

# FAQs

## **What is the objective of the strategy?**

To honor and leverage Wyoming's energy industry through policy, collaboration, and innovation in an equitable, just, and sustainable way.

## **Where can I get the strategy? Where are the KPIs?**

The strategy isn't a document. It's a new direction shaped by a collection of concepts and ideas built around shared values. Visit the WEA website at [woenergy.org](http://woenergy.org) to learn about developing initiatives and elements of our strategy. Individual metrics will be developed for each existing and new initiative. Our North Star vision guides the overall strategy, which remains adaptable. Energy technology changes rapidly, and we don't want Wyoming to lose sight of the end goal by focusing only on short-term indicators.

## **What is the North Star vision?**

Empowering the nation with a net-zero energy mix.

## **Is the strategy pro-fossil fuels?**

The strategy is pro-Wyoming. Our all-of-the-above energy mix includes products from our legacy industries along with the new players of renewable energy and

emerging opportunities in hydrogen, small modular nuclear, geothermal, and rare earth elements.

## **Why not just renewables? Aren't they best for the environment?**

As technologies mature, they may take on a majority share of the energy delivery market. But hydrocarbon resources can also be produced in a manner that satisfies environmental stewardship expectations.

## **What does "net-zero" mean? What does "net-negative" mean?**

Net-zero mitigates emissions with carbon removal and storage. In practice, it means parts of the economy can emit CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere (e.g. transportation), provided other parts of the economy remove an equivalent amount of carbon (e.g. forestation or direct air capture). The global economy has not been in this position since pre-industrial times.



Net-negative means there is more carbon being removed from the atmosphere than added through emissions. Over time this will decrease the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

### **What does success look like? Is there a future for energy workers in Wyoming?**

Wyoming remains a leader in energy extraction, transport, generation, and new technology development. The Wyoming energy industry continues to enhance the well-being of Wyomingites and hundreds of millions of Americans across the nation.

### **What are the metrics for this type of goal? How will we know if the strategy is working?**

There will be measurable impacts across the scale. We'll see new research occurring, new developers coming into the state, additional funding opportunities arise. It's important to remember that large-scale commercial energy projects take years, but there will be signs of success at each step forward.

### **Are there short-term goals?**

We've already put into motion a few initiatives at the Wyoming Energy Authority. We sent out a call for hydrogen pilot projects. We are putting

the finishing touches on a Sequestration as a Service initiative. The School of Energy Resources at University of Wyoming is putting together a Center of Excellence for hydrogen. We're putting the first pieces into place across organizations.

### **How do you plan to get buy-in? To get all these different parties to work together?**

We work collaboratively across organizations in multiple areas, and the energy strategy is one more opportunity for collaboration and leveraging of resources. By setting an overarching goal without directing other agencies and organizations to pursue specific assignments, we're able to draw on their strengths and expertise to advance the strategy.

### **How is this funded?**

It's no secret that the State of Wyoming is facing massive budget shortfalls and that cuts are being made across the board. Funding for energy strategy initiatives will need to come from multiple sources; we're well-positioned to leverage federal funds and grant opportunities and enlist private sector partnerships.

### **How does this theme reconcile with some of the legislative bills on supporting the coal industry and penalizing the renewable industry?**

This strategy focuses on developing technology solutions with the strengths and opportunities that Wyoming can leverage. We're not going to play favorites or barter advantages. We expect there will be many different opinions and strategies on the policy pieces necessary to see the strategy come to fruition.



**Why doesn't this strategy directly address climate change?**

This strategy sets a vision. Many factors will determine why individuals support this vision.

**How does this strategy contribute to the general fund of the State? How does it support our way of life?**

This strategy sets a pathway for Wyoming to maintain its position as an energy leader by using our natural resources and deep energy experience in a way that continues to deliver reliable, affordable, and accessible energy to our nation.

**How would a green hydrogen project play out in Wyoming?**

A green hydrogen project aligns perfectly with our primary goal of powering the nation with a net-zero energy mix and demonstrates the potential to add value to our rich natural resource endowment.

**What does "Sequestration as a Service" look like?**

SaaS represents a concept of public-private partnership, with entities working together to develop and deploy technology that benefits Wyoming, Wyomingites, and Americans across the nation.

**How does coal get used if it's not burned?**

We have abundant and valuable coal, one of our legacy products, in Wyoming, and we know there are multiple uses for it besides energy production. Coal has the potential to serve as a feedstock resource of products that already have high carbon inputs. These products can include graphene, carbon fiber, hydrogen, and nanomaterials. Wyoming has multiple researchers, testing facilities, and private companies researching the economic uses for coal products to ensure Wyoming coal can be fully utilized along the supply chain.

**Is net-zero a realistic goal?**

We're not underestimating the scale of the challenge ahead of us, but it is a realistic goal that we have to embrace.

**Why aren't you doing more for coal/oil/gas?**

This is an overarching strategy and as such, does not address siloed sectors of the economy. It seeks to benefit all. The strategy focuses on shared values and common interests. It does not encourage positions or tolerate in-group/out-group thinking. It maintains a tenor of respect for our energy veterans and recognizes the need for a new way of interacting with space for all voices and a commitment to effective disagreement.

