact Certification are evaluated using a consistent, hierarchical set of eight criteria, goals, and standards. All criteria and their respective goals must be satisfied, but the alternative standards are designed to be flexible enough to be applicable to the wide range of conditions that can occur at different hydropower facilities in different river systems.

In 2023, we issued our

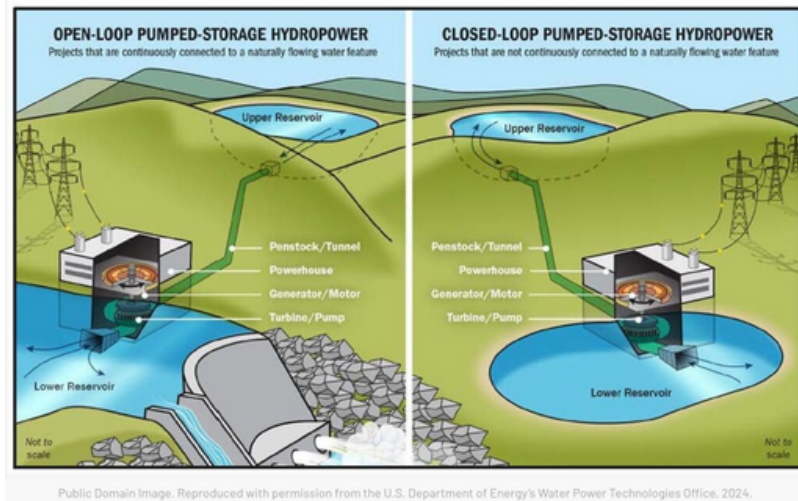
**200th**

Certificate for the small 300-kW  
Monroe Drop project in Oregon,  
owned by Natel Energy.



# PUMPED STORAGE HYDROPOWER PROJECT

Through direct invitation and public solicitation, LIHI has assembled a volunteer, multidisciplinary team of subject matter experts to develop detailed criteria for Low Impact Pumped Storage utilizing dialogue, information sharing, research, and public comment.



Expert domains include water, land, and river science and conservation; tribal knowledge and experience; cultural and historic preservation; environmental and social justice; hydropower policy; energy grids and markets; and project development and operations.

The criteria will be developed over a two-year timeframe through online and in-person meetings and public comment.

Once final, the collective criteria will form a new definition for “low impact pumped storage” that could be used as a framework for new projects and proposals.

The definition would create a foundation for considering the establishment of a Certification program for Low Impact Pumped Storage. Based on the definition and this process, the LIHI Governing Board will make a decision on whether to create a new program. If the decision is to move forward, a proposal will be broadly disseminated for public review and comment, and modified based on feedback, prior to the new program’s implementation.

***The Defining Low Impact Pumped Storage Project is made possible by support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.***

