

A Clean Energy Vision

For 2021 & the 117th Congress

The United States faces a momentous election in 2020. Regardless of the outcome, 2021 will be a pivotal time for the federal government to take steps that increase the deployment of renewable energy, address climate change, and create economic opportunity nationwide. The onset of COVID-19 has brought into sharp relief the need for long-term thinking on workforce development, infrastructure, resilience, equity and economic recovery. The U.S. can address all of these needs by investing in a clean, affordable electricity system.

There is no single policy that will ensure the U.S. achieves a clean energy future. As such, this document outlines a suite of policies, encompassing both executive and legislative actions, that can put us on a path to 100% renewable energy. It is important to note that while a comprehensive federal carbon policy or clean energy standard is a critical component of this agenda, a successful transition to a carbon-free economy will depend on the regulatory changes and infrastructure programs contained in this vision.

To lay the foundation for a strong clean energy economy that prioritizes equity and environmental justice, the solar and wind industries propose the following agenda.



Achieving Clean Energy Goals & Developing Comprehensive Carbon Policy

Legislative Goals

- Federal tax framework that encourages wind & solar deployment, such as a technology-neutral credit based on carbon emissions
- A meaningful federal carbon pricing mechanism
- Federal funding for renewable energy R&D
- Long-term contracting authority for federal civilian departments and agencies to enter into power purchase agreements for renewable energy

Executive Action

- A national target to achieve 100% renewable energy, no later than 2050
- Increased requirements for federal agencies and facilities to procure renewable energy
- Increased renewable energy development on public lands & waters, including offshore wind



Investing in Clean Energy Infrastructure & the Workforce Needed to Build It

Legislative Goals

- Workforce training programs, including those for transitioning servicemembers
- Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for energy storage
- Increased funding for SolarAPP or similar nationwide residential solar permitting reform
- Community solar programs and virtual net metering requirements
- Federal funding for clean energy projects in low-income communities
- Tax incentives for domestic manufacturing of clean energy technologies
- Delegation of DOE's transmission corridor designation authority to FERC
- Powering the electric transportation sector with renewable energy, including tax credits to incentivize investments in charging infrastructure

Executive Action

- FERC engaging in strong interregional transmission reform to ensure long-haul lines get planned and built
- DOE funding for studies aimed at optimizing the electrified transportation sector
- Federal loan programs and guarantees to support domestic manufacturing investments
- Consolidation/streamlining of FERCs' permitting authority for federal transmission projects
- FERC commitment to requiring public policy requirements (e.g., carbon policies) be incorporated into the transmission planning process
- Expediting permitting and environmental review for renewable energy projects



Ensuring Markets are Competitive & Remain Open to Clean Energy

Executive Action

- Remove tariffs on clean energy equipment/component imports, including Section 201 and 301 tariffs.
- FERC enforcement to ensure PURPA compliance is transparent and non-discriminatory
- Directives from FERC for RTOs/ISOs to develop products that value benefits of renewable energy, including resilience, flexibility and ramping
- FERC investigation of RTO/ISO governance and stakeholder processes to ensure market rules are developed with full participation from clean energy
- FERC committed to robust valuation of renewable energy benefits, respecting state decisions on electricity supply, integrating state and regional carbon pricing proposals into organized market rules, and encouraging the expansion of organized markets

Summary of alignment between wind & solar on the agenda for a clean energy future

	WIND INDUSTRY	SOLAR INDUSTRY
Achieving Climate Goals & Developing Comprehensive Carbon Policy		
Technology-neutral tax framework to incentivize clean energy generation	✓	✓
Comprehensive nationwide carbon policy and/or pricing	✓	✓
Increased requirements for federal agencies and facilities to procure clean energy	✓	✓
Long-term contracting authority for federal agencies to enter into PPAs for clean energy	✓	✓
Standalone tax credit for energy storage	✓	✓
Federal funding for clean energy research & development	✓	✓
Increased clean energy deployment on federal lands, including off-shore wind	✓	✓
Investing in Clean Energy Infrastructure & The Workforce Needed to Build It		
Workforce training programs, including those for transitioning servicemembers	✓	✓
Comprehensive trade policy to support long-term demand for clean energy in the U.S.	✓	✓
Increased funding and federal coordination to streamline residential solar permitting		✓
Directives from FERC to RTOs/ISOs to develop products that value clean energy benefits	✓	✓
National community solar programs and virtual net metering requirements		✓
DOE funding for studies to optimize the electrified transportation sector	✓	✓
Federal funding for clean energy projects in low-income communities	✓	✓
Federal programs to support domestic clean energy manufacturing investments	✓	✓
Strengthening of siting & permitting authority for federal transmission projects at FERC	✓	✓
Interregional transmission planning	✓	✓
FERC appointments committed to interregional transmission planning and clean energy valuation	✓	✓
Expediting permitting and environmental review process for clean energy projects	✓	✓
Increased resources for BOEM to process permitting for offshore wind development	✓	✓
Ensuring Electricity Markets are Competitive and Remain Open to Clean Energy		
Technology-neutral tax policies that allow clean energy generation to compete fairly with fossil fuels	✓	✓
Transportation electrification programs, including fuel standards and incentives for charging	✓	✓
Enforcement from FERC to ensure PURPA implementation is transparent and non-discriminatory	✓	✓
Investigation of RTO/ISO stakeholder processes to ensure clean energy participation in market design	✓	✓
FERC appointments committed to state electricity supply authority and expansion of organized markets	✓	✓