

## Electric Sector Climate Action Roundtable

A roundtable consisting of leaders from the electric utility sector, national environmental organizations, and research organizations focused on climate and energy policy has been meeting since March 2020, to identify an aggressive, workable emission reduction framework for the U.S. electric sector.

The roundtable is aligned around a number of core principles, including:

- The power sector should transition as rapidly as possible to net zero and ultimately zero greenhouse gas emissions, not only to eliminate emissions from power production but also to provide clean energy services for other sectors of the economy, as a critical contribution to achieving net zero GHG emissions across the entire U.S. economy by 2050.
- Decarbonization of the electric power system should be achieved in a way that advances affordability, equity and environmental justice, reliability, and job creation.
- Innovation in all sectors – including the development and deployment of new low- and zero-carbon technologies, as well as new ways of doing business and designing policy – will be needed.
- Well-designed government policies will be needed both to accelerate technology innovation and to ensure deep emission reductions. Policies should encourage the development of a range of technologies in order to preserve multiple options to achieve these reductions. Solutions will vary among regions according to resource availability, existing infrastructure, and other factors.

Guided by these principles, the roundtable members have been exploring areas of potential agreement on policies and actions that can support this transition in the power sector, including:

- Aggressive industry investments in and installation of renewables, storage, transmission and distribution systems, supported by well-designed policies and public and private investment in needed infrastructure.
- Government policies that ensure deep emissions reductions from the power sector, in line with ambitious interim targets, net zero and ultimately zero emissions.
- Significant immediate, sustained increases in federal funding for RDD&D to develop advanced zero-carbon technology options that will enable the achievement of zero emission goals as soon as possible (e.g., hydrogen; carbon capture, storage and use; advanced nuclear; long-duration storage).
- The importance of zero- or near-zero emission, 24/7 dispatchable generation in order to integrate a growing share of renewable generation onto the electric grid, enable electrification, and deliver emissions reductions while maintaining an affordable, reliable electric supply.
- Appropriate conditions to limit emissions from fossil units consistent with the goals of net zero and ultimately zero GHG emissions from the power sector and with ensuring improvements in local air quality particularly in disadvantaged communities.
- Deep reductions in upstream methane emissions related to natural gas production and transmission.

The roundtable hopes to reach final agreement on such issues early in 2021 in order to facilitate the development of federal policy. Members have started a dialogue with leaders in the environmental justice community to better understand and address key priorities in the context of power sector decarbonization. Members of the roundtable are also reaching out to other key stakeholders, including the Edison Electric Institute as well a range of environmental organizations.

The roundtable is co-chaired by Gerry Anderson, Executive Chairman of DTE Energy, and Fred Krupp, President of the Environmental Defense Fund, and includes the following members:

- Armond Cohen, Executive Director, Clean Air Task Force
- Ben Fowke, Chairman, President and CEO, Xcel Energy
- Ernie Moniz, President and CEO, Energy Futures Initiative; former U.S. Secretary of Energy
- Pedro Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International
- Bob Perciasepe, President, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)
- Heather Reams, Executive Director, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES)
- Bill Ritter Jr., former Governor of Colorado
- Jen Morris, CEO, The Nature Conservancy
- Andrew Steer, President and CEO, World Resources Institute
- Pat Vincent-Collawn, Chairman, President and CEO, Public Service Company of New Mexico
- Arshad Mansoor, President and CEO & Mike Howard, former President and CEO, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). *EPRI serves to inform the roundtable by contributing factual, independent scientific and technical input.*