Policies in the Age of Climate Change: An Opportunity for Sustainable Energy Technologies

Dr. Julia Nesheiwat U.S. Department of State COP 22 Marrakech, Morocco "Future Cities for Climate Change Targets and SDGs. Urban Agroecology and traditional knowledge" November 11, 2016

Introduction

Climate change can increase the risk of disasters, necessitating the integration of climate and clean energy policy into post-disaster construction to mitigate the risk of future disasters and to provide a more resilient, sustainable, and cost-saving energy system.



Aerial view of the vast destruction of the Indonesian coast caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. UN Photo/E. Schneider

1980-2016 Year-to-Date U.S. Billion-Dollar Disaster Event Count (CPI-Adjusted)

Events are added according to the date on which they ended



Data Source: NOAA, Billion Dollar Weather/Climate Disasters, https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/overview

U.S. 2016 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the 12 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that have impacted the United States between January 1 and September 30, 2016.

Benefits of Rebuilding in a Resilient and Environmentally Safe Way

- Climate change increases the vulnerability of conventional energy systems, and clean reconstruction diminishes its negative impacts.
- Climate change is also the target of environmental and energy regulations through which clean reconstruction can emerge as a strong mitigation tool, especially as world energy demand continues to rise.
- Energy diversity and security. A diverse energy system is more secure and able to overcome challenges of renewable energy intermittency.
- Energy finance and affordability. Compared to fossil fuels, renewable energy is less susceptible to price shocks and fluctuations of energy markets. In many applications, renewable energy is less expensive.

World Energy Consumption, 2009-2040 (quadrillion Btu)



Source: EIA, World Energy Demand and Economic Outlook <u>https://www.eia.gov/forecasts/ieo/pdf/world.pdf</u>

The Goal: "Cleaner" Energy Matrix Energy components of clean reconstruction

Energy Source	Principles
Renewables	Resilient, Clean, Safe, Quick
Nuclear	Reliable, Clean, Safe, Affordable
Hydro	Clean, Safe, Affordable, Quick
Natural Gas	Resilient, Affordable
Coal/Oil	Reliable, Affordable

U.S. EPA Green Engineering definition: The design, commercialization, and use of processes and products, which are feasible and economical while minimizing 1) generation of pollution at the source and 2) risk to human health and the environment.

*Deployment of RE serves as indicator in the PDGR Index (discussed later)

U.S. EPA: http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenengineering/pubs/whats_ge.html

Solar Will Soon Dominate

Over the next 25 years, 68% of new electricity capacity will be renewable



Source: IEAGHG: 2016-IP17; Bloomberg NEO 2016, Bloomberg New Energy Finance

Expansion of Solar



Off-Grid Solar Users

(per millions of households)



The Technology Keeps Getting Better Newer wind turbines are better at catching the breeze



Here Come the Batteries

Electricity storage will come standard with rooftop solar by the 2030s



Electric Cars Go Mainstream

Plug-in vehicles hit the accelerator 40,000 3,000 (TWh) 38,000 Global power generation 2,500 36,000 including EVs 34,000 2,000 32,000 Electricity demand 30,000 1,500 without EVs 28,000 1,000 26,000 24,000 500 22,000 Battery demand from cars 20,000 0 2012 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2012 2015 2030 2035 2020 2025 2040 Europe USA China Japan Row

EVs boost electricity demand by 8%

2040

Source: IEAGHG: 2016-IP17; Bloomberg NEO 2016, Bloomberg New Energy Finance

Falling Cost, Increasing Competitiveness

The Levelised Cost of Electricity from Renewable, Fossil and Nuclear Technologies (2014)



Source: IRENA, Rethinking Energy: Renewable Energy 2015,

http://www.irena.org/rethinking/IRENA%20_REthinking_Energy_2nd_report_2015.pdf

Renewable Energy Investment, 2004-2015 by Region



Source: Bloomberg New Energy Finance

Renewable Power investment by technology (2015-2020)



The Climate Is Still In Trouble



Moving Forward

- 1. Renewable energy technology has become increasingly innovative and price points are improving.
- 2. Governments have begun incorporating clean energy and climate policy into their infrastructure investment.
- 3. There is still work to be done...

Inspiration for the Future: Smart Cities and Eco-Towns



http://www.transsolar.com/content/2-projects/17-masdar-city/cover.jpg

California: Eco-Village



Credit: skidmore owings & merrill

China: Smart City



Credit: Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city Development and Investment

Call to Action

- Can we change our energy usage to address climate change?
- Rebuilding with clean energy in mind will result in resilience and save costs, while helping the environment
- Current eco-town and smart city projects demonstrate the way forward
- The future is now!