



Section 1: Executive Summary

As the 21st century unfolds, America has an opportunity to chart a new course for its energy future – one that uses our abundant natural renewable energy resources¹ to steer us to new economic opportunities and jobs, more robust national security, and a cleaner, healthier environment. Our nation’s farmers, ranchers and forest landowners have set a bold vision to provide solutions from the land to meet our energy needs. The right policy framework is needed, however, to realize the vision.

The *25x’25 Action Plan: Charting America’s Energy Future*, provides that policy framework and serves as a map for the public and policy makers to use in setting a new course for America. The Action Plan outlines specific steps needed to put our nation on the path to achieve the 25x’25 goal: *By the year 2025, America’s farms, ranches and forests will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States, while continuing to produce safe, abundant and affordable food, feed and fiber.* While energy demand in the United States is projected to increase 24 percent by 2025,² this Action Plan, combined with strong efficiency measures, provides a roadmap for safely, securely, and profitably meeting America’s energy needs. Specifically, the Action Plan calls for supportive policies in each of five areas:

- Increasing production of renewable energy
- Delivering renewable energy to markets
- Expanding renewable energy markets
- Improving energy efficiency and productivity

- Strengthening conservation of natural resources and the environment

A Strong Coalition of Support

In consultation with the more than 400 groups that have endorsed the 25x’25 vision and have collaborated in this process, the 25x’25 Steering Committee has assembled this plan for accelerating the transition to America’s renewable energy future. These 400 groups make up the 25x’25 Alliance, a grassroots coalition of agricultural, forestry, business, labor, environmental and civic organizations working to advance renewable energy solutions from our nation’s farms, ranches and forests and other working lands, and give the plan a very broad base of support. The plan is based on the principles of partnership, commitment, sustainability, efficiency and opportunity. To achieve the 25x’25 vision, the Alliance urges all Americans to join our efforts to:

1. Work with policy makers and the public to establish and sustain commitment to 25x’25 as a national goal, and to establish and fund necessary enabling policies to achieve this goal.
2. Join in an education campaign to build public awareness and develop new partnerships and alliances to carry the vision forward.

A Winning Strategy for America

Producing 25 percent of America’s energy from renewable sources will yield significant economic development, national security, and environmental benefits. Achieving the 25x’25 goal will:

¹ Renewable energy is any naturally occurring, theoretically inexhaustible source of energy, such as biomass, solar, wind, tidal, wave, geothermal and hydroelectric power that is not derived from fossil or nuclear fuel.

² Projections from Annual Energy Outlook. (2007). Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy. Report # DOE/ EIA-0383(2007) Available at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/index.html>.

- Increase farm income by \$180 billion, including \$37 billion in 2025 alone.
- Generate \$700 billion in new economic activity annually.
- Create 4 million to 5 million new jobs.
- Reduce oil consumption by 2.5 million barrels per day – 10 percent of U.S. projected consumption in 2025.
- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 1 billion tons – two-thirds of projected emissions growth by 2025.
- o 800 billion kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity and boosting renewable heating and cooling with \$3.7 billion in new tax incentives.
- Ensure that renewable energy gets from rural areas to urban and suburban consumers by:
 - o Creating an expanded network of pipelines, rail lines, ports and other shipping facilities, and new pipeline and shipping opportunities for renewable fuels and feedstocks.
 - o Building new transmission lines with \$3 billion in new tax incentives and improved planning.
 - o Expanding availability of E85 fuel pumps through \$100 million in new incentives, targeted requirements and analyzing infrastructure needs.

Policy Recommendations

As a first step to put America on the path to a new energy future, 25x'25 is recommending policy makers adopt 35 specific actions, including an investment of only 5 percent of what America spent on imported oil in 2006 for renewable energy programs. These actions correct energy market rules and prices to better achieve the economic development, national security and environmental benefits that renewable energy provides. These recommendations will:

- Increase energy efficiency:
 - o Energy efficiency always should be America's highest-priority energy resource and the energy option of first choice.
- Increase renewable energy production to:
 - o 65 billion to 86 billion gallons per year of biofuel production by providing \$808 million in new funding to expand research, development and deployment; new incentives for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to use agricultural and forestry residues and grow dedicated energy crops for cellulosic biofuels production; and for the new generation of refineries to turn those crops and feedstocks into fuels.
 - o Expanding availability of E85 fuel pumps through \$100 million in new incentives, targeted requirements and analyzing infrastructure needs.
- Expand renewable energy markets by:
 - o Ensuring that 50 percent of registered vehicles in 2012 are flex-fueled through a new "glide path play or pay" annual obligation for automakers.
 - o Increasing consumer purchases of renewable electricity by increasing federal government purchases to 25 percent by 2025 and a new national Renewable Energy Credit trading market.
 - o Advancing renewable heating and cooling and other uses of renewable energy with \$995 million in new funding for government, small business and residential systems.
- Enhance natural resource conservation and energy efficiency to:
 - o Improve soil and water quality and wildlife habitat by establishing a new Residue Management Assistance Program and increasing funding for existing Farm Bill and other conservation programs by \$3.2 billion.
 - o Enable more farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to adopt renewable energy and energy efficiency projects by increasing funding for the Energy Title of the Farm Bill by \$1 billion.



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