



# 10 Things Americans Should Know About Global Warming and Energy

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# 1. There is Less Time Than We Thought

- ▶ Arctic ice-free in summer within 5 years?
  - ▶ Putting pressure on Greenland ice sheet
  - ▶ Species extinction
  - ▶ Ocean chemistry/coral reefs
  - ▶ Wildfires
  - ▶ Destructive storms
  - ▶ Western drought and Mid-western flooding
  - ▶ Human health effects
  - ▶ Tipping points
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## 2. Cities and States Have Led on Energy and Climate

- ▶ 800+ mayors have signed Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
  - ▶ 25 states + DC have renewable electricity standards
  - ▶ 20+ states have funding for energy efficiency
  - ▶ RGGI, WCI, Midwest governors effort
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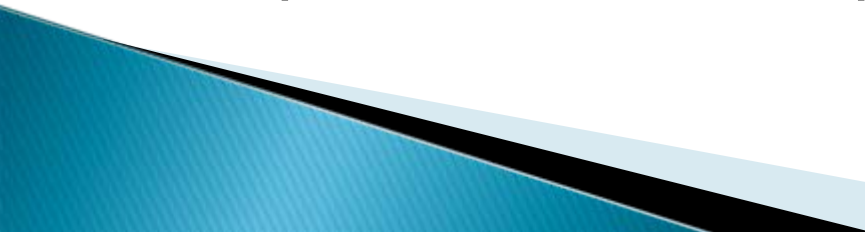
## 2.5. But the Feds Must Step Up on Global Warming

- ▶ Regional disparity of physical and economic impacts
  - ▶ Interstate electric grid and planning
  - ▶ PUC and government ties to utilities
  - ▶ Builder power over energy codes
  - ▶ We simply will not get there without contribution from all states
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# 3. International Negotiations Are Critical

- ▶ The US must lead
  - ▶ The US cannot stem global warming alone
  - ▶ There must be resources for less developed nations
  - ▶ Leverage federal legislation off the need for an international treaty
  - ▶ And vice-versa
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# 4. There is a Method

- ▶ Command and Control – Straight regulation: not politically viable. Companies have been offered candy. Why take castor oil?
  - ▶ Carbon tax – Certainty on cost. Little certainty on attainment of emissions reductions. How many times will you have to set it? American tax phobia.
  - ▶ Cap and Trade – Means hugely different things to different people. Complicated with too many moving parts. Who gets the \$\$, how much are actual coal-based emissions reduced?
  - ▶ Cap and Auction, Cap and Dividend, Cap and ???
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# 5. There Will Be Money

- ▶ Lieberman–Warner: estimated \$6+ trillion over the life of the program (2050)
  - ▶ We must drive efficiency and renewables under a cap
  - ▶ How to effectively allocate
  - ▶ Take care of hardest hit regions and vulnerable communities
  - ▶ Solve political problems
  - ▶ Augment what is accomplished by the cap
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## 6. Buy Down the Cost of the Program with Energy Efficiency

- ▶ Rising gasoline, heating oil, electricity, natural gas prices
  - ▶ Cost IS the issue – safety valve
  - ▶ Target biggest bang for the buck
  - ▶ Performance-based pay-out
  - ▶ If the old barriers don't break, go around them
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# 7. We CAN Do This – But it Will Not Be Easy

- ▶ ASES
  - ▶ McKinsey
  - ▶ T. Boone Pickens
  - ▶ Gore
  - ▶ How quickly can clean energy be ramped up?
  - ▶ How much can we treat this like a war effort?
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# 8. Getting the Right Answer

- ▶ “Pick your poison, coal or nukes”
  - ▶ Cheapest, cleanest, quickest, safest
  - ▶ CCS – Tough to make it cost-effective
  - ▶ What is best for communities and families – not coal companies
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# 9. The Good News

- ▶ Political momentum has been building at an unprecedented rate
  - ▶ Politics beginning to break our way – 1<sup>st</sup> CAFE upgrade in 30 years in 2007
  - ▶ Supreme Court: MA v. EPA changed everything
  - ▶ New Coal Plants: KS defeats Sunflower
  - ▶ Expected Democratic pick-ups in Congress: 4–9 Senate seats; 12–30 House seats
  - ▶ Better White House no matter what happens; will be more responsive to international pressure
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# 10. Enviros Cannot do This Alone

- ▶ Labor
  - ▶ Consumers
  - ▶ Low-income, communities of color
  - ▶ Clean Tech
  - ▶ The answer to global warming is the answer to the energy price and supply crisis as well as American economic renewal
  - ▶ “Survival of the species is everybody’s business.”
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