*ACC Blog Article Draft:*

**Being Climate-Smart and Energy-Smart Go Hand in Hand**

By Chris Jahn

I was just at the [**World Petrochemical Conference**](https://wpc.ihsmarkit.com/index.html) **in Houston** last week, where I had the privilege of participating on a CEO panel session on the chemical industry’s response to climate policy and regulation. I also got the chance to connect with many of our member company CEOs, who are focused on both short- and long-term approaches to helping reduce our industry’s carbon footprint, while providing solutions that help others do the same.

There was acknowledgement among many of the leaders at WPC that **being climate-smart and energy-smart go hand in hand**. Chemical manufacturing is an [energy-intensive industry](https://www.americanchemistry.com/better-policy-regulation/energy). For example, natural gas is used for fuel, heat and power at many facilities, and it’s a source of feedstock. We’re advocating for policies that develop and use a range of energy sources, including continued access to natural gas, while promoting energy efficiency and advancing new technologies.

We know that we and others need to invest in a **variety of innovative technology solutions**, from CCUS to clean hydrogen, circular feedstocks and nuclear, among others. Exploring, developing and deploying solutions to achieve a lower-emissions future will take time. That’s why it’s so important that ACC and our members are stepping up now to consider potential solutions and work with Congress and the Biden administration to accelerate RD&D.

ACC has had Board-approved [climate policy principles](https://www.americanchemistry.com/better-policy-regulation/climate-change) for over a decade. Recognizing the need to build on these efforts, last year, ACC worked with our members to develop and issue a set of detailed policy recommendations for Congress, built around [**three imperatives**](https://www.americanchemistry.com/better-policy-regulation/climate-change/resources/acc-policy-recommendations-for-a-lower-emissions-future):

* 1. **Increase government investment and scientific resources** to develop and deploy low emissions technologies in the manufacturing sector.

Multiple new technologies and game-changing breakthroughs will be needed for lower emission manufacturing. Congress can help enable a lower-emissions future for American manufacturers by facilitating public-private partnerships to overcome barriers to low-emission technologies, establishing a technology-neutral incentive for production of low-carbon hydrogen, and expanding federal research and development for potential breakthrough technologies, like electric steam crackers and direct air capture.

* 1. **Adopt transparent, predictable, technology- and revenue-neutral, market-based**, **economy-wide carbon price policies**.

Federal carbon price policies can enable a single, transparent, effective national program that gradually eliminates the need for a patchwork of state laws and federal regulations. This is a clear, consistent, effective way to reduce emissions.

* 1. **Encourage adoption of emissions-avoiding solutions and technologies** throughout the economy to achieve significant savings.

Making progress on climate goals will depend on the chemical industry and the thousands of energy-efficient and emissions-saving materials and technologies our products enable. We’re calling on Congress to increase funding to encourage improvements in building energy efficiency and deployment of next-generation automobiles and infrastructure, as well as to enact measures to speed transition to newer, more efficient appliances.

The chemistry industry can be proud of our role in **imagining, developing and manufacturing the products** that will help build a more sustainable tomorrow.