

Working Together for an Inclusive Energy Transformation

Summary of Comments - November 6, 2023

On November 6, 2023, OurEnergyPolicy hosted a discussion on a just clean energy transition. Find the recording [here](#).

SPEAKERS



Gregory Kallenberg
Director
The Rational Middle



Gretchen Watkins
President
Shell USA



Paula Glover
President
Alliance to Save Energy

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

Summary of Key Points

- The clean energy transition will require active participation from all communities, thus requiring an inclusive and equitable approach to succeed.
- Focusing on equity and justice from the beginning will accelerate the clean energy transition because it addresses one of the most difficult components for future programs.
- Government money will not be the primary economic fuel for the clean energy transition. Private investments are critical.
- Policies signal priorities, so legislation that directly addresses equity in the clean energy transition inspires investment from both the public and the private sector.
- Initiatives that invest in minority-owned suppliers and vendors create wealth and resilience.

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A Just Clean Energy Transition

- A just clean energy transition means learning, listening to the communities we serve, and taking action.
- The clean energy transition is a marathon, not a sprint. An equitable transition will take time, but leaders are optimistic.
- Leaders that inspire trust in communities will accelerate progress and community engagement.

Federal and State Policy

- The Biden Administration approved trillions of dollars in investments in workforce development, grid modernization, green banks, and equity.
- Policies that address energy and environmental justice:
 - President Biden's Justice40 Executive Order which demands 40% of energy and environmental benefits from policy initiatives go to disadvantaged communities.
 - The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, aims to promote energy independence while delivering lower energy costs and economic revitalization to communities that have historically been left behind.
 - Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEAP) and weatherization initiatives both aim to address energy affordability in low-income homes.
 - Clean energy credits allow corporations like Shell to invest more in methane capture in agricultural communities.
 - The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established partnerships between businesses and the government for a just clean energy transition.

Public-Private Partnerships

- Films by The Rational Middle illustrate how unusual partners can come together for a powerful outcome.
- Public-private partnerships ensure more effective spending and management.
- When corporations like Shell invest in disadvantaged communities with programs aimed at accelerating supplier diversity, they both create wealth and add resilience to the energy supply chain.
- Shell acts on what customers need and what the world needs in terms of climate change. They will continue to work with whoever is in the White House.