

Heather Zichal

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Energy Overview. Heather Zichal shares insights on the current state of energy, climate, and environmental policy. Looking at all sources of energy—corn, coal, natural gas, fossil fuels, and renewables—she outlines where we are in terms of energy independence and how that affects the country as a whole. With the U.S. now the largest producer of natural gas, companies are reshoring previously lost jobs. Calling that the “greatest change in a generation,” this job migration is creating both opportunities and challenges in terms of our energy policy. Zichal addresses the politics of various sources (notably, corn, coal and hydraulic fracking), the best ways to message about energy, the appropriate levels of biofuels in our nation’s energy portfolio, and whether we have the tools we need to move toward clean energy and create jobs.

Increased energy efficiency is also a large concern, as well as the environmental impact. Zichal looks at the effects of energy on climate change; how energy and pollution regulations affect the environment, our ability to become energy independent, and businesses; and what kinds of infrastructure and investments are needed in order to pursue our desired energy policies. Unique in her expertise, Zichal also addresses how she and President Obama balanced their energy goals with what had a real political chance of passing in Congress and looks at how to build consensus around a controversial issue. The top advisor on energy and climate and environmental issues, Heather Zichal offers audiences a rare, illuminating glimpse into the complex world of energy policy.