

## **OVERVIEW OF FEDERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **FOR ACCELERATING INNOVATION, RENEWABLE ENERGY, AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

The New England Clean Energy Council ([www.necec.org](http://www.necec.org)) offers the following recommendations to advance innovative clean energy technologies; accelerate development and deployment of energy efficiency resources; and encourage rapid deployment of renewable energy projects.

**Cap-and-Invest Legislation:** We believe this is the single most important policy to swiftly release an explosion of American investment and innovation, creating millions of domestic jobs and providing an urgently needed catalyst for economic growth. We support a program to:

- **Cap emissions, auction allowances and invest a significant portion of the auction proceeds into the energy efficiency and clean energy sectors to reduce the cost to consumers and spur the economic shift to low-carbon technologies**

**Energy Innovation Accelerator Package:** The process of moving promising clean energy technology from the lab to full-scale commercialization is a daunting task that faces well-recognized barriers at each stage of venture creation. The Council offers a set of public-private collaborative initiatives to:

- **Rapidly identify and fund a pipeline of promising technologies and propel them through each stage of development to full-scale commercialization**

**Energy Efficiency Programs:** Energy efficiency is the lowest cost resource to meet consumers' energy needs, reduce carbon emissions, and stimulate economic activity. However, as a nation, we forego hundreds of billions of dollars in savings by dramatically under-investing in energy efficiency as a resource. The council recommends:

- **Cap-and-invest legislation that devotes a significant portion of the auction revenue to energy efficiency**
- **A stand alone Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) that requires utilities to secure 1.5% of their previous year's load through efficiency**

**Renewable Energy Acceleration Programs:** Often, the patchwork of state and federal regulatory rules and agencies governing our nation's renewable energy sector create uncertainty for investors and entrepreneurs, preventing the deployment of proven renewable technologies. To reduce unnecessary delays and ensure a continuing market for renewable energy the Council endorses:

- **A federal Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) that provides long term market certainty and respects existing state RPS standards**
- **Removing procedural barriers with expedited environmental and judicial review for renewable energy projects**

**About the Council:** The New England Clean Energy Council, whose mission is to accelerate New England's clean energy economy, represents a diverse set of stakeholders, including clean energy companies, venture investors, major financial institutions, local universities and colleges, industry associations, area utilities, labor and large commercial end-users. The Council develops and executes a wide array of programs in five key focus areas: Innovation, Growth, Education & Training, Adoption, and Policy.