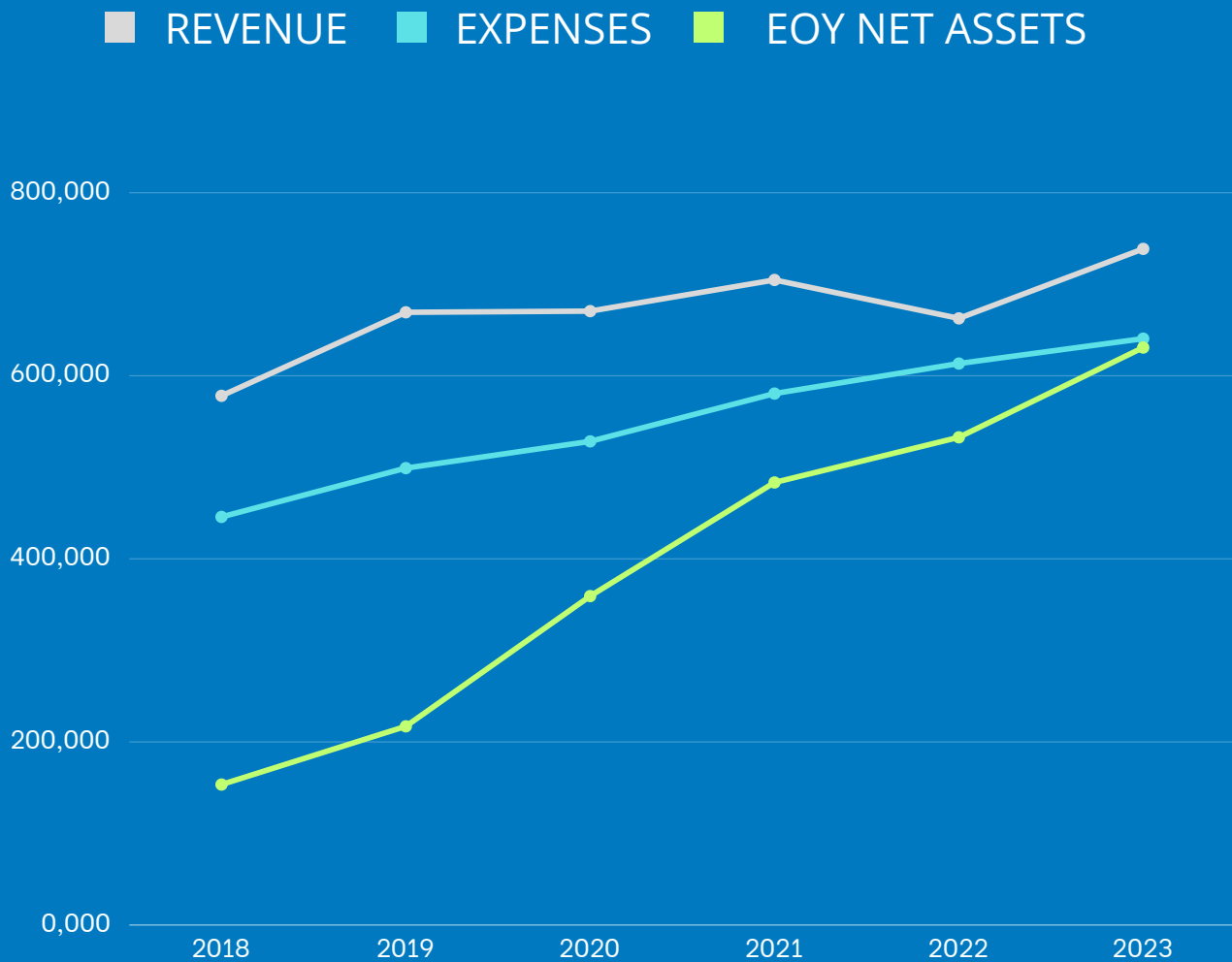


# Financial Overview



IMAGE: LIHI Project #26 Goat Lake

LIHI continues to grow steadily in alignment with the organization's strategic plan. Though expenses increased, revenue grew more, mostly powered by increased annual fee income, donations, interest, and dividends.



# Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31,	2023	2022
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 149,753	\$ 156,450
Accounts receivable	89,340	44,608
Investments	490,682	383,842
Other current assets	3,098	1,756
Total current assets	<u>732,873</u>	<u>586,656</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Website	10,057	10,057
Less accumulated amortization	<u>(10,057)</u>	<u>(10,057)</u>
Total non-current assets	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>732,873</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>586,656</u></b>
<b><u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u></b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,272	\$ 12,919
Accrued expenses	20,579	12,238
Deferred revenue	80,180	28,708
Total current liabilities	<u>102,031</u>	<u>53,865</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b><u>102,031</u></b>	<b><u>53,865</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions	<u>630,842</u>	<u>532,791</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b><u>630,842</u></b>	<b><u>532,791</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>732,873</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>586,656</u></b>



# Statement of Activities

For the years ended December 31,	2023	2022
<b>Revenue and Support</b>		
Annual fee income	\$ 597,781	\$ 554,044
Application fee income	73,554	103,046
Donation income	27,577	14,048
Other income	4,895	5,785
Unrealized and realized gains and (losses)	14,587	(18,272)
Interest and dividend income	20,231	4,065
Total revenue and support	<u>738,625</u>	<u>662,716</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program services	488,109	430,730
General and administrative	142,987	182,636
Fundraising	9,478	-
Total expenses	<u>640,574</u>	<u>613,366</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets from operations</b>	98,051	49,350
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<u>532,791</u>	<u>483,441</u>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 630,842</u>	<u>\$ 532,791</u>

