

Energy efficiency is our "Fifth Fuel" -- EarthRenew CEO Carin tells Reform Institute

WASHINGTON, DC, April 21 /PRNewswire/ - A leading proponent for energy efficiency Christianne Carin said that US must take advantage of the vast pool of readily available and useful energy obtainable through energy efficiency since nearly 60 per cent of the energy used is wasted through inefficiencies.

Speaking at a national energy symposium - Reforming American Energy: Encouraging Innovation, Producing Solutions - convened by The Reform Institute (www.reforminstitute.org) here today, Ms. Carin, founder, chair and chief executive of a private clean tech company, EarthRenew, Inc. (www.earthrenew.com), implored the US to make energy efficiency its top priority.

"Today, the US imports nearly 70 per cent of its oil from foreign and sometimes unstable and unfriendly countries -- and that percentage is growing," she emphasized. "At the same time, industries waste much of our domestic energy sources such as clean burning natural gas, which provides a huge opportunity through implementing energy efficiency programs utilizing innovative technologies currently available. While governments can play a critical role in making the US energy-efficient through incentives and other means, the private sector can also capitalize on utilizing our own fuel efficiently providing the nation with the 'fifth fuel' (coal, nuclear, natural gas and oil comprise the four fuels) for advancing energy independency."

The conference at The Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill has brought together business leaders, industry experts and elected officials to examine private sector investment and innovation in building resilience in America's energy sector. Keynote remarks were delivered by US Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). Clean Skies TV, an online network dedicated to covering energy and the environment (www.cleanskies.tv) is broadcasting the day-long event.

Ms. Carin, who founded privately-held EarthRenew in 1999, offered efficient use of North American-produced natural gas as one immediate solution in manufacturing and heat processing industries.

"By making better use of our domestic resources, we can supply our energy needs and free ourselves from foreign energy sources," she said.

"Industry consumes about 11 quadrillion (a thousand trillion) energy units of natural gas per year for heat and power. For example, almost 8 quadrillion of gas generates only 2.6 quadrillion of electricity after heat, transmission and distribution losses -- a loss of almost 68 per cent. In the manufacturing and heat processing industries alone, by applying energy-efficient, distributed technologies, we can save enough natural gas to displace over 10 per cent of our oil imports.

"We can do this today. Technologies are commercially available now; we just need to incentivize their installation nationwide. Together we can make a difference."

In order to achieve energy self-sufficiency she offered a fourfold approach:

1. We must focus on implementing energy efficient technologies, today, we reduce CO2 (carbon dioxide) emissions and provide immediate cost savings for our businesses with long-lasting benefits for all;
2. Governments at all levels need to show leadership and immediately provide policies that remove barriers and make energy efficiency implementation straightforward nationwide;
3. We need real incentives for energy efficient installations creating viable green jobs; and
4. We must stop wasting domestic energy sources, such as natural gas, to reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy.

The US already produces enough energy to be independent from imports, she concluded.

"All we need to do is stop wasting our resources. We not only save natural resources, reduce waste and protect our environment -- worthy goals in and of themselves -- but we can also create thousands of high-paying jobs and make our industries more competitive on the world scene. This, in turn, would produce even more jobs as it increases demand for North American exports."

About EarthRenew

Founded in 1999, the privately-held company is headquartered in Calgary, Canada and with US operations based in Half Moon Bay and Fresno, CA. The company developed, patented and implemented new clean technologies, which utilize the direct heat from a natural gas turbine in a cooking process, replacing typically used fuel burners. The initial commercialization of these technologies involves the manufacture of a new class of proprietary fertilizers by cooking raw manure, biosolids and green waste that contain concentrated organic matter and nutrients bundled in granules at high temperatures without burning or degrading the content. Additional information may be found at www.earthrenew.com.

About The Reform Institute

The Reform Institute is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit centrist think tank that formulates and advocates solutions-based reform in vital areas of public policy. It provides objective research and analysis in critical areas of public policy, including homeland and national security, energy and environmental progress, economic opportunity and competitiveness, immigration policy, governance and election reform. Additional information may be found at www.reforminstitute.org.

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