

Energy Transformation: Moving Forward Together Summary of Comments - December 5th, 2023

On December 5th, 2023, OurEnergyPolicy hosted a discussion on how partnerships and bipartisanship are critical to an affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy future. Find the audio recording [here](#).

SPEAKERS



Gregory Kallenberg
Director
The Rational Middle



Gretchen Watkins
President
Shell USA



Sangina Wright
Senior Clean Energy
Innovation Advocate
NRDC



Sasha Mackler
Executive Director,
Energy Program
Bipartisan Policy Center

OurEnergyPolicy is a non-partisan organization. The following represents a summary of comments from the panelists.

Key Takeaways

- The Energy Trilemma addresses the simultaneous need for energy to be accessible, affordable, and clean.
- Collaboration between industry, society, government, academia, and advocacy groups are the essential pillars of the energy transformation.
- There is more engagement from both Democrats and Republicans on climate and energy policy.
- Energy security, energy affordability, energy access, and clean energy are the pillars of the energy transformation. Bipartisanship can keep these goals balanced.
- Bipartisan energy policy is essential because it is more durable than partisan policy.

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Collaboration for Durable Energy Policy

- Isolating and focusing on only one component of the energy transformation leads to policies that are not as effective as they could be and far less bipartisan support.
- Collaboration requires trust, an open mind, and a willingness to compromise. Energy leaders should address the energy transformation from a place of humility.
- Examples of bipartisan energy laws include the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Energy Act of 2020, and the CHIPS & Science Act.
- While the IRA was a partisan bill, it had huge non-partisan benefits. Two thirds of the benefits from the BIL and the IRA are going to red states.
- So much focus is put on the final bill in congress and not the process leading to that bill. Committee activity often includes cross-collaboration. For example, with the CHIPS and Science Act, you can track where legislators compromised.
- While taxing greenhouse gas emissions is a major discussion point in environmental policy, making clean energy cheaper is what worked politically.
- The industry and public sectors are becoming more aligned, which signals more opportunities for public-private collaboration.
- Strengthening cross-party coalitions can encourage lawmakers to be more bipartisan.

Equity in the Energy Transformation

- Identifying barriers to participation in energy transformation discussions is essential.
- Community engagement is very intentional. There is diversity both within and between every community impacted by the energy transformation, and it is imperative that we engage with individuals in these communities.
- Words of wisdom from our panelists:
 - a. Keep having conversations with people you would not usually speak with.
 - b. Energy policy needs to be clear and consistent.
 - c. Avoid orthodoxy. Your solution may not always be the only or best solution.