



American Solar Energy Society Citizens Action Kickoff Keynote

Daniel Bresette
Environmental and Energy Study Institute

Thursday, June 25, 2020

About EESI...

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NON-PROFIT

Founded in 1984 by bipartisan Congressional caucus as independent (i.e., not federally-funded) non-profit organization



NON-PARTISAN

Source of non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies



DIRECT ASSISTANCE

In addition to full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs



SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES

Focused on win-win solutions to make our energy, buildings, and transportation sectors sustainable, resilient, and more equitable

...About EESI

Top-Rated Nonprofit – 4-Star Charity

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Terrible for Climate ➔


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Hearing Looks at Stricter Public Disclosure Requirements for Oil and Gas

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Financing Climate Mitigation and Resilience: Lessons from Hawaii

Briefings | March 18, 2020
Blogas: Driving the U.S. Circular Economy

Briefings | March 13, 2020
Coastal Resilience in the Southeast

Briefings | February 24, 2020
A Security Threat Profile of Global Climate Change

Briefings | February 20, 2020
2020 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook

White Papers | February 19, 2020
Fact Sheet: Federal Resources for Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change

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BRIEFING WEBCASTS

Live and archived video recordings of public briefings and written summaries



CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS

Bi-weekly newsletter with all you need to know including a legislation tracker



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FACT SHEETS

Timely, objective coverage climate and clean energy topics

A decarbonized, clean energy future: more affordable, accessible, and equitable



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TIME TO ACT IS NOW

We must do better, lead by example, and foster diversity in climate policy



OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT

Everyone must realize benefit; costs must not be unfairly borne by disadvantaged communities



BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

If temperatures keep rising, front-line communities will continue to suffer disproportionately



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We Must Address Racial Inequality and Injustice Before We Can Meet the Challenge of Climate Change

June 3, 2020

The past three months have been very difficult to endure. First, the coronavirus outbreak, exacerbated by a near-total lack of federal initiative and leadership, hit the nation. Whether as a metaphor for climate change action, a lesson on the importance of listening to scientists, or just a case study of how to not manage a crisis, the outbreak was—and remains—tragic and sad.

And now the country is gripped by the frustrated convulsions of protest in the wake of yet another instance of police brutality. Many Americans have taken to the streets in opposition to racist violence to demand—finally, at long last—equality and justice for historically-marginalized communities. Once again, federal leadership is, at best, lacking, oscillating between unhelpful and inflammatory.

To an organization like EESI, which is primarily focused on Congressional education and policies that put us “on a cleaner, more secure and sustainable energy path,” the ties between inequality, injustice, and our ability to address climate change are obvious. In order to achieve an equitable and just transition to a decarbonized, clean energy economy, we need to ensure that marginalized voices are represented in the steps we take to build a sustainable future. The costs of addressing climate change are too great to be borne unfairly by



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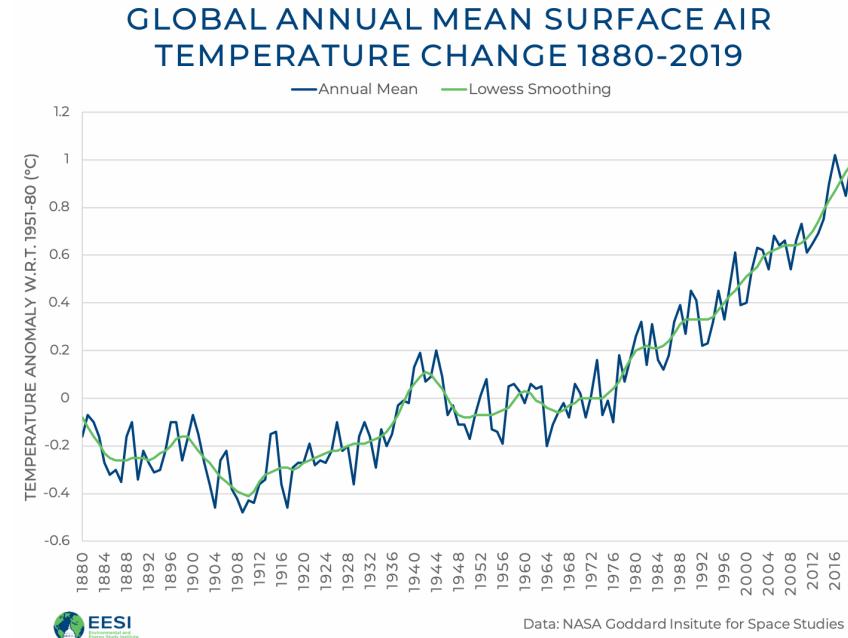
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Tags / Keywords

[Climate Change](#)
[Coronavirus](#)
[Education](#)
[Environment](#)
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Climate Policy Principles...

