

Large-scale renewable generation



Why it's Smart



Bringing wind, solar and geothermal resources on line on a large scale creates significant new sources of clean, renewable domestic energy, reducing global warming and making it cheaper and easier to manage greenhouse gas emissions across our entire energy system.

How to implement

- Extend incentives for production and investment in renewable energy plants to make it easier to finance new projects.
- Set standards for renewable electricity production to provide certainty to the market for clean energy.
- Invest in renewable energy manufacturing and construction work to create new, good paying jobs.

High-voltage transmission grid



Why it's Smart



A smart nationwide transmission system will overcome barriers in the current system and include new renewable energy feeder lines to link up distant resources to a high-voltage "backbone" grid.

How to implement

- Plan our grid development to existing resources and create new systems to get many states and entire regions working together to implement a single national electricity system.
- Coordinate multi-state planning backed by stronger federal authority to build the system that states design together quickly, efficiently and transparently.
- Share the cost of these investments broadly among ratepayers and taxpayers nationwide.
- Provide certainty of cost recovery to bring new private investment into the building of these lines.

Regional smart-grid distribution



Why it's Smart



A smart grid connects digital IT to the management of the electricity grid, creating new opportunities for innovation, businesses, and the smart use of resources. Smart meters on homes create incentives for conservation and allow for real-time pricing that rewards moving demand away from peak hours.

How to implement

- Public investment to ensure ratepayers in a single region do not carry the full cost of building out the smart grid will help states and regions to get projects off the ground.
- Set standards for building the backbone of infrastructure but leave flexibility for innovation and experimentation by a host of businesses and new technologies.
- Encourage innovation through existing pilot projects, expand the work of regional demonstration projects, collect and share information openly, and then stitch these efforts into a national system.

Home efficiency and generation



Why it's Smart



Each building can generate its own energy, manage its electricity demand more efficiently, and empower consumers and businesses to contribute to our national clean energy supply.

How to implement

- Set standards for stronger home energy efficiency, efficient appliances and power demand management.
- Implement state and federal policies for net metering, real-time pricing, and energy building codes, delinking energy production from the profits that utilities make and protecting consumers.
- Offer new financing tools to support weatherization and energy efficiency retrofits.
- Invest in workforce training programs to meet the growing demand for energy services.