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SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS FROM AREDAY SUMMIT – MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015
Amory Lovins, EPA, Trammell Crowe, Rob Sisson, Gov. Ritter, Konrad Augustin

Amory Lovins, Chief Scientist at Rocky Mountain Institute

The pace of disruption is determined by the insurgents, not the incumbents. Re energy sources, value must exceed price, price must exceed cost.   Some disruptors: Electric vehicles, urban design, grid defection. It's not just one thing – it's the way they all work together. The effects are enormously greater than if they are evaluated one at a time.

Amory suggests the U.S. have "fee-bates" for low income people to buy energy efficient cars, which would address both fossil fuel use and income disparity, by helping to provide reliable transportation for getting to work. Income disparity between black and white people would be cut in half if everyone had reliable, energy efficient vehicles.

On his desired priorities for the new president? It's a choice between leading, following or getting out of the way. The ostrich method isn't going to work. Most of the energy is made at the state level or in the private sector. The federal levers are quite weak, so if the new president is weak toward renewables, the market will make it happen anyway.

Armchair conversation with Sally Ranney, AREI, and Thomas Friedman, author

Sally Ranney read a letter of support for the AREDAY Summit from Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Soviet Union, Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of Green Cross International. Gorbachev said, "Security, poverty and the environmental crisis are interconnected and the only way to address them is through cooperation."

Thomas Friedman said environmental stresses are causing unrest in the Middle East. Most Middle Eastern countries understand that the bread basket of Iraq starts (with water) from the mountains of Turkey.

The Arab Spring and climate change are indivisible. The Arab Spring was born out of issues including food, income, and human rights, all of which are exacerbated by drought and other climate change-related events.

ISIS looks at the region without maps and borders, because of their religious belief systems. Environmentalists look at the region without borders, because of the interconnectedness of the ecological systems. The Middle East must bring science and technology to the climate change-caused crisis of water. It's all one system, and borders won't protect anyone.

Young people in the Middle East say, "We've tried it all--socialism, communism, Marxism, Islamism, even liberalism, and nothing works." What they haven't tried, according to Friedman, is "environmentalism".

Tom Friedman - On the meaning of conservative
"When we face something as risky as climate change, to say that's not real is crazy radical. Conservatives need to say there's real danger here. They need to take it seriously and say that as conservatives, we need a market based solution…But there is no center right now. That's a real problem for our country."
"Pessimists are usually right. Optimists are usually wrong, but it's the optimists who bring change and solutions."

"The word 'later' is officially over. Whatever you are want to save, you'd better save it now. "All eco systems are intertwined. It's a world without borders. Unless you look at the world in the way enviros do, mother nature is going to smack you over the head, but by then, later will be over."

Konrad Augustin - E.ON - Acting in Changing Markets: Strategic Co-Investments (SCI)

In Germany, 25% of their power comes from renewables and can increase to 35% when the wind blows. In 2011 after Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant disaster, German citizens demanded shut down of nuclear power plants. That year, they shut down 8 of their 17 nuclear reactors and pushed a phase-out plan to be completed by 2022 when they will no longer get any of their power from nuclear.

Callie Videtich, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator, District 8

Clean Power Act--Obama said we are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change, and the last generation who can do something about it. The Clean Power Act has practical, flexible and cost-effective guidelines, and the health benefits alone outweigh the costs seven to one.

Armchair Conversation: Putting Conservation Back in Conservative
Chip Comins, AREI, moderator; Trammell Crow, Earth Day Texas; Rob Sisson, ConservAmerica

Story of asking Oklahoma religious conservatives about climate change, and their inability to believe that humans can influence God's creation--it's an egotistical concept to them. Millennials are leading by pushing their conservative elders along. There is a moral call to take care of the earth. The messenger is as important as the message. A conservation message from a fellow conservative will go much farther than the same message from a liberal.

Governor Bill Ritter, Center for the New Energy Economy
Keynote: Stopping the Loss of Creation: Implications of the Pope's Encyclical

Bill Ritter is a practicing Catholic. Pope Francis's Encyclical on the Environment was the first ever encyclical on the environment, and was addressed to "all humankind", rather than just the bishops and priests. It was drafted by the Pontifical Council for Peace and Justice, addressing the environment, economics, politics and consumerism. Pope Francis talked of "integral ecology", linking faith and science and our interrelationship with natural systems. The Pope talked of the ecological debt that the North owes to the South, that the ecological situation is related to the inequality of our consumption patterns, and that global warming is solid science. Environmental issues of water use and quality, pollution, loss of biodiversity are all links to quality of life globally. In response to a question about population growth, Ritter said educating women has the most meaningful impact on population growth.

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