



**THIRD WAY**

# **CLIMATE & CLEAN ENERGY CONVENING**

March 20-22, 2022 | Scottsdale, Arizona





## Reflections

Thank you again for joining us in Arizona in late March. Everyone from the Third Way team deeply appreciated your full participation in the convening. As promised, we've put together a brief review of the discussion, as well as a copy of the agenda, and participants' contact information. We hope that the conversations begun at the Andaz are continuing after you returned to your laptop at home or in the office.

This was Third Way's first convening since the pandemic. It also looked very different in March 2022 than when we originally conceived of it in the Fall of 2021. Above all else, the event reflected a shared feeling of uncertainty. The following bullets summarize our concluding thoughts:

- The Russian invasion of Ukraine has shifted the world's attention and reframed the climate and particularly energy debates to focus more on energy sovereignty, the cost of energy, and ending reliance on petro-dictatorships. While decarbonization remains a top concern of everyone in Arizona, it faces more competition for space in the public dialogue with these other energy worries;
- The urgency around this geopolitical moment is moving people faster than the narrative of environmental concerns and raises the issue over how we should talk about climate;
- Climate is an issue of political economy as much as it is an environmental issue. Several participants emphasized the opportunity to advance climate and energy goals by leaning further into industrial strategy/policy;
- While "Quiet Climate Policy" (discussion and utilization of peripheral venues, such as infrastructure and industry) has been successful legislatively, there was debate among participants as to whether we can come close to net-zero without also using "Loud Climate Policy" (grassroots efforts and large sweeping legislation). This was not resolved during the convening and with the 1.5C target increasingly out of reach, is a debate that is even more urgent to continue today;
- Important questions were raised about how to make clean energy and climate solutions equitable, especially when many fenceline and frontline communities are not included at the policy table and don't have access to jobs in, let alone ownership of, the companies or sectors that are key to decarbonization; and
- Philanthropy, in the way it is thought of today, must expand and make space for a broader set of organizations such as industrial groups and democracy advocates to both inform how funders approach climate policy, and the groups they support.

