

**US Energy & Environmental Policy During Obama's Second Term
And
California's Unilateral Energy Future**

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Abstract

President Obama has reconfirmed his commitment to advancing energy & environmental policies during his second term. A number of his Democratic advisors suggest he should use his executive powers to push his agenda forward, bypassing the US Congress if necessary. This, he can do, especially on climate issues through the Environmental Protection Agency, and he need not be considered with the political consequences since he is not running for office again.

In the mean time, California, the most populous – and by some measures – the most progressive of states, is unilaterally pursuing its own future on environment and energy virtually disconnected from the federal agenda and those of other states. Among the most important of these policies are an ambitious climate bill – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and further reduce it by 80% by 2050 – reach 33% new renewable target by 2020 and pursue aggressive energy efficiency policies. Achieving these goals, while feasible, come at a cost, hence a heated debate about the efficacy of the state's unilateral – some would say suicidal – policies.

This presentation will give an overview of the US and California's energy and environmental policies – given California's significance as an influential leader among the states.

Biographical sketch of speaker

Dr. Sioshansi is President of **Menlo Energy Economics**, a consulting firm in San Francisco. He is also the editor and publisher of ***EEnergy Informer***, a monthly newsletter with international circulation, which is regularly featured in ***The Electricity Journal***, AOL Energy, Energy Spectrum (UK), European Energy Policy Review (France), Energize (So Africa) and other publications.

His professional experience includes working at **Southern California Edison Company** (SCE), the **Electric Power Research Institute** (EPRI), **National Economic Research Associates** (NERA), and most recently, **Global Energy Decisions**, now part of **ABB**.

His recent edited books include

- ***Electricity Market Reform: An International Perspective*** (2006),
- ***Competitive Electricity Markets: Design, Implementation, Performance*** (2008),
- ***Generating Electricity in a Carbon Constrained World*** (2009),
- ***Energy Sustainability and the Environment: Technology, Incentives, Behavior*** (2011),
- **Smart Grid: Integrating Renewable, Distributed & Efficient Energy** (2011),
- **Energy Efficiency: Towards the End of Electricity Demand Growth**, February 2013; and
- **Evolution of Global Electricity Markets, New Paradigms, New Challenges, New Approaches** forthcoming in June 2013.

He has degrees in Engineering and Economics, including an MS and Ph.D. in Economics from **Purdue University**.