National Energy Plan and
Renewable Energy Roadmap Messages

Background
In the Energy Independence and Security Act passed in December 2007, the U.S. Congress formally adopted 25x’25 as a national goal, affirming that it is the goal of the United States to derive 25 percent of its energy use from agricultural, forestry and other renewable resources by 2025. While this is an important milestone on the path to a new energy future for America, national policy makers have not yet crafted a comprehensive, long-term energy plan that will strengthen the economy, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and protect the environment. The upcoming Presidential and Congressional elections provide multiple opportunities for engaging all candidates for public office on the need to develop and pass a comprehensive national energy plan.

Key messages to communicate

- America needs a new energy future.
- Our nation lacks a comprehensive long term national energy plan.
- Energy security is not a partisan issue; it’s a national imperative.
- Policymakers and the next President must come together to develop and pass a comprehensive energy plan—one that will result in a minimum of 25 percent of the nation’s energy coming from renewable sources by the year 2025.
- The renewable energy and energy efficiency components of the plan must be comprehensive and outline a clear path to develop the industry that goes beyond simple extensions of tax credits.
- America’s farmers, ranchers and forest managers have helped our nation meet great challenges in the past and are prepared to do so again.
- 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;
  - sustaining and enhancing soil, water and air quality;
  - sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
  - improving wildlife habitat;
  - strengthening national security;
  - keeping the cost of energy affordable;
  - reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel; and
  - boosting the economy and creating millions of new jobs.
What Must Happen to Achieve the 25x’25 Renewable Energy Target?

Energy efficiency improvements must be the option of first choice in all energy decisions. Agriculture and forestry can play a leadership role in reducing our overall energy demand growth through strong energy efficiency measures, making it easier to meet our renewable energy objective.

Second, we must dramatically increase the production of renewable energy. After efficiency, renewable sources will be the first choice for electricity generation where it is safe, reliable and affordable. We can produce 65 to 86 billion gallons a year of biofuels and generate 800 billion kilowatt-hours a year of electricity. Meeting the 25x'25 goal will further lower the costs of renewable energy so that it is competitive with fossil fuels, and lead to the development of a new array of value-added renewable products.

A third key area of focus is the delivery of renewable energy to markets. The nation must invest in an expanded network of pipelines, rail lines, pumps, ports and other shipping and distribution infrastructure opportunities for renewable fuels. Transmission and distribution systems should be built and better managed. And all renewable electricity producers should gain access to the grid to get power to markets, expanding distributed generation that produces power locally.

Fourth, a renewable energy market must be built by increasing consumer demand for biofuels and renewable electricity—boosting the number of flex-fueled vehicles that can run on either biofuels or gasoline, expanding the number of biofuels pumps to deliver fuel to the customer, simplifying consumer purchase of renewable energy, and creating interstate markets for renewable energy credits.

Fifth, steps must be taken to conserve, protect and enhance natural resources by utilizing practices and systems that maintain or improve soil, water and air quality; conserve water; reduce invasive species; and improve wildlife habitat through the production of biomass.

Finally, funding to develop renewable energy must be increased. A significant private and public investment in renewable energy must be made to enable achievement of the 25x’25 goal.