DECARBONIZING US INDUSTRY WITH RENEWABLE THERMAL ENERGY

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Industrial heat is crucial for producing the goods society wants and needs. It is also the world's third-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 12.5% of the US total—more than the entire agricultural sector. To address this challenge, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), and David Gardiner and Associates (DGA) brought together a growing group of large industrial energy users and key stakeholders to form the Renewable Thermal Collaborative (RTC), the first global initiative for thermal energy solutions. Founded in 2017, the RTC is poised to build a potent renewable thermal community—and make the most of this game-changing moment for green growth.

AMBITION EQUAL TO THE CHALLENGE

Replicating the success of the renewable electricity market—and WWF's role in launching REBA, the Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance—the RTC will put us on a path to fully decarbonize by 2050, increasing renewable thermal energy use in the industrial sector by 150% in this decade and slashing emissions from industrial heat 30% by 2030.

SUPERCHARGING INDUSTRIAL DECARBONIZATION

THE FOUR IMPLEMENTATION LEVERS

1. VISION

Foster a collective vision among experts, thought leaders, and key stakeholders.

OUTCOME: Greater consensus on how to scale renewable thermal energy in decarbonizing US industry.

2. COMMUNITY

Recruit industrial energy buyers and solution providers; increase RTC member awareness, ownership, and participation; mainstream corporate public disclosure on renewable thermal investments; expand RTC community engagement; and encourage stakeholders to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

OUTCOME: A larger and more active community transforming and scaling renewable thermal energy in the US.

3. ACTION

Build out the plans and partnerships that will drive RTC progress via Technology Action Plans and Partnerships (TAPPs) and Sectoral Action Plans and Partnerships (SAPPs), creating not only a hub for analysis and knowledge sharing, but also the core of a coalition to drive action and educate policymakers.

OUTCOME: Accelerated deployment of renewable thermal technologies in the US.

4. POLICY

Identify promising policy options through research and analysis, use results to educate the RTC community and policymakers on the state of renewable thermal energy policy, and create a database of current and nationally proposed policies to help companies and policymakers grasp the most promising policy tools to accelerate progress.

OUTCOME: Adoption of federal and state policies that help scale renewable thermal energy solutions.

The RTC will build the renewable thermal community by recruiting 100 new corporate energy buyers and at least 30 solution providers to spur systems change, mobilize communities for action, support 35 renewable thermal projects, and develop and catalyze policy to unleash solutions at scale.

A PEOPLE-CENTRIC APPROACH

To successfully drive a renewable thermal energy transition that works for people, the RTC will:

LISTEN by building bridges to better understand needs, concerns, interests, insights, and expertise of key stakeholders, including workers in transition, environmental justice advocates, and disability inclusion advocates.

LEARN about the impact on workers, environmental justice, and people with disabilities and how to increase and share the benefits of the renewable thermal transition.

ACT to better incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility best practices into renewable thermal energy work as a cornerstone of the renewable thermal transition's success. For the RTC, this means providing training and resources for members and helping them implement best practices during pilot projects.

ADVOCATE through policymaker education on a just and inclusive thermal transition, and work with experts and stakeholders to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into policy recommendations.

WHY THIS COLLABORATIVE?

THE STRONG CORE OF THE RTC

- WWF: Brand awareness and experience in developing corporate platforms to drive system change
- C2ES: Extensive expertise and network of industrial companies
- DGA: In-depth knowledge of renewable thermal technology and policies

HOW YOU CAN HELP

WITH $1M OVER 2 YEARS

- Engage 30 new industrial energy buyers and 10 solutions providers
- Develop and implement 3 TAPPs and catalyze 2 new projects
- Start to generate policy support with a focus on the federal level
- Accelerate momentum and action among leading companies

WITH $5M OVER 3 YEARS

- Develop and socialize a collective vision
- Engage 50 new industrial energy buyers and 20 solutions providers
- Develop and implement 4 TAPPs, 2 SAPPs and catalyze 15 new projects
- Generate policy support on the federal level and in key states
- Create a race to the top among industrial energy users

WITH $10M OVER 5 YEARS

- Develop and socialize a collective vision
- Engage 100 new industrial energy buyers and 35 solutions providers
- Develop and implement all 6 TAPPs, 5 SAPPs and catalyze 35 new projects
- Generate full federal and state policy support
- Generate systemic transformation to fully decarbonize industrial process heat by 2050