Path Forward for 25x’25- Bringing the Vision to Life

Over the past seven years, 25x’25 has built a strong and diverse base of support that now includes nearly 1,000 endorsing partners and a highly respected group of national and state leaders. Our leaders and partners have succeeded in establishing the 25x’25 brand and vision at the national and state level as evidenced by its adoption as a goal by the U.S. Congress and numerous state legislatures. In our next phase of work, 25x’25 will mobilize its leadership and partner networks to reframe energy conversations and build grassroots political support for clean energy solutions from farms, ranches, and forests that will drive economic recovery and development, improve national security and provide invaluable ecosystem services.

25x’25 Mission Statement:

Document, affirm, and advocate to policymakers, energy stakeholders, and information multipliers the fact that America’s working lands can provide 25 percent of the nation’s energy needs from renewable sources while simultaneously:
- producing abundant and affordable food, feed, and fiber;
- strengthening national security;
- reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel;
- sustaining and enhancing soil, water and air quality, and wildlife habitat;
- sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- keeping the cost of energy affordable; and
- boosting the economy and creating millions of new jobs.

Objectives:

- Retain RFS 2; secure long term extensions of tax credits; protect R&D investments; ensure USDA maintains a primary leadership role in renewable energy development.
- Facilitate the development and forge consensus around strategies and action plans to overcome renewable energy barriers.
- Expand and strengthen partner support and advocacy for clean energy policies.
- Serve as a bridge and conduit to natural allies who share our vision.
- Proactively communicate timely facts and counter misinformation on ag and forestry clean energy contributions.
- Enhance the effective functioning of the 25x’25 Alliance.

Areas of Focus:

- The national security, environmental improvement, and economic development benefits of renewable energy solution sets.
- How clean energy from farms, forests, and ranches concurrently provides near term, lower cost, and high quality solutions for reducing the nation’s carbon footprint.
- Farm scale renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies to build grassroots stakeholder and political support for clean energy solutions.
- The benefits of biomass as a carbon negative source of energy.
- Adaptation challenges for U.S. agricultural systems and markets resulting from climate change.

July 2013