



Impact report: May 2022

Awards: Solutions coverage is recognized with a prestigious prize or award at a state or national level.

AL.com, The Christian Science Monitor, The Dallas Morning News, The Hechinger Report, The Post and Courier, The Seattle Times [April 2022]: A solutions-focused package produced by six news organizations won second place in the education category in the [National Headliner Awards](#), one of the nation's oldest and largest journalism contests. The winning entry included a series of stories that explored where and how schools are making progress in boosting students' reading skills, which suffered during the pandemic. These six news organizations, plus The Fresno Bee, are now working on the fifth package of solutions-focused stories they've jointly produced since March 2021.

The Verge [April 2022]: Sanket Jain's [solutions story on how health care workers in India are using WhatsApp](#) to fight misinformation about public health and COVID-19 is a finalist for international reporting in the Livingston Awards. The Livingston Awards honor the best journalism and storytelling by journalists under the age of 35. The winners will be announced on June 8.

KUNR [October 2021]: KUNR Public Radio in Nevada, in association with Noticiero Móvil and This Is Reno, won a national [2021 Murrow Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) in the small market radio category. KUNR's win recognized bilingual solutions reporting done by Natalie Van Hoozer (a 2021 Solutions Journalism Network [LEDE](#) fellow) about the pandemic and public health. The Murrow Awards are administered by the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA).

Accountability or Institutional Change: Solutions coverage contributes to a change in policy, law or practice.

Global Press Journal [November 2021]: [A Global Press Journal story](#) about how a group of farmers helped save the lives of cattle and reduced air pollution in the process led their city to follow their lead. The story, published in April 2021, explained how farmers in the state of

Chihuahua, Mexico, figured out that leftover stalks and leaves from their corn crops could feed cattle when drought killed the grass they usually consumed. Selling those leftovers rather than burning them (as farmers in that area usually do), also led to a decrease in air pollution. By November, the head of the city of Cuauhtémoc's ecology department announced that the city would stop burning leftover corn stalks and leaves, too, crediting the story as one impetus for the policy change.

Engagement and/or Trust: Solutions coverage leads to increased engagement and/or trust between a community and a newsroom.

IowaWatch [September 2021]: A series of IowaWatch stories on how rural communities survive and thrive received the most reader engagement that Suzanne Behnke, the organization's editor, said she's ever experienced in her two years at the publication. One example: "[How a handful of Iowa towns thrive, rise above rural decline.](#)"

Civil Eats [September 2021]: Solutions stories on regenerative dairies were among the most-read Civil Eats stories in 2021. "[The Nation's First Regenerative Dairy Works with Nature to Heal the Soil — at Scale](#)" and "[Is the Future of Big Dairy Regenerative?](#)" each received more than 15,000 page views, two of the 15 Civil Eats stories that reached that level in that calendar year.

Revenue: News organizations receive income from funders, readers and/or businesses related to solutions journalism projects, beats, sections, events, etc.

Granite State News Collaborative [April 2022]: Since 2019, the Granite State News Collaborative has raised more than \$140,000 for its work, which includes a significant amount of solutions journalism, and several of its major funders have said the group's solutions journalism is one key reason for their support. More than 20 media and educational organizations across New Hampshire are members of the collaborative, which jointly writes stories and convenes community conversations on critical issues. The group's latest project centers on race and equity, with solutions stories focused on refugee education, restorative justice and responses to hate crimes in the state.

Next City [January 2022]: Next City, a nonprofit newsroom in Philadelphia with a strong focus on solutions journalism, generated \$115,000 in reader revenue in 2021, part of a trend of increasing audience support for the publication. Next City puts a priority on its solutions reporting and [highlights it as part of its mission.](#)

Cross-Pollination: Through solutions journalism, a community learns about something happening elsewhere, which sparks significant discussion and/or action.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel [January 2022]: After the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel published a story that explained how [Baby Bonds and 529 accounts](#) were helping people in other states

save money for college, a home and/or retirement, a group of Wisconsin lawmakers proposed a bill that would bring a similar investment savings program to their state.

WHYY/PlanPhilly [fall/winter 2021]: WHYY/PlanPhilly said the Philadelphia City Council had used its stories as the city worked to keep its streets clean. WHYY/PlanPhilly did a series last fall that looked at promising practices in parts of Philadelphia and elsewhere, including providing trash bins for all residents, which [has shown success in Baltimore](#).

Public Discourse/Civic Engagement: Solutions coverage leads to a change in public discourse around specific issues and/or action by community members.

El Colectivo 506 [summer 2021]: El Colectivo 506, a grassroots news organization in Costa Rica, hosted a Zoom call in which rural journalists, national and regional authorities and readers discussed the newsroom's coverage of how communities can better prepare for and prevent climate disasters. As a result, people from different parts of Costa Rica met one another and shared ideas about how national and regional leaders can work together. The richness of the discussion convinced El Colectivo 506 to host more such solutions-oriented conversations.

New solutions initiatives: Newsrooms and other organizations establish new and significant solutions journalism projects.

Bonn Institute [April 2022]: The Bonn Institute, designed to be a hub for making journalism "more solutions-oriented, richer in perspective and increasingly dialogue-based," was launched in Germany in April 2022, led by Ellen Heinrichs, a solutions journalism supporter who formerly worked at Deutsche Welle. Lisa Urlbauer, a former SJN staff member, is training coordinator.

European Journalism Centre [March 2022]: The European Journalism Centre, a journalism support organization in Europe, launched the Solutions Journalism Accelerator in March 2022 in partnership with the Solutions Journalism Network and with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Accelerator will train and support up to 18 European media organizations/consortiums in Germany, France and the United Kingdom that are doing long-term solutions-focused journalism on topics related to sustainable development.