

– 2018 Keynote Presentation –

Seizing America's Renewable Energy Future

Hon. Martin O'Malley, Former Governor of Maryland

ABSTRACT

Climate change is the greatest business opportunity to come to the United States in a hundred years. And one critically important part of seizing that opportunity is moving America to 100% renewable energy grid by 2050. And as public opinion shifts rapidly toward the acknowledgment and willingness to combat climate change, we must answer two questions:

- Can we make the transition to 100% renewable energy happen quickly enough to avoid planetary disaster with all of the human suffering that comes with it?
- And as Americans — can we seize the opportunity of this historic transition for as much of the job creation and economic benefits as possible?

Our destination is clear, and so are the policy choices to accelerate the implementation of a 100% renewable energy future in the U.S: re-aligning utility profit incentive away from energy consumption, and forward to the maintenance of a secure, reliable, and dynamic grid, shifting subsidies and incentives from fossil fuels to renewables, and investing in R and D that forwards our renewable energy future.

BIOGRAPHY

Governor Martin O'Malley served two terms as Governor of Maryland from 2007-2015. Prior to that, he served two terms as Mayor of Baltimore. Called "the best manager in government today," Governor O'Malley has been recognized for his skillful leadership of Maryland and his success in implementing critical progressive priorities such as raising the minimum wage, signing marriage equality into law, abolishing the death penalty and passing the DREAM Act to provide in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants.

Under his leadership, Maryland's public schools were ranked #1 nationally for an unprecedented five years in a row. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce also named Maryland #1 in entrepreneurship and innovation for three years in a row. As Mayor he was awarded the Innovations in Government Award from the Harvard Kennedy School and in 2009, Governing Magazine named O'Malley "Public Official of the Year."

In 2013, O'Malley led the successful fight to ban the sale of combat assault weapons in Maryland, while also managing the state's reduction of violent crime down to 35-year lows and incarceration rate to 20-year lows.

Called "the best manager in government today," Governor O'Malley has been recognized for his skillful leadership of Maryland and his success in implementing critical environmental priorities such as growing the state's renewable energy generation by 41 percent and driving down Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions by 9.7 percent while putting the state on a path to cut

Greenhouse Gas emissions by 25% by 2025. He also created Baystat – a new way of performance-managed cleanup, restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay to its best levels since 1985.

In 2016, O'Malley ran for the Democratic Nomination for President of the United States, and many of his policy proposals – on Immigration Reform, Public Safety, and Climate -- became part of the most progressive Democratic Party platform in history. And he was applauded as the candidate with the most aggressive climate plan that called for a 100% clean electric grid by 2050.

He and his wife, Judge Katie Curran O'Malley live in Baltimore and have four children.