1. **The urgency of climate change demands near-term actions as longer-term policies are developed and implemented**
 - No time to waste while crafting, enacting, and implementing new climate change policies, there are significant opportunities to:
 - Maximize energy efficiency and deploy renewable energy and storage systems
 - Invest in infrastructure and grid modernization
 - Research, develop, and pilot new technology



...Climate Policy Principles...

1. The urgency of climate change demands near-term actions as longer-term policies are developed and implemented

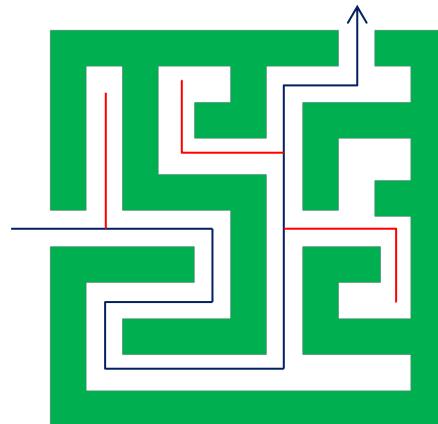
- Many valuable, smaller-scale and -scope proposals could be implemented now with bipartisan support:
 - Building energy codes and incentives for net-zero new construction
 - Private-sector financing to lower energy consumption in federal buildings
 - New technologies incubation and pathways to market



"Tick tock..."

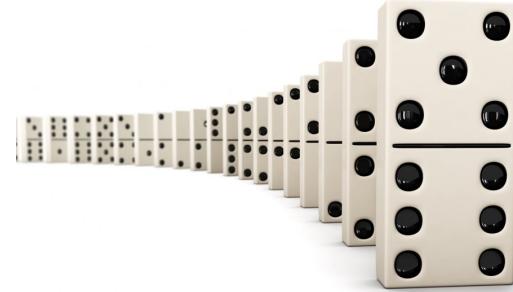
...Climate Policy Principles...

2. **Reducing the risks of and adapting to the frequency, magnitude, and severity of the worst climate change outcomes will require a cohesive, coordinated set of policies that are complex and interconnected**
 - With limited time and resources, worst approach would be haphazard—zigzagging, based on whims and influence of special interests
 - Emissions reductions now will facilitate larger-scale, sector- and economy-wide policies to follow



...Climate Policy Principles...

2. Reducing the risks of and adapting to the frequency, magnitude, and severity of the worst climate change outcomes will require a cohesive, coordinated set of policies that are complex and interconnected
- Staging and progression of policies with optimization in mind is critical to ensure that:
 - Investments reinforce policies and policies incentivize investments
 - Prevent potential conflicts; avoid redundancies
 - Prioritize solutions that advance mitigation and adaptation, such as distributed energy resources and wetland restoration



...Climate Policy Principles...

3. The federal government should recognize and support efforts by state and local governments to reduce GHG emissions and implement measures for climate change adaptation

- Not every available policy is federal—state and local governments must also be part of overall strategy to avoid worst outcomes of climate change:
 - Energy efficiency and renewable energy portfolio standards
 - Financing
 - Education, training, and workforce development



...Climate Policy Principles...

3. The federal government should recognize and support efforts by state and local governments to reduce GHG emissions and implement measures for climate change adaptation

- State and local governments better understand the strengths and needs of their constituents, including those who live in communities:
 - On front lines of drought, extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, and sea level rise
 - That have endured detrimental planning and underinvestment in affordable housing, transportation, and other infrastructure

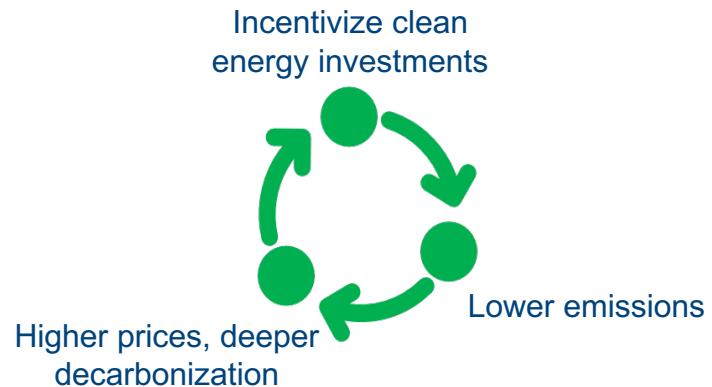


Climate Policy Priorities...

