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# 'Cheap, Reliable And Clean:' Expert Shares Energy Policy Vision With PA Lawmakers

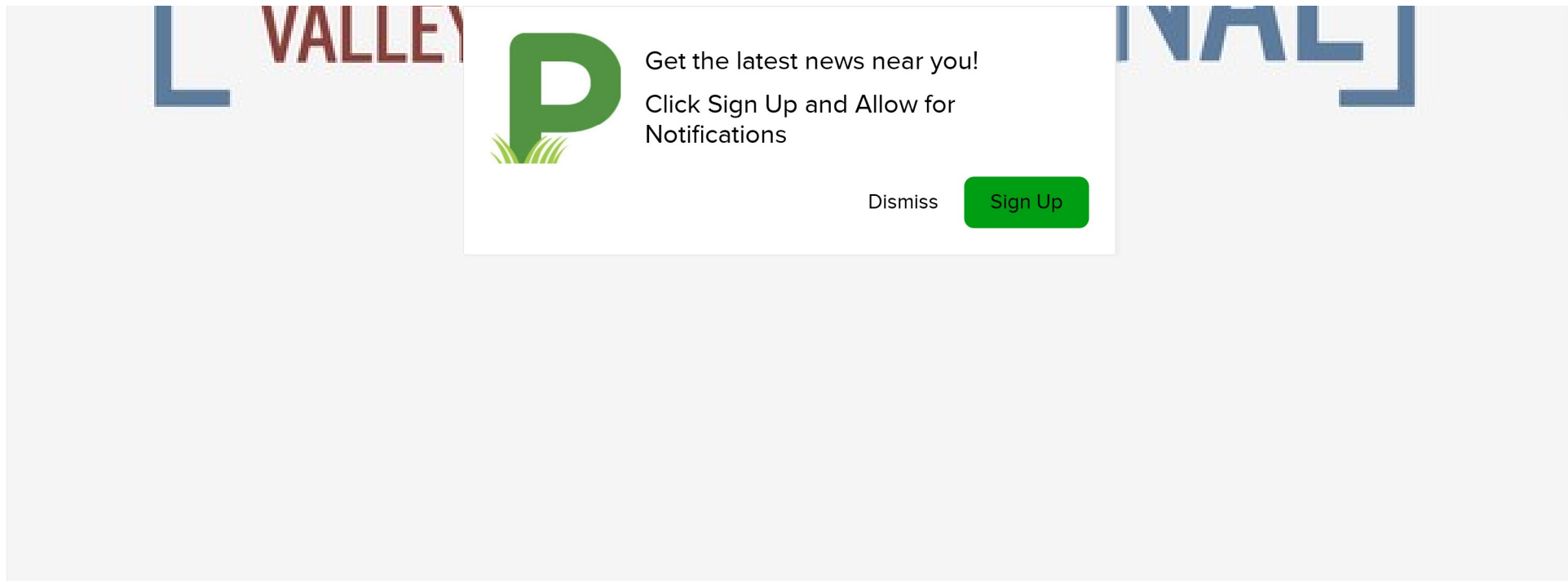
"Cheap, reliable, and clean." Those three words will make or break the energy industry in Pennsylvania — and beyond.



**Delaware Valley Journal**, News Partner  
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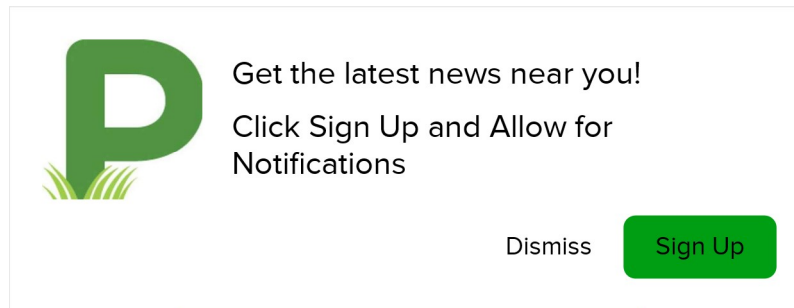
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Charlie O'Neill

March 25, 2021



"Cheap, reliable, and clean." Those three words will make or break the energy industry in Pennsylvania — and beyond.

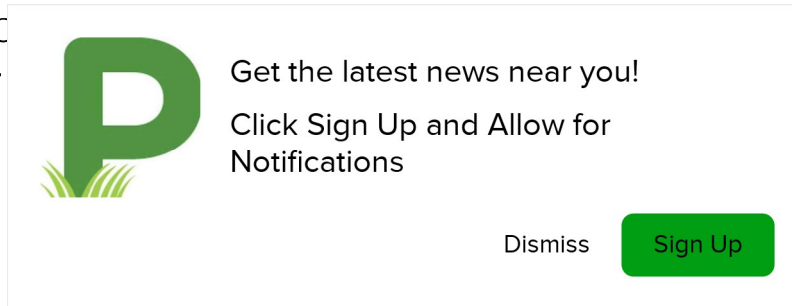
That's according to Dr. Scott Tinker, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas and founder of the non-partisan, non-profit Switch Energy Alliance. He was the featured speaker at a roundtable discussion this week hosted by state Senator Gene Yaw (R-Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Union).

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Tinker began his discussion with a warning that he would likely upset some of the lawmakers, cabinet secretaries,

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He then explained his mantra. "'C  
environment. It's a confluence of



gy. And 'clean' is about the

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"Some want to say either 'climate change' or 'the economy,' but I don't like to think of it that way," Tinker added. "Environment, energy, and economy, we've got to bring those things together. Because energy underpins the economy, it allows it to grow. And the economy allows us to invest in the environment."

Tinker's argument, one also made by global climate experts like Bjorn Lomborg and William Nordhaus of Yale University is that economic prosperity leads to a cleaner environment. The wealth generated by Pennsylvania's energy sector helps support economic growth that has led to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

"One-third of the world – 2.6 billion people – cook in their homes with wood, dung, charcoal, or other biofuels. It kills three million people every single year. Just breathing indoor particulates and other diseases that come along with that. That's more deaths than COVID caused in 2020, and it's so solvable.

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have the resources to clean it up,"

"Energy doesn't end poverty, but

Meanwhile, America's carbon em

2007 our CO2 emissions had flatli

went back up while emissions went down," Tinker noted.



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has risen. "From about 1997 to  
on in energy), but consumption

"Why did this happen? We started replacing coal with natural gas along with a mix of state policies for renewable energy. The CO2 Emissions reduction goals of the proposed 2015 Clean Power Plan (CPP) were met in 2020, a decade ahead of schedule, without the CCP. You can thank renewables and natural gas."

But is relying on natural gas, specifically the shale in Pennsylvania, a sound policy? According to Tinker, there are 27,200 active wells in the Marcellus Share region; there could be as many as 106,500 wells. "Less than 8 percent of the technically recoverable natural gas has been drilled," Tinker said.

"There is not enough solar and wind to meet the demands of the tech sector alone. Globally we are still at 60 percent oil and gas, while only 3 percent solar."


The future of energy Tinker says is "growing the radical middle but growing equitable and sustainable energy." What that means in Pennsylvania lies in the hands of consumers and policymakers.

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