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Energy Security, Innovation & Sustainability Initiative
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Prioritize.

A 100-Day Energy Action Plan

For
the 44th President
of the United States



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As history reveals, great things can be accomplished when Presidents demand solutions to improve our American way of life—Kennedy reaching the moon, Johnson championing civil rights and Reagan ending the Cold War. America needs the Next President to put the full weight of his office behind a 100-day roadmap to develop sustainable energy solutions.

Preamble

The priorities and legacy of a new administration are often defined and judged by the actions that are taken within its first 100 days. The future economic competitiveness, national security, and prosperity of our nation will be determined by how we obtain and use energy, protect our environment and address global climate change.

America's leadership and action in these fields will launch a new era of global prosperity, profound advances in science and technology and an innovation revolution that will create entirely new industries, new jobs and new ways to live and work.

Solutions Must Be Sustainable

America's relationship to our physical world will be fundamentally changed as every citizen becomes a global steward for the protection and sustainability of our shared earth, our oceans and our skies.

Solutions Must Be Global

American productivity and prosperity are inextricably linked to global growth and security. The choices we make as individual Americans and the actions of our leaders in the global arena will determine the pace and scope of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and shaping the course of global climate change.

We sit at the eye of a "perfect storm."

A Shared Commitment

The time to act is now. Despite four decades of emphasis by successive administrations on the need for sustainable and secure sources of energy, little tangible progress has been made. The New President must mobilize the mind and will of our nation to understand this urgency and to act. The New President must call upon every American to share in this great purpose. We must create the path forward to achieve energy security, transformation and sustainability in the 21st century.

Joining the Next President, the leaders of our government and private sector must resolve to work together to tackle the hardest problems, remove the most difficult obstacles and create sustainable energy solutions for America's economic competitiveness.

The Next President must lead, and America must act now upon these top energy and sustainability priorities.

Priorities: 100-Day Energy Action Plan

- The Next President must issue an executive order **mandating that the Federal Government use the procurement process to lead the market toward efficient energy standards for goods and services, as well as in the construction and retrofitting of facilities.** Using its purchasing power, the government can move the marketplace.
- **Immediately develop and utilize all sources of energy in America**—including oil, gas, coal, nuclear, hydro, wind, solar, biofuels, geothermal, laser fusion-fission and other advanced energy sources—and level the playing field on subsidies while creating incentives to discover and deploy new energy sources.
- Throughout history, our government has set aside loans for Americans to afford homes, start small businesses and pursue higher education in order to strengthen and stabilize our nation. Today, **our country requires a \$200 billion national "clean energy" bank** to provide debt financing and drive private investment in the development of sustainable energy solutions and supporting infrastructure.
- From the Great Depression to 9/11, Americans have come together to address threats to our nation's security and prosperity. Today, energy is the biggest national and economic security issue facing our country in generations, and America needs to answer the call again. To ensure the American way of life is preserved, we need to **drastically ramp up investment in research and development, and market commercialization to deliver secure and sustainable energy.**
- Much as computer scientists and aerospace engineers were crucial to winning the space race in the 1960s, we will **win the clean energy race by educating the next generation of science and technology researchers and game-changing innovators**, thereby filling the workforce pipeline with a new generation of skilled talent.
- As with the interstate highway system and the information superhighway, our leaders must **knit together the patchwork of regulations and oversight into a seamlessly connected electrical power highway** that is technologically capable of allowing both on and off ramps for all energy sources.

The Council on Competitiveness launched the Energy Security, Innovation & Sustainability (ESIS) Initiative in July 2007 on the firm belief that the crucial role of private sector demand in driving the way America produces and uses energy has gone largely unrecognized in prior policy initiatives. The ESIS Initiative, which was called for in the Council's 2004 seminal report *Innovate America*, is led by a Steering Committee comprised of 41 chief executives from U.S. industry, academia, government laboratories and organized labor, and has benefitted from the guidance of more than 200 executive-level energy experts.