

Powering the People 2021

ACHIEVING A CARBON FREE ENERGY FUTURE

Key Takeaways (Dialogue #1): Advancing Carbon-Free Energy Solutions for Corporate and Federal Customers

In November 2021, the Institute for Electric Innovation's ***Powering the People 2021: Achieving a Carbon Free Energy Future*** brought together more than 100 industry leaders from electric companies, major customers, environmental organizations, technology companies, regulators, and other stakeholders for two dialogues focused on emerging issues in the electric power sector.

The first dialogue focused on advancing carbon-free energy solutions for corporate and federal customers.

- Andrew Mayock of the White House Council on Environmental Quality provided opening remarks.
- Bob Rowe of Northwestern Energy moderated a discussion with: Steve Kiesner of EEI; Brian Rybarik of Microsoft; and Matt Valle of Florida Power & Light.

Key takeaways are summarized and highlighted below.

[Click Here for the Agenda and Speaker Bios](#)

U.S. electric companies are critical partners in providing carbon-free energy solutions for the federal government to power a vast portfolio of buildings and operations.

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The White House shares how the federal government is making this the decade of action by calling for 100% carbon-free electricity 24/7, funding public-private partnerships to develop and deploy carbon-free technologies, and leveraging \$22 billion in procurement power to build back better.

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EEI discusses the importance of electric industry and federal government coordination to reduce emissions as fast as we can while maintaining affordability and reliability. Electric companies are already investing over \$120 billion annually to make the energy grid cleaner, smarter, and more reliable. It makes sense for the electric industry and the federal government to work together.

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The White House explains how the federal government wants to lead by example and is turning the climate crisis into an economic opportunity by adding real jobs in the build back better plan. This is about scaling and growing.

Delivering 24/7 carbon-free energy to customers at scale requires regulatory innovation, new business models, and strong partnerships among large energy buyers and electric companies.

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Northwestern Energy highlights how the electric industry has exceeded the goals in the proposed Waxman-Markey bill (which didn't pass) and the Clean Power Plan (which was never implemented). Over the past decade, by investing in technology, providing customer choice, and making sincere sustainability commitments, the electric industry exceeded the proposed targets.

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Microsoft summarizes their recently updated corporate sustainability commitments referred to as 100/100/0. By 2025, 100% of energy use will be from renewable energy on an annual basis. By 2030, 100% of energy use 100% of the time will be from carbon-free resources (i.e., on an hourly basis). By 2050, removal of all historic carbon emissions since Microsoft's founding in 1975.

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Florida Power & Light (FPL) shares how national corporate customers helped explain to state regulators why the FPL SolarTogether (1490 MW community solar) program was necessary to meet the corporate customer "need" for clean energy and why it was important to offer the program. The program was recently expanded by 1700 MW.

24/7 carbon-free energy will require an array of technologies.

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As a technology company, Microsoft discusses how technology is allowing them to use the energy grid much more efficiently and expresses their interest in partnering with electric companies on new technologies such as hydrogen backup generation, long duration storage, direct air capture, small module nuclear reactors, and hydro to achieve their 100/100/0 carbon-free energy goals by 2030.

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Moderator Bob Rowe concludes by noting the importance of reliability, affordability, sustainability, and fairness and by recognizing that the electric industry has had a long-standing deep commitment to work with low-income and under-represented communities. Now corporate customers are also focused on environmental justice and equity in relation to their sustainability and energy goals.

Additional Resources

Check out these links below for materials referenced during the dialogue!

- [Microsoft's "Made to measure: Sustainability commitment progress and updates"](#)
- [White House's "Catalyzing America's Clean Energy Industries and Jobs through Federal Sustainability" Executive Order](#)

Check Out the [Key Takeaways Here](#) for "Rethinking Energy Efficiency as a Carbon Resource"

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