



BUILDING OUR CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

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Clean Energy Industrial Strategy Convening Key Takeaways March 2024

Third Way's 2024 Clean Energy Industrial Strategy Convening in Arizona brought together a broad coalition of stakeholders in industry, non-profits, philanthropy, and federal and state government. Throughout the convening, the unifying theme was the need to ensure that recent investments from the federal government in clean energy innovation and deployment are effective and durable. Through both the structured and informal conversations we generated new ideas that will help propel us through the next stage of clean energy industrial strategy.

Four primary takeaways emerged:

- Federal policy needs to evolve to move new technologies down the cost curve.
- Ensure sustained access to capital and financial incentives for industry.
- Build up a robust labor force for the deployment of clean technology.
- Adapt communication and messaging to a broader set of audiences.

Innovation

To build on the innovation momentum sparked by the last three years of policy, the federal government needs to act as the primary risk taker for investing in clean technologies. We already have support for new technologies at the federal and state level, but improvement on coordination with the private sector is required to deploy the full suite of technologies.

Access to Capital and Labor

To facilitate coordination with the private sector, the government must catalyze first movers in industry by helping provide better access to capital and supporting a robust labor force. State energy financing institutions are an example of lowering barriers to capital, by waiving the innovation requirement for DOE loans for qualified projects. Project labor agreements can help guarantee an adequate workforce while supporting and coordinating effectively with unions.

Communications and Public Support

Our participants emphasized the need for different messaging to distinct audiences. Public support will be key to ensuring the durability of clean energy in a turbulent political environment. For example, in Michigan, the phrase "energy efficiency" has been highly palatable to a very mixed political constituency, rather than more typical "clean technology" phrasing. An additional portion of protection for the Infrastructure Reduction Act rests on testing the theory of the "Green Spiral". Ideally, the success of the IRA will build its own momentum and public support, paving the way for more climate bills in the near future.

Next Steps

Third Way is organizing its next industrial strategy workshop to discuss transatlantic trade and collaboration with the EU with a focus to address some of the issues identified above. The United States is well on its way to standing up a robust domestic ecosystem of clean energy manufacturing and implementation. However, to maximize progress, the US must coordinate its efforts with international partners.



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