

Mr. Michael T. Eckhart

President, American Council on Renewable Energy & co-chairman of the World Council for Renewable Energy

Michael Eckhart is President of the American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE), co-chairman of the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE), and a member of the Steering Committee of the REN 21 global policy network. Since its formation in 2001, ACORE has grown to have over 400 organizational members; producing three major national conferences per year on renewable energy business, finance and policy; and participating in international renewable energy policy affairs. Mr. Eckhart is a member of the Clinton Global Initiative. He also works through Solar International Management, Inc. on the financing of solar energy (SolarBank), and on the development of a new international debt security called Global Development Bonds (GDB) for the financing of sustainable development in the developing countries. He has over 25 years of experience in renewable energy, power generation, high technology, and finance. Previously, he was CEO of the IPP development firm United Power Systems, Inc.; Vice President of the venture capital firm Areté Ventures, Inc.; Manager of Strategic Planning for the Power Systems Sector of General Electric Company; and a Principal of Booz, Allen & Hamilton's energy practice. He served in the US Navy Submarine Service. He received a BS in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

After a pioneering energy study funded by the Carter Administration in the 1970s, Michael Eckhart put his knowledge to work on a solar energy project for India and Africa. He was later a three-time participant in the Clinton Global Initiative. In 2001 he, along with other pioneers, founded the American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE), which aims at creating "all renewable" energy for the United States. Now the president of ACORE, he leads the organization as it continues to catalyze change through its membership of over 400 organizations, global partnerships, major national conferences on renewable energy business, policy and finance, and participates in renewable energy policy affairs across the globe. By the year 2011, ACORE hopes to increase its membership to over 1,000 members. Now with over 25 years experience in renewable energy, high technology, finance, and power generation, Eckhart is the co-chairman of the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE), and an active member of the Steering Committee for REN 21 global policy network. In 2006, Eckhart received RSA's "Good Deal for All Award," and in 2008, he was awarded the "Social Entrepreneur Award" from the Skoll Foundation. Hopefully, with the help of Michael Eckhart, the United States can soon establish itself amongst the global community of leaders in alternative **energy**.