



Repower America

Produce 100% clean electricity from carbon-free sources within 10 years.

We're borrowing money from China to buy oil from the Persian Gulf to burn it in ways that destroy the planet. **Every bit of that's got to change.** —Al Gore, July 17, 2008

Our country faces three fundamental challenges.

- An economic crisis that is impacting all Americans and significantly undermining our global competitiveness.
- A climate crisis which is nearing the tipping point beyond which science tells us we will no longer be able to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change.
- A national security crisis focused on oil-rich regions that is straining our military and threatening our security.

A single thread runs through the core of these crises:

Our dangerous over-reliance on carbon-based fuels.

Focusing on building a new energy economy that will repower America is exactly the way to solve these growing problems.

- The economy requires it. We're relying on fossil fuels subject to huge price spikes and supply interruptions. By investing in this transition we can benefit from change, creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying American jobs that can't be shipped overseas. This is the best way to provide real economic security to American workers and families.
- The planet requires it. The international scientific community agrees that we have only a short time to act in order for the next generation to inherit a healthy planet. We need to level off carbon emissions soon or we run the risk of catastrophic climate impacts. This challenge gives us a response appropriate to the severity of the crisis, responding on the scale scientists say is necessary.
- Our national security requires it. Our troops are already engaged overseas in regions of the world that happen to be rich in oil. And the increasing effects of the climate crisis will only increase our security challenges. The security community has warned about drops in food production, drops in water supply and massive migrations – all as a result of climate change.

We can do this – and we must.

- We have the technology we need, and there are no material constraints.
- When investors see that the new rules will reward energy that does not emit greenhouse gasses, they will flock to these new industries.
- We've done this before. As the technology sector booms, computing power doubles AND prices fall by half every 18 months. This same principle applies to the capabilities of solar power – using the same plentiful silicon found in computer chips.
- If we don't do this, our economy will suffer even further. We'll fall further behind – and the new energy revolution will be led by and owned by other nations.
- Solving these challenges will cost less over 30 years than our continued reliance on dirty fossil fuels. And the money spent on clean energy is an investment in America.
- The initial capital investment will be between \$1.5 and \$3 trillion over 10 years, with the vast majority of this investment coming from the private sector: in other words, we can repower America for less than the cost of the Iraq war to date.

Everyone has a role to play.

- This is a challenge to all Americans – we can only do it if we all do it together.
- In today's politics, bold change is difficult. But we have the ability to create a new political reality in which bold solutions can take hold.
 - *Investors and innovators* must continue to seek out solutions and bring them to market.
 - *Businesses* can lead by example, improving efficiency and supporting policy changes in the right direction.
 - *Individuals* must press their leaders for change. They can make their voices heard by joining the We Campaign at wecansolveit.org.
 - *Political leaders* – at every level – must commit to this goal and pursue policies that will make it a reality.

There are three components of Repower America.

- **Efficiency:** We start with efficiency – that's where the greatest and most immediate gains can be made. We can improve household and commercial building efficiency by 30% with existing technologies.
- **Zero-Carbon Electricity:** We ramp up our already growing wind and solar photovoltaic sectors, and we bring more renewables into the mix – geothermal and solar thermal with storage capability. These technologies already exist.

We retain the existing fossil fuel-free production (nuclear and hydro). If we can capture carbon from coal and gas, then it can still be in the mix. However, the coal industry itself admits that this capture technology is at least a decade away, and we cannot rely on nonexistent technologies. We must act now.

- **Transmission:** We invest in a Unified National Grid, to move cost-effective renewable energy to where it's needed most. The grid must also be smart, allowing homeowners to produce energy and sell it back into the grid when they have a surplus.