

American Energy Dominance

In the race for energy security and emissions reductions, the United States must lead. Currently, the likes of Russia and China dominate energy markets and threaten international energy security. To achieve affordable, reliable, and increasingly clean energy for all Americans, we need to employ a robust all-of-the-above approach. Conservatives know this, but we must clearly communicate it to young Americans across the political spectrum.

American energy is clean energy.

 DO'S	 DON'TS	AND NOW SOME CONTEXT
<p>“The world needs American leadership on energy and climate.”</p>	<p>“The United States is lagging behind on climate.”</p>	<p>It’s important to speak in the affirmative when it comes to American climate leadership. Taking a more positive, patriotic tone will appeal to young conservatives audiences.</p>
<p>“We must develop American resources responsibly.”</p>	<p>“We need to mine and drill as much as possible in the U.S.”</p>	<p>While the second statement bears some truth, it’s off-putting to a younger audience even on the right of the center, which sees mining and traditional energy production as an environmental negative. By using more tactful language, you can start a productive conversation.</p>
<p>“American energy should be produced in America.”</p>	<p>“It doesn’t matter where our energy comes from as long as it’s clean.”</p>	<p>American energy is clean energy, and as much as possible, it should be produced in America from start to finish. The U.S. has some of the highest environmental standards in the world. Energy production here is better for people and our planet.</p>
<p>“Our climate approach must be pro-people and pro-America.”</p>	<p>“If we have to sacrifice our economy for our environment, so be it.”</p>	<p>All Americans, including young conservatives, want a balanced approach to environmental and economic issues. Climate action should bolster the economy and make Americans’ lives better.</p>
<p>“Our clean energy future <i>cannot</i> be powered by China.”</p>	<p>“China is a key climate ally.”</p>	<p>Despite dominating critical mineral and clean energy markets, China is certainly not a trustworthy climate actor. Increasing our²dependence on China in the name of clean energy is a mistake. Young conservatives want to see the U.S. compete with China on the world stage.</p>
<p>“A clean energy future and energy security are not mutually exclusive.”</p>	<p>“We can’t afford unreliable energy sources like wind and solar.”</p>	<p>Some conservatives may believe that clean energy is a threat to energy security, but a true all-of-the-above approach ensures affordable, reliable, and increasingly clean energy for all Americans. Wind and solar are also immensely popular, so focusing on criticizing them is unproductive.³</p>

1. <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2019/09/f66/2019%20NETL%20LCA-GHG%20Report.pdf>

2. <https://www.spglobal.com/en/research-insights/featured/special-editorial/china-s-global-reach-grows-behind-critical-minerals>

3. <https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2023/06/28/majorities-of-americans-prioritize-renewable-energy-back-steps-to-address-climate-change/>