



THIRD WAY

# CLIMATE & CLEAN ENERGY CONVENING

February 13-15, 2023 | Scottsdale, Arizona



## Reflections

Thank you again for joining us in Arizona in February. The Third Way Climate and Energy team deeply appreciates your full participation in the convening. As promised, we've put together a brief review of the topics covered as well as participants' contact information. We hope that the conversations begun in Scottsdale are ongoing and that we can continue working together as we tackle this critical moment.

This convening looked very different from the previous one we held in March of 2022. With the passage of historic clean energy investment legislation in the United States and the war continuing in Ukraine, the landscape is very different this year. We captured a handful of themes that recurred across the plenaries and in many of the sidebar conversations, and included them below. We'll also be following up with specifics for each of the working group sessions.

First, we have to win. While this is a moment of great success with even greater potential, we have to make sure that the tax credits, demonstration projects, and other provisions are all put into place before we can claim victory. In order to have legitimacy, communities must first ensure that these projects deliver tangible benefits.

This is an experiment. Unleashing this amount of federal investment will have an enormous impact on the economy. The Biden Administration is attempting to demonstrate that by investing half a trillion federal dollars into clean energy, we can transform the United States into a re-industrialized powerhouse. It is our job to ensure this hypothesis proves true.

In order to build everything we need for a clean energy transition, we must reform the federal permitting process. While it is unlikely that any sort of legislative action on this front will occur in the current Congress, we have to lay the building blocks for the future and reinforce urgency.

Time is of the essence. Not only are we in the race to get to net zero by 2050 but we must also get these federal investments out the door as quickly and as effectively as possible so that communities feel the benefits. We have one chance to implement massive climate legislation; therefore we must use it well to ensure it does not get lost amid political chatter or buried by Republicans as a waste of federal dollars.

As we build out domestic industries, supported by subsidies in the Inflation Reduction Act, we also must take global trade into consideration. Europe is sounding the alarm on certain policies put forth by the IRA. Because we want to maintain relations with allies and collaborate on transatlantic supply chain opportunities, we will have to navigate trade tension carefully.

Voters are mostly motivated by economic issues. Framing the climate and energy conversation around economic opportunity will move the needle further on climate priorities.

Our convening was successful because of you. Thanks to you and your contributions, we were able to begin meaningful conversations around this critical moment. We hope this represents the start of our collective work around implementation. Thank you.

