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Hello and Welcome to the Ecofin podcast. Thank you for joining us. I'm Jerry Polacek, Managing Director and Group Lead for Private Clean Energy and Infrastructure investments and today I will cover President Joe Biden's latest executive actions to drive forward his administration's climate agenda.

This week President Biden signed a series of executive actions aimed at promoting US climate leadership. These executive orders follow his first day order for the US to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement. As part of rejoining the Paris agreement, the US will need to resubmit a non-binding pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which is expected to be far more ambitious than the original pledge signed in 2015.

The Biden Plan includes a goal of transitioning to a carbon free power sector by 2035 and across the U.S. economy by 2050. Biden's actions this week signal what is described as a "whole of government" approach to transitioning to low or no carbon energy. Through his executive actions, the President formally created the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy and established the National Climate Task Force, composed of officials from 21 federal agencies and departments.

Biden's order also directs federal agencies to procure carbon-free electricity and electrify the federal vehicle fleet. To put this decarbonization opportunity in context, the federal government spent over \$18 billion on energy in 2019 (according to Department of Energy data) and owns more than 600,000 vehicles, most of which run on fossil fuels.

The order directs steps to be taken for every federal infrastructure investment to reduce climate pollution and to accelerate clean energy and transmission projects under federal siting and permitting processes in an environmentally sustainable manner. For wind and solar developers seeking to site projects on federal lands as well as those developing projects requiring transmission upgrades to reach energy consumers, the potential for a streamlined process is a welcome change.

These orders also direct federal agencies to develop a plan to increase the resilience of its facilities and operations to the impacts of climate change. We believe this will spur the development of solar plus battery storage microgrids on many new and existing 300,000 federal buildings. In fact, since the start of 2021, we're seeing in our investment pipeline these type of opportunities receiving warm receptions from federal agencies.

Turning to offshore wind, it also appears to be a substantial beneficiary from an order that includes setting a goal to double offshore wind production by 2030. This goal will be pursued through the Department of the Interior which is responsible for permitting and granting of leases in federal waters.

Woven into these orders are policies that seek to ensure disadvantaged communities are helped by these investments including a plan for 40% of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to go to disadvantaged communities.

While many of this week's orders to accelerate adoption of economic solar and wind investment can expect bipartisan support, others focused on restricting fossil fuel use will face fierce opposition. Two such orders this week call for a moratorium on new oil and gas leases on public lands and waters and a call to reduce all subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. In rolling out these orders, Biden highlighted the jobs potential of a transition to clean energy whereas federal and state politicians with economies heavily dependent on fossil fuels are expected to mount challenges. Interestingly, coal extraction from federal lands is not included in the order, which may speak to potential implications for ongoing litigation initiated under the Trump administration as well as political considerations in coal heavy states such as West Virginia. One notable challenge issued within a day of these orders came from Texas Governor Greg Abbott who announced his own executive order to all state agencies to challenge any federal action that threatens the continued strength, vitality and independence of the energy industry.

Ultimately, for the Biden administration to realize the potential of its ambitious climate agenda it will require congressional support for new legislation and spending authorization for many of its directives. In the coming weeks and months, we expect further details of Biden's climate policies to be revealed and the rhetoric from both sides to be amplified.

From Ecofin's vantage point as an active investor in US solar, wind, and battery storage assets, we expect that the next four years will provide a fertile landscape for accelerating the US energy transition led by cost-effective, proven renewable energy technologies along with innovations in sustainable infrastructure and electrification of transportation.

Thank you for listening.

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Thank you for joining us. And stay tuned for our next episode. Have topics you want covered or other feedback to share? Write us at info@ecofininvest.com.

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