This year, Appalachian Voices celebrates 25 years of bringing people together to defend the region’s communities and rich biodiversity by shepherding a clean energy future for all.

1997 - Appalachian Voices is chartered as a nonprofit one year after the first issue of The Appalachian Voice newspaper is published

1998 - Begin organizing in West Virginia to end mountaintop removal

2002 - Pass the N.C. Clean Smokestacks Act, one of the strongest air pollution laws in the country at the time

2003 - Launch national campaign to end mountaintop removal mining

2006 - Co-found The Alliance for Appalachia and launch iLoveMountains.org

2008 - Expose TVA’s misinformation with our on-the-ground response to the Kingston, Tenn., coal ash disaster

2009 - Win major commitment from the Obama Administration to reduce the permitting of mountaintop removal coal mines

2010 - Win an unprecedented legal case against Kentucky coal mines, documenting 30,000 violations of the Clean Water Act

2012 - Defeat proposal for the largest coal-fired power plant in Virginia

2013 - Launch program to encourage energy efficiency programs at rural electric cooperatives

2014 - Help bring national spotlight to three coal-related disasters: N.C.’s Dan River coal ash spill, W.Va.’s Elk River chemical spill and coal slurry spill

2015 - Launch campaign to fight the fracked-gas Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley pipelines

2016 - Release report detailing innovative cleanup options for 20 abandoned mines in Central Appalachia

2018 - After a five-year effort by AV and partners, an N.C. state agency orders Duke Energy to excavate coal ash stored at six sites

2020 - Defeat Atlantic Coast Pipeline as part of a six-year, multi-organization grassroots effort

• Successfully stop utility shut-offs for struggling families in N.C. and Va. during the Covid-19 pandemic

• Co-launch the National Economic Transition Platform outlining federal priorities for coal-impacted communities, many of which were adopted by the Biden transition team

2021 - President Biden appoints Executive Director Tom Cormons to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council

• Help secure $11.3 billion to clean up Abandoned Mine Lands

• Receive award of $1.5 million for the Appalachian Solar Finance Fund to support solar projects for coal-impacted communities in Appalachia

25 years of Impact