

## Energy Discussion Series:

### September 18, 2013 Break out Session Feedback

#### Challenges – Technology, Economic (Group 1 Discussion led by JoAnne DeRico)

- Nuclear
- Social Acceptability
  - Education Awareness
- Ease of Adaptability
  - Economic Incentives (greater is less)
  - Adaptable Technologies (grants, tax credits)
- Outdated Technology (size of solar cell VS KW output)
  - I.E. electrical infrastructure has not changed in 100 years
  - Micro Grid VS Current Grid technology
- Variable application to meet economic needs
  - Low technology to be included (low/no cost)
  - I.E. Osram solar panels in India to help enable fisherman to charge batteries and use lamps to fish at night
  - Use of Clorox in bottles as Low tech illumination solution to night lighting challenge in Brazilian area that was without electrical power
- Combination/Variation of Technologies
  - Wave/Tidal
  - Biomass
- Partner Technologies
  - Environmental Aspects
  - Environmental pairing with energy technologies
  - Tools

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#### Public Policy (Group 2 Discussion led by Robin Staszak)

#### **Group 2: Discuss public policy challenges and identify changes needed to enhance energy opportunities.**

- Ideas for how to deal with “losing” policies (policies that are not passed)
  - Let them go immediately or phase them out gradually
  - Buy them out (Can we afford that? How would taxpayers react?)
  - Find a middle ground for incorporating them
    - Ex. – Incorporate the work force through a transition plan (re-training coal workers to work in the natural gas industry)
- Managed phase out vs. free world capitalist
  
- Explored what would happen hypothetically if ALL subsidies were removed in an attempt to level the playing field for different technologies/industries.
  - This would be an interesting way to view technologies/industries in order to begin to benchmark them.
  - We recognize that established industries such as coal and oil are so heavily subsidized by government that it makes it hard for renewables to break into the market
  - Simple evaluation would compare technologies/industries in the following 3 categories:
    - Today’s costs
    - Today’s costs without direct subsidies
    - Today’s costs without direct subsidies and externalities (such as carbon costs)
  - Would such a review make alternatives more appealing?
  
- Does society respond more to Rewards (i.e. incentives) or Pain in the Pocket (i.e. high costs)? What is the breaking point?
  
- Need more education for the average person to truly understand what costs are really involved in technologies/industries
  
- Dr. Stodder states we need “Equal Treatment of Present and Future”. This statement can be applied to public policy.
  - Need to sustain in the short-term while working toward long-term sustainability goals
  - Short term goals include preventing black-outs, displacement by flood, and other protection against physical disasters.
    - Hardening infrastructure
    - Reworking FEMA policy to discourage redevelopment in flood plain
    - Strategic retreat planning