

The REIL/REEEP/Yale Roundtable is an example of the type of non-traditional dialogue which is very important in addressing the increasingly complex and urgent environmental and energy challenges facing the world. At the 3rd annual event, held at Sage Hall at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in mid May 2008, 55 international policymakers, investors, financiers, lawyers, and business and thought leaders met to discuss ways to influence politics, spur innovation and investment in new technologies, and formulate policy and legal strategies to support the clean energy market.

Here are some of the points the group agreed on strongly:

- With regard to land use, we need to create the kind of demand for investment that Europe has created in the carbon market but has not yet been created in the forest conservation and ecosystem services markets. The connections between the carbon market, the undervalued resource of water, the renewed interest in investing in conservation forestry as of yet have not been properly fulfilled.
- Coordinated and synergistic policy at all levels and branches of Government is needed to achieve transformational outcomes for decades to come, starting now. Governments and policy makers still live too much in the silo-ed world where their very defined governance responsibilities do not always reflect bigger, broader thinking. To achieve clean energy development and climate change mitigation in a meaningful time frame, it is critical to avoid policy in a vacuum and, rather, to advance policy as an integrated position of vision.
- The convergence of digital and communications technology and energy transmission / delivery infrastructure is essential. Given the electricity grid's increasing strain under greater peak demand, and two-way traffic arising from diverse schemes for the integration of distributed power generation, the DC power debate has been given new life. Views and voices from the communications and digital worlds need standing to inform the solution set so that we give ourselves the best chance of having a truly intelligent grid system. Smart Grid needs an infrastructure that *promotes* renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- It is crucial that bio-fuels continue to be developed as a source of alternative energy. However, it is equally imperative that bio-fuels be developed in such a way that it neither degrades the environment, distorts trade, nor disadvantages developing countries. Due to the fact that the market continues to grow, policymakers need to keep a focus on the design of policy and legislative instruments shaping that market.
- It is important to focus not on ideology but focus on efficacy. Markets are great policy tools: they should be applied broadly but they shouldn't be applied in an idealistic fashion if evidence suggests that there are other means that can be more effective to supplement or complement market solutions.
- We need to link complexity and simplicity. A lot of the conversation on the issues of clean energy and climate change gets very complex very quickly. And if it remains complex, it runs the risk of irrelevance. So how do we link the complex analysis that makes up good science, and policymaking and business, with the simple messaging that makes for good advice or good politics? You need that to effect change.
- Achieving the necessary commitments for China and India going forward will require policy makers in the developed economies to dispel certain misconceived notions that neither China nor India is taking action to address the climate challenge. There needs to be greater consciousness in the developed economies of the myriad policy and legal instruments already deployed in India and China to curb emissions and promote green energy.
- It is urgent to find solutions that can be scaleable, solutions that can be moved forward relatively rapidly, even with existing technology, even before we have any great leaps of innovation.