

# The Net-Negative CO<sub>2</sub> Baseload Power Initiative

### Addressing Climate Change Concerns

Protecting the Baseload Power Infrastructure

### Securing the Economic Future of Coal Communities

American Coal Council March 2, 2022 Steven E. Winberg

## **Net-Negative CO<sub>2</sub> Baseload Generation Technology**

- Established in June, 2021 as a 501(c)(6)
- The Team





Steve Winberg Chairman & CEO

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- Our Sponsors
  - CONSOL Energy
  - Peabody
  - PFBC-EET

# Situation Assessment

The Facts

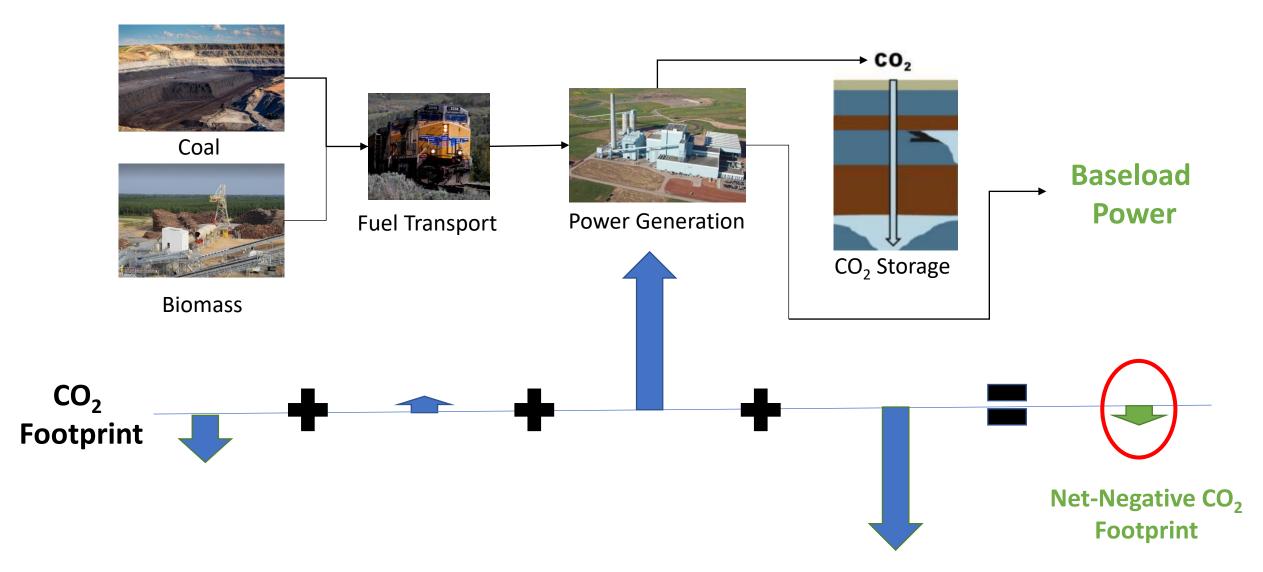
- Coal is not the problem CO<sub>2</sub> is the problem but coal opponents have demonized coal and the public largely
  accepts this demonization
- India and China came to coal's defense at COP26. Small word changes matter:
  - "Phase down" not "Phase out"
  - Unabated coal, not all coal
- An Administration change in three years is unlikely to substantially mitigate ESG, shareholder, State and international pressures that work against conventional coal.
- Coal opponents are well-funded, getting "richer", and view any coal win as a temporary stay of execution.
- The net effect of expanded renewable tax credits, renewable portfolio standards and other renewables incentives are reducing coal plant dispatchability and degrading the investment returns on coal power projects.
- EPA is ramping up its regulatory assault on coal both production and use.
- Power producers are moving away from coal.
- The coal industry needs to continue its defense, but defending the status quo is not enough.
- Offense is needed Coal needs to be "For Something".

# "Something" the Coal Industry Could Be For

- Positioning the existing coal fleet for the future
  - Need to protect the value of the existing infrastructure
  - Forestall premature coal plant retirements
- Tax Credit Parity the 90/90 rule
  - Generation only qualifies if 90% dispatchable on demand.
  - Generation only qualifies if 90% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction
- 45Q Revisions
- Building a post-2030 future that adds new profit streams and creates societal value, including addressing climate change concerns:
  - Coal-to-Products
  - Coal-derived CO<sub>2</sub>-to-Products
  - Net-Negative CO<sub>2</sub> Coal-to-Energy Generation
    - Net-Negative CO<sub>2</sub> Baseload Power Technology
    - Net-Negative CO<sub>2</sub> Hydrogen Technology

