

CONFERENCE

Clean Energy Innovation

Making the Most of R&D Investments

Identifying and overcoming barriers to clean energy innovation is a critical component to successfully reducing greenhouse gas emissions. History suggests, however, that more R&D spending alone does not necessarily result in successful outcomes. It is equally important to ensure that these resources are spent wisely—directed to the most promising opportunities and nurtured by a supportive policy environment—if they are to achieve the desired innovation outcomes. Yet, with billions in private and public funds at stake, it is remarkable how little we know about how to do so.

This workshop will bring together academic researchers, policymakers, and businesspeople from the U.S. and U.K. for an open dialogue on lessons gleaned from research and practical experiences. Their conversations will provide insight into how to translate research findings into actionable policy and industry approaches that can drive clean energy innovation.

HOSTED BY



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CLEARPATH



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OCTOBER 10, 2018 AGENDA

8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Workshop Overview

Professor Michael Greenstone, Milton Friedman Professor in Economics, the College, and the Harris School, Director, Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)

9:15 a.m. What Works in R&D and Technology Development: A Review of the Evidence

This panel will feature a discussion about the evidence for what works in public R&D funding, questions requiring future research, and recommendations for policymakers.

Panelists: Michael Greenstone, Director, EPIC; Melanie Kenderdine, Principal, Energy Futures Initiative; Steven Koonin, Director, NYU Center for Urban Science and Progress; Daniel Nocera, Patterson Rockwood Professor of Energy, Harvard University; Moderator: Amy Harder, Energy Reporter, Axios

10:30 a.m. COFFEE BREAK

11:00 a.m. International Collaboration in Technology Innovation: What We Know So Far

This panel considers whether and how international collaborations are an effective means of spurring innovation and what challenges lay on the horizon for the practice, particularly in China.

Panelists: Mike Boots, Senior Director, Advocacy and Government Relations, Gates Ventures; Joanna Lewis, Associate Professor, Science, Technology, and International Affairs, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; Robert Rosner, William E. Wrather Distinguished Service Professor in Astronomy & Astrophysics and Physics, University of Chicago; Moderator: Pete Ogden, Vice President, Energy, Climate, & Environment, UN Foundation

12:15 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

1:30 p.m. Rethinking Energy Innovation: Lessons from Other Sectors and Reform Opportunities

Public support for R&D in technology, pharmaceuticals, and defense has led to important—and profitable—innovations in those industries. This panel will explore the lessons that the energy industry can draw from those experiences.

Panelists: Bill Brown, CEO, 8 Rivers Capital and NET Power; Thomas Covert, Assistant Professor, University of Chicago Booth School of Business; Danielle Li, Assistant Professor, Technology, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Strategy Group, MIT Sloan School of Management; Moderator: Rich Powell, Executive Director, ClearPath

2:45 p.m. COFFEE BREAK

3:15 p.m. Commercialization and Bringing Technology to Market at Speed and Scale

Innovations can only be economically transformative if they can make the leap from the lab to the real world. This panel will weigh both the challenges of commercialization and best practices for success.

Panelists: Varun Rai, Associate Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas, Austin; Ellen Williams, Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland, College Park; Johanna Wolfson, Principal, PRIME Coalition; Moderator: Drew Bond, Director of Energy Innovation Programs, American Council For Capital Formation

4:30 p.m. Concluding Remarks

James Connaughton, President and CEO, Nautilus Data Technologies