



US LEADERS' FORUM



Executive Summary

April 24, 2025

**MOVING US
FORWARD**



How do we move US forward?

The need for united action on climate has never been more essential, and the environment for this challenge has never been tougher. This year's US Leaders' Forum was critical to moving us forward. Our vision for convening is to bring together top decision-makers across the US to cut red tape and drive ambition through partnership. For twenty years, Climate Group has built a powerful network of leaders to catalyze policy action, investment, dealmaking, and innovation.

2025 marked the largest US Leaders' Forum in its history, demonstrating the energy and demand at our nation's core. Despite political and economic complexities, nearly 300 US leaders tackled real-life challenges and designed opportunities for American economic prosperity through energy innovation. Leaders shared strategies for managing volatile environments while sustaining economic growth, with clean energy deployment seen as essential for US progress and global leadership.

Broad, bi-partisan, cross-sectoral collaboration was central to the Forum. Partnership and communication were highlighted as critical for acceleration around implementation, policy, financing, project development and community resilience.

This Summary Report provides an executive overview of the US Leaders' Forum, complemented by in-depth reports on closed-door sessions including transportation, heavy industry, and energy. With climate change affecting nearly every segment of business and government, there has never been a more important time to come together and build bridges of opportunity.

I look forward to working with you through Climate Week NYC in September and COP in November.



Angela Barranco,
Executive Director, Climate Group North America



Key Insights

On April 24, 2025, the US Leaders' Forum in Washington, DC, brought together US executives from government, industry, finance, and civil society to address the most pressing challenges and opportunities for clean energy and climate action.

Our agenda featured dynamic discussions and closed-door off-the-record sessions that explored innovative solutions, strategic collaborations, and policy frameworks aimed at securing America's energy future, enhancing global competitiveness, and driving the transition to a low-carbon economy. The forum emphasized the critical need for collaborative action, effective communication, and strategic leadership to navigate the complexities of the clean energy landscape and ensure a resilient and prosperous future for all Americans.

Collaborative Action for Energy Independence and Resilience

The discussions underscored the critical need for collaborative action to secure America's energy future. Fragmented regulatory environments and uneven transmission infrastructure are significant barriers. Participants emphasized the importance of community-led grid planning, cross-jurisdictional alignment, and regulatory and investment certainty. For example, the session on "Securing America's Energy Future" highlighted the need for smarter procurement, stronger local technical capacity, and inclusive community engagement to build a resilient and equitable energy system capable of meeting the demands from sectors like AI data centers and electrification.

Action Points

- **Finance Reform:** Establish predictable legal frameworks to de-risk clean energy investments, as discussed in the "De-Risking the Clean Energy Transition" session.
- **State and National Demand:** Nurture our Under2 governments, such as New York and Quebec, through cross-border collaboration to pool demand and accelerate clean technology adoption, as emphasized in the "Harnessing Hydropower" session.
- **Local Empowerment:** Launch technical assistance hubs to equip communities with the knowledge needed for resilient energy transitions, as highlighted in the "Opportunities for US Philanthropy" session.



True grid independence is not simply technological; it's political, cultural, and fundamentally human.

Senior Grid Strategist



Innovating Finance and Policy Support for Clean Energy

Participants highlighted the urgent need to stabilize and scale clean energy investments amidst political volatility and economic uncertainty. Adaptive regulatory frameworks, state and local green banks, and innovative financing models are essential to drive the clean energy transition. For instance, the "Scaling Clean Steel" session emphasized the importance of clean power availability and the role of innovations such as Hydrogen Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) and clean iron production in ensuring clean steel can scale sustainably. Additionally, the "Achieving 24/7 CFE" session discussed the need for granular energy data and time- and location-based emissions tracking to optimize operations and credible carbon accounting.