### **Net-Negative CO<sub>2</sub> Baseload Power Technology**

Coal with Biomass Co-firing and CCS



### **Proposed DOE Net-Negative CO<sub>2</sub> Baseload Power Program** Additional Details

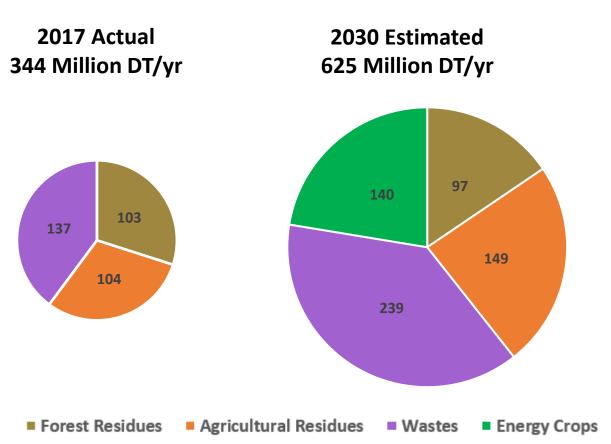
- Qualifying projects:
  - Must have a positive economic impact on coal communities.
  - Must have net-negative emissions using coal/biomass co-firing with CCS
- \$300M for plant-specific engineering and economic studies
- \$30B to cost-share deployment of the initial ~10 net-negative plants
- Power plant owners may competitively apply
  - Grants for engineering/economic Project Concept Studies
  - Cost-share for pre-FID Project Development Activities
  - A package of incentives to attract commercial coinvestment and limit ratepayer impacts



## **U.S. Biomass Resource**

Quantities are Sufficient to Sustainably Support Coal-Biomass Co-Firing

- Existing Coal Generation Infrastructure
  - 212 GW of utility-scale coal plants
  - Transmission, supply chain, and permitting infrastructure for the plants are in place
  - 59 GW (28%) are scheduled to retire by 2035 with many of these plant sites candidates for retrofitting or repowering
- Abundant Domestic Coal Resources
  - World's largest reserves
  - 470-year supply at 2020 consumption rates
- Sustainable Domestic Biomass Resources
  - 20% co-firing of entire existing coal fleet would require 125 millions tons/yr of biomass.
  - The 2030 domestic, available biomass resource is estimated to be 625 million tons.
  - The U.S. is the world's largest exporter of wood fuel pellets with 9 million tons of 2020 exports to fuel international coal plants.



#### **Biomass Resource Available for New Uses**

Source: U.S. Department of Energy. 2016. 2016 Billion-Ton Report: Advancing Domestic Resources for a Thriving Bioeconomy, Volume 1: Economic Availability of Feedstocks.

# Why Pursue Net-Negative CO<sub>2</sub> Baseload Power

Avoids Stranding Existing Assets and Abandoning Coal Communities

- Aggressive Administration Targets
  - 2030 50% economy-wide reduction of U.S. GHG
  - 2035 Net-zero emissions across the electricity sector
  - 2050 Economy-wide net-zero GHG emissions
- Impact of these targets is premature coal plant retirements
  - Strands valuable infrastructure
  - Economically hollows-out coal and power plant communities
  - Reduces electricity reliability
  - Increases electricity costs, impacting manufacturing jobs and households
- Net-negative technology would
  - Significantly mitigate these impacts
  - Support grid reliability with carbon-negative baseload power
  - Create hydrogen co-product production opportunities
  - Ready the technology for export, which creates U.S. manufacturing opportunities
  - Support U.S. allies that have stated policies to continue the use of coal (e.g., India and Japan)
  - Demonstrate U.S. leadership on pragmatic approaches to address climate change