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Cross-cutting policies to transform the economy...starting with the energy sector

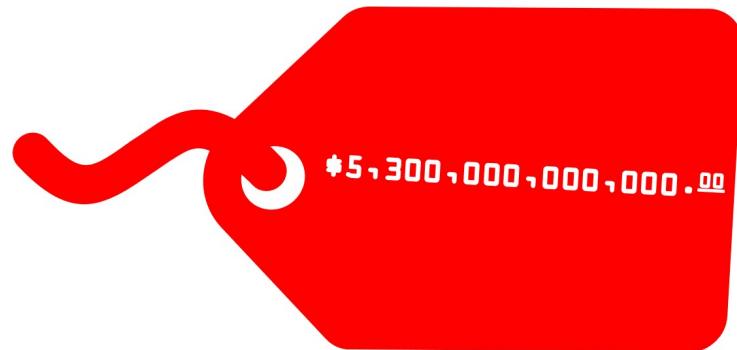
- Carbon pricing must be:
 - Revenue-generating
 - Unburdensome, non-punitive for disadvantaged communities
 - Implemented along with sector-specific incentives to encourage self-reinforcing progress:
- Border tax adjustment to insulate domestic manufacturers of carbon-intensive goods from imports from countries without price on carbon



...Climate Policy Priorities...

Cross-cutting policies to transform the economy...starting with the energy sector

- End to fossil fuel subsidies
 - Reallocate direct subsidies (20% to coal, 80% to natural gas) worth \$20 billion per year to encourage clean energy investment
 - Recognize and internalize full range of costs of fossil fuel use, including externalities and adverse environmental and public health annual impacts totaling up to:



...Climate Policy Priorities...

Sector-specific policies to incentivize and remove barriers to investment

- Transportation
 - Roll back rollback of fuel economy standards
 - Deploy EV charging infrastructure
 - Research aviation propulsion and lower-emitting biofuels



...Climate Policy Priorities...

Sector-specific policies to incentivize and remove barriers to investment

- Electric power
 - Roll back rollbacks of appliance, equipment, and lighting standards
 - Deploy smart grid and rural broadband infrastructure
 - Institute national minimum energy efficiency and renewable energy portfolio standards



...Climate Policy Priorities

Sector-specific policies to incentivize and remove barriers to investment

- Buildings
 - Adopt energy codes for net-zero minimum new construction by 2050
 - Incentivize and provide financing for home retrofits and clean energy installations
 - Train a 21st Century clean energy workforce skilled in improving and managing grid-interactive buildings



Getting Started...



Maximize investments in energy efficiency to optimize rapid clean energy deployment



START WITH FEDERAL BUILDINGS

Implement every cost-effective energy efficiency project in every federal building



LEVERAGE SAVINGS TO DO MORE

Reinvest project savings to install distributed energy resources to improve resilience



SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

Robust project pipeline creates and sustains demand for workers; strong outlook justifies investments in training

...Getting Started...



Acknowledge the scale and scope of the challenge and leverage innovative financing



**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN
FOR CO-OPS**

Zero interest loans are available to rural co-ops through USDA's Rural Utilities Service

SIGN UP + SAVE

There is no upfront cost required to upgrade. Typically, the reduced monthly electric bill + the cost of the system financing is still less



INNOVATE TO LOWER HURDLES

On-bill financing helps overcome split-incentives, improve access to data, and tie together audit and rebate programs



INNOVATE TO ATTRACT CAPITAL

Limited, low-cost public-sector resources can protect against losses, reduce risk for private-sector partners

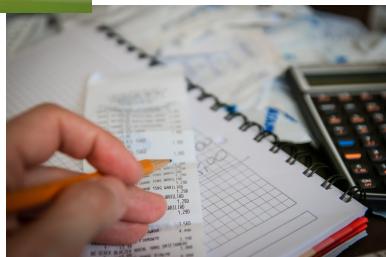


INNOVATE TO MAXIMIZE SAVINGS

On-bill and PACE financing can transfer to later owners and occupants, allowing longer repayment terms

...Getting Started...

Understand and accommodate the non-technical barriers to clean energy deployment



HELP HOMEOWNERS

Lack of information and transparency prevents fair and proper valuation of return-on-investment and savings



HELP SMALL BUSINESSES

Technical assistance promote savings durability—energy costs are not fixed costs—energy use can be managed



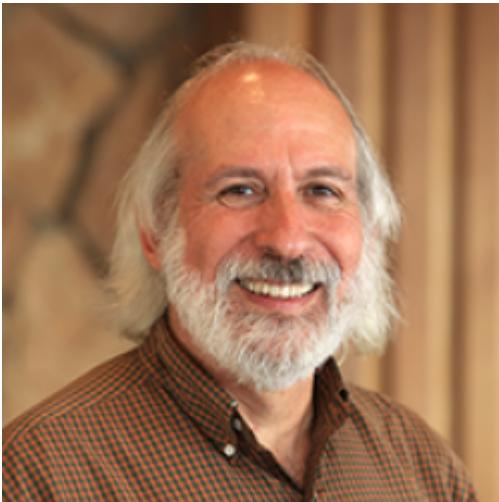
HELP FUTURE OCCUPANTS

Buildings will be in use for several decades—build energy-efficient, build solar-ready, and build EV-ready

...Getting Started



Listen to what Steve is about to say



**NO SPOILERS FOR STEVE'S
PRESENTATION, BUT...**



...HE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THIS...



...AND HAS NUMBERS TO PROVE IT



THANK YOU

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