

ACCO Climate Leadership Summit

November 8-9, 2010 | Hyattsville, Maryland

Marriott Inn & Conference Center, University of Maryland University College
(The nation's first LEED certified conference center)

ROUNDTABLE NOTES

Track 5: Government

Session 1: Clean Energy Infrastructure

Moderators: Blaine Collison, Steve Frenkel

Takeaways:

EPA would like to see a scale up of clean energy. Stated goals including a minimum of 2MW of power being generated by each Fortune 500 company.

Challenges include:

- How do we convince organizations to spend extra money on energy, which is largely seen as a commodity?
- Do people want to own an energy generating asset even when that's not their core business or remotely related to their core business?
- Utilities want same sales ... competing with companies who can generate energy and want to sell back to the grid.
- Energy in excess of 5MW brings about regulation.
- Utilities fight the idea of being told to develop a certain amount of combined heat and power (cogeneration)
- How do recognize and facilitate conversion of waste to fuel?
- Developing a financial infrastructure and incentives for clean energy (e.g. PACE financing, municipal bond financing, etc.) → many organizations don't have the upfront cash to invest in clean energy projects
- Problem of monetizing the savings and avoided costs ... price on carbon would be helpful.
- Structural barriers to getting new generation online, including concerns of consumer rates going up.
- Current mandate for most utilities to provide low-cost electricity to consumers is in direct conflict.

Next Steps:

Establish working group to focus on:

- Developing case studies on and methodologies for measuring the ROI from clean energy investment
- Addressing concerns with waste-to-energy technologies and helping to move them toward "green" acceptance
- Authoring white papers on developing a financial infrastructure and incentives for clean energy investment