Burning oil, gas and coal has polluted our air, water and land for generations, and now it’s changing our climate. We can have healthier communities now and a livable future for our kids if we transition to 100 percent renewable energy.

America can do it. Here’s how.

We have no time to lose . . .

In December 2015, 195 nations signed the Paris climate accord, which pledged efforts “to limit [global] temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”

Achieving that goal will require the United States to virtually eliminate carbon pollution from energy use by mid-century and leave most of our remaining coal, oil and gas reserves in the ground.

. . . and so much to gain.

Switching to 100 percent renewable energy means:

• No more air pollution from burning fossil fuels. Dirty air kills an estimated 200,000 Americans each year.

• No more water pollution from fracking for oil or gas, offshore oil spills, coal mine drainage, or coal ash spills.

• No more danger from oil trains rolling through our cities, pipelines crossing our neighborhoods, or nuclear power plants with no safe place to store radioactive waste for the long-term.

Going 100 percent renewable will save money in the long run, as the investment we make in clean energy sources today is paid back over time in reduced fuel costs and reduced environmental and public health damage from dirty energy sources.

Going 100 percent renewable will also create jobs in growing industries, many of which cannot be outsourced, creating economic opportunity for people of all backgrounds.
Renewable energy is virtually limitless

The United States has the potential to meet its current electricity needs more than 100 times over with solar energy and more than 10 times over with wind energy, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Energy efficiency improvements could slice our consumption of energy by 40 to 60 percent by mid-century, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

A 100% renewable future is within reach

There are no insurmountable technical or economic barriers to 100 percent renewable energy. Researchers in academia, government and the nonprofit sector have proposed viable pathways by which the U.S. and the world can transition our economy to run on 100 percent clean, renewable energy. Those pathways generally call for:

- Ramping up production of renewable energy from sources like the sun and wind.
- Switching to efficient electric vehicles for transportation and to electricity for home heating and other purposes for which we currently burn fossil fuels.
- Getting the most out of the energy we use through improved energy efficiency.

Renewable energy is booming

Solar energy worldwide has grown faster than even the most optimistic forecasts made by groups such as Greenpeace.

The price of key clean energy technologies such as solar panels, wind turbines, batteries and energy efficient light bulbs is plummeting. In many parts of the country, wind energy is now the cheapest source of new electricity generation, and solar power is on track to be the least expensive form of energy in much of the world in the near future.

It’s time to get started

Transitioning to 100 percent clean, renewable energy is possible, but it won’t be easy, especially with entrenched fossil fuel and utility interests standing in the way. To get there, governments at all levels must adopt policies that will:

- Prioritize energy savings. Conserving energy and using it more efficiently can ease the transition from dirty fuels to clean, renewable energy.
- Promote steady and swift deployment of clean renewable energy sources.
- Transition those portions of our economy that rely on direct combustion of fossil fuels to electricity and other zero-carbon energy carriers.
- Provide reliable access to renewable energy by modernizing the electricity grid and enabling community microgrids and grid-connected energy storage.
- To protect the global climate and our health, keep much of our coal, oil and gas reserves in the ground and cease construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure.

For more information and the full report, please visit www.FrontierGroup.org.