
Washington, D.C. - In letters recently sent to President Barack Obama, members of Congress and senior administration officials, the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association (FCHEA) expressed support for an “all-of-the-above” energy policy that seeks clean, domestic energy drawn from a variety of sources and technologies. FCHEA offered a four-point plan to make “all-of-the-above” a reality:

1. Integrate fuel cell and hydrogen technology into all energy planning and policy-making including defense, homeland security, transportation and the environment as well as industrial, commercial and residential planning and codes.

2. Continue high-level federal support for research and development. Fuel cell patent growth in the US far exceeds that of other renewable and alternative industries, with 1000 patents obtained in 2010, three-times more than solar and wind combined. Of these, 310 resulted from Energy Department-funded R&D.

The Administration and Congress should provide effective funding for DOE’s key fuel cell and hydrogen initiatives including: $128.5 million for the Fuel Cell Technologies Program; $50 million for the Solid State Energy Conversion Alliance (the solid oxide fuel cell R&D program); $50 million, or not less than 15% of the Vehicle Technologies Program budget, for FCEVs and hydrogen infrastructure; and $29 million, or not less than 10% of the Advanced Manufacturing Program budget, for fuel cell and hydrogen energy technology manufacturing.

3. Offer meaningful incentives to spur federal, state, municipal, business and consumer purchases of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies and products. President Obama’s call for tax incentives to support local purchases of alternative fuel vehicles, and, for $1 billion in grants to local communities to support fuel-efficient technologies are the right steps at the right time. Congress should authorize these measures.

For Immediate Release
April 4, 2012
4. **Vigorously protect patents and other intellectual property.** To ensure that American creativity results in American jobs, Washington must protect U.S. patents, especially those that result from federal R&D support.

FCHEA President and Executive Director Morry Markowitz summarized the industry’s position, “America’s energy future is being decided today in city halls, state capitals and Washington, and on Main Street, Wall Street and in the global marketplace. To help shape the brightest future, we must ensure that ‘all-of-the-above’ is a reality for fuel cell and hydrogen energy technology, and all the energy innovations yet to come.”

**About the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association**

The Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association (FCHEA) is the trade association for the fuel cell and hydrogen energy industry. We are dedicated to the commercialization of fuel cells and hydrogen energy technologies. Fuel cells and hydrogen energy technologies deliver clean, reliable power to leading edge corporate, academic and public sector users, and FCHEA members are helping to transform our energy, economic, and environmental future.

FCHEA’s members represent the full spectrum of the fuel cell and hydrogen energy industry from the U.S. and around the world, including: fuel cell materials, components and systems manufacturers; automotive companies; hydrogen producers and distributors; universities, government laboratories and agencies, and other end users.