



## **Achieving 100% Clean Energy: Foundational Principles for Bold Action**

Bold action is needed to mitigate effects of climate change and to achieve the goal of 100% clean energy nationally by 2050, reaching a 50% milestone by 2030. In addition to reducing carbon and other harmful pollutants, clean energy provides economic, public health and societal benefits. As more states, local governments, communities and individuals set aggressive clean energy goals, committed and informed leadership is the key to advancing a shared clean energy vision.

The following foundational principles are a starting point to guide and align our collective efforts to significantly increase energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage and other supporting clean energy technologies. These principles reflect a commitment on the part of all signatories to work collaboratively and with thoughtful intention to ensure the clean energy economy is inclusive, equitable and reflective of the rich diversity of the United States.

These principles are informed, in part, by the inaugural IREC Vision Summit, held March 6, 2019, during which diverse thought leaders working across the country convened to reflect on and develop a shared clean energy vision for the future. The event explored the policies, practices and workforce training necessary to enable more Americans to benefit from clean energy, while also supporting broader climate and equity goals.

### **1. Act with precision and a sense of urgency**

- Lead with vision and intention.
- Adopt more efficient and faster regulatory and policy processes to expedite changes, while ensuring meaningful and inclusive stakeholder participation in the process.
- Remove ambiguity with clearer and more direct policy goals and objectives.
- Increase transparency of reporting on progress toward goals.
- Create policy mechanisms and programs that can be modified more quickly to adapt to changing technologies and markets.

### **2. Pursue a robust and synergistic clean energy deployment strategy**

- Pursue and scale all clean energy options – energy efficiency, large scale and distributed renewables, energy storage, electric vehicles, demand response and smart technologies.
- Collaborate with policymakers, regulators and utilities to integrate clean energy technologies swiftly and remove barriers to adoption, while also increasing grid reliability and resilience.
- Prioritize transparency and data-sharing practices to meet public policy goals, respond to customers, and support innovation and investment.
- Prioritize research, experimentation and innovation to advance new clean energy technologies.
- Enable transportation electrification without increasing carbon intensity by intentionally synchronizing the expansion of transportation and electricity infrastructures.

### **3. Increase clean energy equity, prosperity and access for all**

- Ensure the transition to clean energy contributes to the health, well-being and prosperity of all communities, including those underserved.
- Engage diverse stakeholders to inform equitable clean energy policies and program design.
- Ensure all consumers have the ability to access and benefit from clean energy technologies, educational and training opportunities, and jobs.
- Support community efforts to address resilience and energy democracy objectives, including enhanced local ownership and control.
- Level the playing field to serve vulnerable populations and consumers who are in the weakest position to benefit from clean energy due to existing barriers.
- Pursue inclusive frameworks for financial mechanisms, policy solutions, programs, workforce and educational efforts.

#### **4. Build a diverse, well-trained clean energy workforce**

- Incorporate a long-term vision for workforce development programs to ensure training aligns with future skills needs and available jobs.
- Make job seekers more aware of the range of clean energy jobs and how to prepare for them.
- Build a robust training-to-job pipeline, including navigational tools for workforce and job training efforts to help workers optimize gainful employment potential to support clean energy.
- Partner with allied industries to ensure cross-sectional awareness of clean energy technologies and avoid bottlenecks to scaled deployment.
- Expand clean energy capacities within utilities, regulatory and policy forums.
- Adopt adaptable/flexible training, education and credentials that can keep pace with technological advancement and market trends.
- Ensure clean energy job training and recruitment target a diverse cross-section of the population, including underserved communities.

#### **5. Empower and educate people**

- Make choosing clean energy easy by expanding access to understandable information with available translations.
- Make the benefits tangible, real and impactful.
- Support proactive consumer and community education as part of policy and program design.
- Pursue community-driven, locally relevant strategies that support the broader vision.

#### **6. Embrace thoughtful, creative, collaboration**

- Dismantle silos, identify areas of alignment, and leverage synergies among the various clean energy technologies, trade associations, businesses and organizations.
- Explore more partnerships and non-traditional alliances that create mutually beneficial outcomes.
- Diversify the demographics of the clean energy community and embrace new voices in the conversation.

#### **7. Pursue holistic, outcome-oriented, scalable solutions and approaches**

- Focus less on winners and losers and more on win-win solutions and compromise.
- Nurture constructive debate to develop stronger policies and solutions that are practical, achievable and affordable.
- Encourage policies, rules and programs that combine technologies and resources to optimize their full range of benefits (including jobs and workforce development).
- Standardize best practices and workable models to scale solutions more quickly.

#### **8. Foster market transformation**

- Leverage the financial sector and financial tools to drive clean energy solutions and unlock new market opportunities.
- Enhance market competition and fair market access.
- Revise 20<sup>th</sup> century policies, rules and regulations to be more responsive to 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges.
- Avoid arbitrary capacity limits and size restrictions that curtail the ability to achieve cost-effective solutions and economies of scale.
- Develop and adjust incentives to meet clearly defined policy objectives, versus technology-specific outcomes.
- Adopt “carrots and sticks” proven to motivate behavior to support policy objectives.
- Build demand for investments in clean energy technologies – aggregate capital to bring benefits to all segments of society.
- Consider and adopt revised business models that better align utility, consumer and workforce incentives with clean energy goals.
- Address economic disincentives and split incentives through policy and program design.

Signatories support these principles and consider them critical to achieving 100% clean energy by 2050. They commit to integrating these principles into their work where feasible and collaborating to achieve mutual objectives.

***We invite organizations to sign on to these principles by sending a confirmation email with your organization's logo to [michelleb@irecusa.org](mailto:michelleb@irecusa.org). Individuals are also welcome to sign on.***