

## **Obama's clean energy vision for the future**

In his State of the Union address, US President Barack Obama has laid out an agenda focusing on the economic pain felt by America's middle class. He says that means dedicating government to measures that put Americans to work and lay the foundation for a stronger national economy – including driving the creation of the next generation of clean energy jobs. In his address, Obama makes clear there is a busy agenda ahead for his second year in office, with a vision that includes investments in important technologies to diversify US energy sources and reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil, including the renewal of the US nuclear energy industry after a 30-year hiatus, developing cutting edge biofuel and clean coal technologies, and additional offshore oil and gas drilling. To fully transition to a clean energy economy and create millions of new American jobs, Obama says the US must pass comprehensive energy and climate legislation to promote energy independence and address climate change. "We should put more Americans to work building clean energy facilities – and give rebates to Americans who make their homes more energy-efficient, which supports clean energy jobs," he says. Obama says countries like China, Germany and India are rebuilding their infrastructure to make "serious investments in clean energy because they want those jobs" and that the US needs to encourage American innovation to build on investment in research funding. "No area is more ripe for such innovation than energy. But to create more of these clean energy jobs, we need more production, more efficiency, more incentives. And that means building a new generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants in this country. It means making tough decisions about opening new offshore areas for oil and gas development. It means continued investment in advanced biofuels and clean coal technologies," Obama says. "And, yes, it means passing a comprehensive energy and climate bill with incentives that will finally make clean energy the profitable kind of energy in America." Obama urges the Senate to pass an energy and climate bill soon, noting that "this year, I am eager to help advance the bipartisan effort in the Senate".

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