# Governance



Annual Board Meeting 2023

## Governing Board

### **BRENDA PRACHEIL**

Board Chair, Technical Committee,  
Executive Management Committee (Chair)  
Pacific Northwest National Lab, WA

### **JULIE MCNAMARA**

Board Vice-Chair, Policy Committee (Chair),  
Nominations Committee  
Union of Concerned Scientists, MA

### **LISA ZAREK**

Board Treasurer, Finance Committee (Chair)  
Brookfield Renewable (retired), FL

### **RICK GLICK**

Board Secretary, Policy Committee  
Davis Wright Tremaine (retired), OR

### **JULIE GANTENBEIN**

Director, Technical Committee  
Water & Power Law Group, CA

### **T.J. HEIBEL**

Director, Technical Committee  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, DC

### **MARK ZAKUTANSKY**

Director, Technical Committee (Chair)  
Appalachian Mountain Club, PA

### **NATALIE GRIFFITHS**

Director, Technical Committee  
Oak Ridge National Lab, TN

### **DAVE STEINDORF**

Director, Technical Committee  
American Whitewater, CA

### **VICKI TAYLOR**

Director, Executive Management Committee  
Catawba-Wateree Relicensing Coalition, NC

### **KELLY CATLETT**

Director, Policy Committee  
American Rivers, CA

### **NALNEESH GAUR**

Director  
PricewaterhouseCoopers, TX

### **JEN RYAN**

Director, Policy Committee  
MA Department of Fish and Game, MA

### **TED WISE**

Director, Technical Committee  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (retired),  
WaterWatch Oregon, OR

### **MARK BEVELHIMER**

Director, Technical Committee  
Oak Ridge National Lab (retired), Tennessee Citizens  
for Wilderness Planning, TN

## Staff

### **SHANNON AMES**

Executive Director

### **MARYALICE FISCHER**

Certification Program Director

### **SURABHI KARAMBELKAR**

Policy Director

### **WHITNEY STOVALL**

Communications Manager

### **WHITMAN CONSTANTINEAU**

Administrative Manager

# Governance

## Hydropower Industry Advisors

### **ELIZABETH ABLOW**

Seattle City Light, WA

### **SARAH HILL-NELSON**

Bowersock Mills Hydroelectric Project, KS

### **MADELEINE MINEAU**

Essex Hydro, MA

### **DEB MALIN**

Bonneville Power Administration, OR

### **DAN PARKER**

45 North Renewable Energy LLC

### **JON PETRILLO**

Gravity Renewables, RI

### **SANIA RADCLIFFE**

Portland General Electric, OR

### **JOHN RAGONESE**

Great River Hydro, NH

### **STEVE ZURETTI**

Brookfield Renewable Energy Group, MA

### **TODD WYNN**

Hull Street Energy, MD

### **TIM WELCH**

US. Department of Energy (retired), DC

### **KELSEY RUGANI**

Kearns & West, CA

## Executive Advisors

### **RICHARD ROOS-COLLINS**

Water and Power Law Group, CA

### **DAVID YOULEN**

Eagle Creek Renewable Energy, NJ

### **SHAWN SEAMAN**

Power Plant Research Program, MD

### **JACK PALMER**

Kleinschmidt (retired), DE

## Renewable Markets Advisors

### **PHILIP RAPHALS**

Helios Centre, QC

### **JONATHAN BURNSTON**

Karbone, NY

### **JENNIFER MARTIN**

Center for Resource Solutions, CA





IMAGE: LIHI Project #178 - Freedom Falls Project, Maine

[www.lowimpacthydro.org](http://www.lowimpacthydro.org)

[info@lowimpacthydro.org](mailto:info@lowimpacthydro.org)

*All photos are of LIHI certified hydropower plants. LIHI reserves the right to share and distribute images for promotional purposes.*



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