

**Ministerial Roundtable C:  
Strengthening Capacities, Research  
and Technology Development,  
Institutions**

**Thursday, 3 June, 14.30 – 16.30 h**

**Venue: Wasserwerk**

Internationale Konferenz  
für Erneuerbare Energien, Bonn  
International Conference  
for Renewable Energies, Bonn



**KEYNOTE SPEECH**

**David Garman**

**Acting Under Secretary of Energy**

**And**

**Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy**

We are grateful to the Government of Germany for hosting this important conference, and I am pleased to be here among so many friends and colleagues who have worked to advance renewable energy to help meet our national and global energy challenges.

Fossil energy resources are finite. We don't know when fossil fuel production will peak, but we expect it will eventually decline in the face of increasing demands for energy.

We also know that fossil fuel use has resulted in increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. As we have recognized in the Framework Convention on Climate Change, there are limits to the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that can be released into the atmosphere without inviting dangerous human interference with the climate system.

Thus, we live in a world with finite fossil fuel resources and a finite capacity to contend with the emissions resulting from their use. Therefore, we must look to emissions-free primary energy sources, including renewable energy.

The United States is the leading producer and consumer of renewable energy today. According to the International Energy Agency, the United States had over 116 gigawatts of installed renewable energy capacity in 2001. This is greater than the amount of renewable

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energy generation capacity in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom -- *combined*.

Moreover, many breakthrough renewable energy technologies such as solar photovoltaic energy cells were invented in the United States. And we are determined to accomplish much more.

Since its establishment as a National Laboratory in 1991, our National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, has been dedicated to the advancement of renewable energy. Today this lab and its 800 scientists, engineers and policy analysts pursue breakthroughs that increase the efficiency, lower the cost, and address the barriers hindering the deployment of renewable energy.

And lowering the cost of renewable energy is the real key to our success.

To achieve our aspirations, renewable and other clean energy technologies must be more economically competitive to gain wide adoption in the marketplace—particularly in developing nations.

There is a great deal of discussion and thought this week about policy measures and best practices to encourage the deployment of renewable energy resources. Yet at the end of the day, reducing the price to make renewables more cost-competitive will assure their widest possible use.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the United States have submitted five actions for inclusion in the Action Program arising from this conference:

- Four of the actions are specific market cost goals for our Solar PV, biomass, wind, and geothermal research and development programs. These are newly validated goals with very specific program technology plans that describe specific research strategies for achieving the goals. All will be able to see and judge our progress against these goals.

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- The fifth action is an expansion and extension of a renewable energy production tax credit, which has lapsed, and which the President has called upon the U.S. Congress to extend.

Twenty-one months ago in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the World Summit for Sustainable Development, the United States joined the other countries of the world in agreeing to a comprehensive plan to increase access to modern energy services for purposes of economic, social and political development.

The Johannesburg Plan identifies the need for all countries to diversify their energy supplies, including expanding the use of renewable energy.

The United States takes the Johannesburg Plan and its commitments seriously. I am happy to share some of the ways in which we have demonstrated our resolve to increase the use of renewable energy in the United States and around the world:

- President Bush's National Energy Policy Plan is our guidebook in the pursuit of reliable, affordable, more environmentally sound energy for America's future. The President's plan contained 105 recommendations, and it is noteworthy that 54 of those recommendations pertain to energy efficiency or renewable energy.
- Because most aspects of the U.S. retail electricity system are regulated at the state level, many states are adopting renewable portfolio standards requiring fixed percentages of electricity production to come from renewable resources. Thus far, 16 states have adopted renewable portfolio standards or similar instruments, and others are considering them as well. One of the most successful examples of such standards is in Texas, the result of a law signed by then Governor George W. Bush.