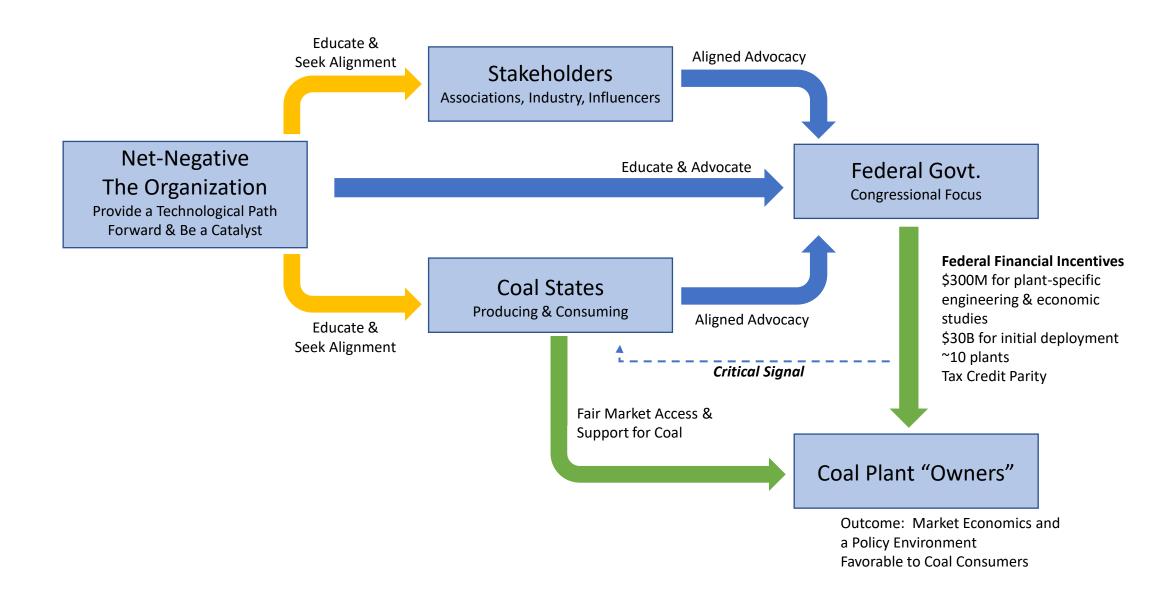
Net-zero Targets are unachievable without "net-negative" technologies that balance unabateable emissions

## Tax Credit Parity – the 90/90 rule

- Investment and Production Tax Credits (ITCs and PTCs)
  - Incentivize low-carbon, reliable power
    - Minimum dispatchability requirement (e.g., 90%)
    - Nuclear, Renewable, CCS-enabled fossil plants, and Net-Negative fossil plants can all meet a dispatchability requirement either stand-alone or with battery/low-carbon power back-up
  - Zero-carbon emitting plants would be eligible for a Base PTC.
  - CCS-enabled fossil plants with <100% capture would be eligible for a reduced PTC.
  - Net-Negative plants, effectively with >100% capture would be eligible for an increased PTC.
- 45Q Carbon Capture & Storage Tax Credit
  - Amount should be indifferent to the carbon capture technology employed (e.g., amine capture, ammonia-based capture, or direct air capture). The result "tons captured" not the technology type should be incentivized.

### Approach

### Creating a Favorable Investment Environment for Coal During an Economy-Wide Transition Toward Net-Zero



## **Required Federal Actions**

**Enabling Deployment of Net-Negative CO<sub>2</sub> Baseload Power Technology** 

Policy commitment to facilitate deployment of net-negative CO<sub>2</sub> baseload power, including:

- Enactment of The Net-Negative Baseload Power Act (H.R. 4891), which
  - Establishes a Net-Negative Baseload Power Program at DOE
  - Authorizes \$300M in immediately available grant funding for engineering and economic studies at existing coal power plants sites
  - Provides DOE with new management tools and directs the acceleration of projects that will reduce the carbon footprint of the existing coal fleet with Net-Negative Technology (CCS and biomass co-firing)
- Appropriating the \$300M in grant funding.
- Providing ~\$30B in funding for the DOE Net-Negative Baseload Power Program for cost-shared retrofits/repowering of a first tranche of plants
  - Accelerates the reduction of the coal fleet's carbon footprint
  - Protects grid reliability and coal communities
- Tax Credit Parity *the 90/90 rule*
- 45Q Revisions

## **Required Industry Actions – Both Defense and Offense**

### Defense

- Protect the existing, but declining, power generation market
  - Largely a Federal/State litigation effort to slow coal plant retirements
  - Litigation can slow, but will not stop retirements the fleet is getting old and tired, and power producers are hesitant to invest in these plants

### Offense

- Support Tax Credit Parity and 45Q revisions Federal
- Secure a Senate companion bill to H.R. 4891 Federal
  - Secure \$300M to begin conceptual engineering/economic studies at existing power plants (lobbying action)
- Develop analyses to support public debate Federal and State
  - Cost of repowering with Net-Negative technology vs. an "all renewable" strategy
  - Value of utilizing existing infrastructure vs. building new renewable infrastructure
  - CO<sub>2</sub> reduction potential under various CCUS & Net-Negative technology deployment scenarios
- Need coal industry support to expand our educational efforts at the Federal and State level to establish Net-Negative Technology as a necessary tool to decarbonize the World.

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