

Chad Laurent Joins BBC World News to Discuss Clean Tech Pledges at COP26

Chad Laurent on BBC World News with David Eades November 3rd, 2021

David Eades: Chad Laurent is a principal consultant with the Cadmus Group which focuses on supporting clients globally on a whole range of decarbonization policy efforts and Chad joins us from Boston in the US now, and thanks very much for your time, Chad. I mean it's interesting, isn't it, when we look at the role of technology and we're looking at a low carbon or a non-carbon world - isn't it just a fact now that we have the renewables; we have solar, we have wind, we have EVs, electric vehicles, I mean it's happening anyway.

Chad Laurent: Yeah, you're right David, and thanks for having me. It's true and I think that the actions that have been proposed can make a real meaningful difference, and as you mentioned, they're attacking both sectors where we have those technologies in place like solar and wind and electric vehicle technology, and really, it's about policies and changes in the regulatory framework to enable those policies to be developed and implemented at scale and getting the incentives right. But the technologies, again, and on the renewable side they're there - they just need to be deployed in an accelerated fashion. But what also excited me about this pledge was the looking at sectors that are more challenging, such as steel and hydrogen and agriculture.

David: Yeah, perhaps a longer way to go on the road for those – and indeed let me just ask you about hydrogen, are you a fan, do you think that that is you, know a big part of the solution?

Chad: I think so, and I think the key there is that the hydrogen has to be made with renewables - so enabling renewable technologies again, which exist and can get us a lot of the way there, if we get the policies in the regulations right, then you have the supply there in order to make the hydrogen that then can be stored and transmitted and deployed and used, especially in some of those sort of industrial settings that that require high heat and more intense energy use, hydrogen is a solution there.

David: Right, you talk about the policies and the regulatory frameworks, is that what is required, do you think? I mean there's all already huge amounts of money, but we're talking the mega trillions, in fact, invested into our new world.

Chad: Yeah, because each state, each country, each even city and local government has different rules and regulations in place about where you can put this stuff, and how

do you get permits, and where can it go, and how much does it cost, and how do you interconnect those technologies and that interplay of that adds costs and adds headaches across the world - even when the technology makes sense from a financial perspective. So, it's demonstrating like how do we get these technologies deployed at scale, and what are those changes that need to happen in order to enable those scale to happen at a really rapid basis. But this financing, and especially the commitments from governments and also corporations, that creates a market and that helps move policy and helps move regulations in order to, again, accelerate these technologies. So, it's really good that those players are creating a real market that's there that then spurs that innovation because you know you're going to have someone to sell to.

David: Yeah, well, we'll see at the pace this can be achieved – Chad, thank you very much indeed – Chad Laurent joining me from Boston.