

# Accept Gore's Challenge – Repower America!

***“America must commit to producing 100 percent of our electricity from renewable energy and other clean sources within 10 years.”***

***– Al Gore, July 17, 2008***

That is Al Gore's challenge to us: get America off oil and coal, and in 10 years produce 100% of our electricity from clean, cheap, renewable energy sources.

***Today we can make 100% clean, cheap, renewable electricity in 10 years possible by writing that goal into the Senator Obama's energy platform.  
He's given us a great chance to be heard – let's use it.***

A lot of politicians haven't got the guts to take on such a big goal and call for such a big change. Al Gore does, and so does Barack Obama. We just need to make it clear that this is the energy platform we want for our next President, and that we'll back Barack up if he takes on the challenge.

Now may be our last chance to make a big change before the planet suffers irreparable damage. And changing to clean, renewable energy helps address three of our most pressing issues: national security, economic problems, and climate change. We don't have time for incremental progress, and can't waste any more time on Republican gimmicks like drilling and baby-step solutions.

**But, is it possible?** Sure – if we are willing to think beyond the conventional wisdom, and not be dissuaded by the naysayers. Instead we need to practice just the kind of “Yes we can” thinking that helped us get Barack nominated in the first place. Just like the Apollo project did decades ago with space travel, we can turn the energy status quo on its head -- if we can just take the first, bold step.

- The energy in sunlight striking the earth for 40 minutes is equivalent to global energy consumption for a year. If we converted only 2.5% of the solar energy hitting the Southwestern U.S. to electricity, we could match the energy consumption of the whole country in 2006.<sup>1</sup>
- We are also blessed with plenty of wind energy – we could generate more than 5 times the electricity we need with wind. North Dakota wind alone could provide over one-third of our entire country's electricity demand.<sup>2</sup>
- Leading scientists think it can be done, if we make the commitment. Dr. James Hansen, Director, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies said: "This is just what the doctor ordered -- to cure our carbon addiction and stimulate the economy. It would be the turning point that is needed to lead the world to a stable climate."<sup>3</sup>
- Jonathan Lash, President, World Resources Institute said of the challenge: “America has led every major technological shift in the last 100 years, and we can lead the next one as well. The problem is not technology, it is political will.”<sup>4</sup>
- Even John McCain says Gore's challenge is possible: “If the vice president says it's doable, I believe it's doable.”<sup>5</sup>

Barack already has a strong energy platform. He has a plan for green jobs, ending our dependence on foreign oil, and using cheap, clean, renewable energy sources. But we need to tell him we're ready to make the full commitment and get there in 10 years – and that we'll be behind him 100% when he takes that bold step. It's a big, ambitious goal that's easy to understand, and can galvanize the country. It won't be easy – but we can do it.

**Will you accept Al Gore's challenge and include, in the Democratic Platform, a commitment to get 100% of our electricity from clean, cheap, renewable energy sources in 10 years?**

<sup>1</sup> “A Solar Grand Plan,” Scientific American, December 2007; <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=a-solar-grand-plan>

<sup>2</sup> “Harnessing the wind,” *Stanford Report*, May 21, 2003; <http://news-service.stanford.edu/news/2003/may21/wind-521.html>

<sup>3</sup> “What people are saying,” We Can Solve the Climate Crisis; <http://www.wecansolveit.org/content/pages/303/>

<sup>4</sup> “What people are saying,” We Can Solve the Climate Crisis; <http://www.wecansolveit.org/content/pages/303/>

<sup>5</sup> “What people are saying,” We Can Solve the Climate Crisis; <http://www.wecansolveit.org/content/pages/303/>