Action Points

- **Investment Pipelines:** Develop pipelines of distributed energy projects and EV charging infrastructure, as discussed in the "Holding the Accelerator" session.
- **Policy Innovation:** Launch open calls for new policy ideas and design regulatory structures that align with clean energy finance strategies, as highlighted in the "De-Risking the Clean Energy Transition" session.
- **Collaboration:** Expand networks like Green Bank 50 and organize cross-sector solution labs.

Effective Communication and Community Engagement

Effective climate communication is crucial for building resilient support across political, generational, and cultural divides. Speakers emphasized the need to shift climate communication away from political figures and technical jargon, and instead elevate trusted, relatable messengers from business, healthcare, agriculture, and frontline communities. The "Communicating Climate Change" session highlighted the importance of authenticity and solution-driven messaging to engage audiences and drive action.

Action Points

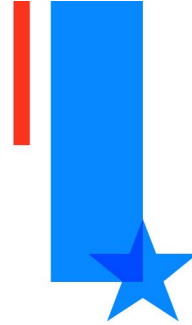
- **Invest in Storytelling:** Fund community-driven climate-health communications through arts and entertainment, as discussed in the "Quantifying Health Impacts" session.
- **Expand Partnerships:** Collaborate with trusted, culturally relevant influencers, especially in Latino communities, as emphasized in the "Communicating Climate Change" session.
- **Business Engagement:** Encourage businesses to frame climate action around risk management, job creation, and economic growth, as highlighted in the "Opportunities for U.S. Philanthropy" session.



The messengers need to look like the communities they are speaking to.

Climate Communications Expert





Strategic Leadership in Global Energy and Trade

The ability of the US to lead on clean energy is being tested by policy uncertainty at home and coordinated action abroad. Leaders explored the evolving relationship between US trade policy and global clean energy competitiveness. The "American Leadership in Global Energy and Trade" session highlighted the role of clean energy exports and infrastructure as key tools of trade and influence. The discussions emphasized the need for support of US industry without undermining economic efficiency or clean energy affordability.

Action Points

- **Industrial Diplomacy:** Adapt strategies to maintain US leadership in clean energy exports and infrastructure, as discussed in the "American Leadership in Global Energy and Trade" session.
- **Targeted Tariffs:** Implement precision tools to support U.S. industry and clean energy affordability, as emphasized in the "American Leadership in Global Energy and Trade" session.
- **Investment Direction:** Provide consistent, credible frameworks for large institutional investors and philanthropic funders to deploy capital into energy infrastructure, as highlighted in the "De-Risking the Clean Energy Transition" session.

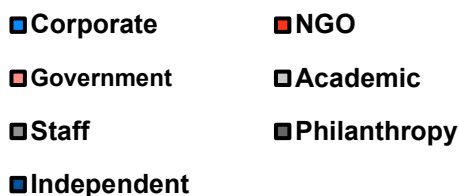
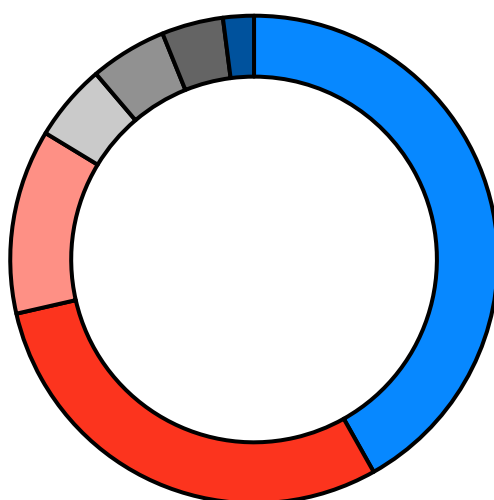


Clean energy is the new industrial diplomacy.

Trade Policy Expert

By the numbers

- **Total attendees:** 275
- **Corporate members:** 49
- **Attendance breakdown**
 - Corporate: 41%
 - NGO: 29%
 - Government: 12%
 - Academic: 5%
 - Staff: 5%
 - Philanthropy: 4%
 - Independent: 2%



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Get in touch to learn more about how
you can partner with Climate Group.

Contact us at:

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