**Meeting Summary for Raymond Leury | Do we have the Materials for a Green Transition? | CACOR Live | 2024-08-07**

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Top of Form

Quick recap

The team discussed the impact of increasing temperatures on society, the potential of electric vehicles, and the need for a diverse energy production. They also debated the use of petroleum and petrochemicals, the longevity of electric vehicle batteries, and the fluctuating prices of lithium. Lastly, they explored the advantages of Tesla's 48-volt system and the potential for transmitting power efficiently over long distances using local generation.

Next steps

Raymond to share the recording of the Dalhousie University presentation on EV batteries when available.

Art to review the Dalhousie University presentation on EV battery longevity and second-life applications.

Raymond to monitor and share updates on government regulations regarding standardized EV battery health information accessibility.

K-Corp members to focus research efforts on economically viable solutions for CCUS and green cement/steel production.

Raymond to provide more information on sodium-ion batteries and their potential to replace lithium-ion batteries.

K-Corp to investigate and discuss potential solutions for medical waste management that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

K-Corp to explore and discuss the feasibility of sequestering carbon through stable plastic storage in deep geological formations.

Raymond to share updates on the progress of battery recycling capacity and its impact on the EV industry.

K-Corp to continue monitoring and discussing the economic drivers and barriers in the energy transition, particularly in the transportation sector.

Summary

Addressing Climate Crisis and EVs

Nigel and Raymond discussed the increasing average temperature and its potential impact on society, emphasizing the need for substantial cooperation to limit temperature increases and create conditions for a soft landing. Raymond, an advocate for electronic vehicles (EVs) and president of the Electronic Vehicle Council of Ottawa, highlighted the urgent need to address the climate crisis, the issues of misinformation and disinformation, and the shortcomings of the International Energy Agency's forecasts. He also discussed the potential for decarbonizing various sectors, the competitive advantage that cost-effective, eco-friendly solutions could provide, and the high costs associated with producing electric vehicles (EVs). Lastly, he pointed out the manipulation of data by various parties for their own interests, the issue of child labor in artisanal mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the need for a diverse energy production.

Fossil Fuels, Efficiency, and Renewable Energy

Raymond discussed the significance of fossil fuels in meeting energy needs, but emphasized improving efficiency and reducing waste rather than fully replacing them. He highlighted that the issue is not about replacing energy sources, but substituting energy services more efficiently. Raymond noted a shift towards renewable energy sources like solar and wind, and a decrease in coal usage. He discussed the use of abundant materials like iron, phosphorus, and sodium in alternatives to expensive nickel-manganese-cobalt batteries for electric vehicles. Raymond pointed out that while some materials are rare, there are substitutes available, and the total materials needed for the energy transition are much smaller than fossil fuel mining. He emphasized the substantial reduction in emissions by eliminating fossil fuel production and transportation, and the decreasing cost of renewables compared to fossil fuels.

Electric Transportation and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Raymond discussed the rapid transition to electric transportation, highlighting its economic benefits and the potential for China to lead this shift. He emphasized the importance of accelerating this transition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and suggested that commercial vehicles would likely transition faster due to their cost-calculating nature. Raymond also pointed out the need for immediate action to reduce carbon emissions and the potential for a reduction in fossil fuel supply to accelerate the transition. Art raised concerns about the affordability of electric vehicles and the potential advantages of vehicle-to-grid and vehicle-to-home connections, which Raymond agreed with and noted that many automakers have announced their intention to support these connections.

Petroleum, Petrochemicals, and Plastics Debate

Nigel led a discussion on the use of petroleum and petrochemicals, with Geoff, Raymond, David, and Richard sharing their perspectives. The team debated the necessity of plastics, with Geoff questioning their use and Raymond suggesting they could be sequestered in salt mines for carbon capture. David proposed that oil should be reserved for critical plastics, while Raymond and David discussed the potential of using plastic waste and single-celled algae as sources of oil. The conversation also touched on the environmental impact of the healthcare industry, with Richard highlighting the need for more research to make alternative solutions to oil and gas more competitive and affordable.

EV Batteries, Mining, and Carbon Sequestration

The participants discussed the longevity and performance of electric vehicle (EV) batteries, with Raymond from Dalhousie University explaining that proper care and management can significantly extend their lifespan. They also touched on the environmental impacts of mining, with Raymond highlighting the need for a transition to cleaner solutions to reduce mining activity. The conversation further covered battery capacity in EVs, with Raymond explaining that it varies depending on the car model and current conditions. Lastly, the challenges and potential solutions for carbon sequestration were discussed, with a focus on the use of plastics and the economic implications of such methods.

Lithium Prices, Government Strategies, and EV Transition

The team discussed the fluctuating prices of lithium and the potential oversupply causing a decrease in prices. They also debated the strategy of governments choosing economic winners, with Art suggesting it often leads to poor choices. The group criticized Ford's decision to slow down their electric vehicle (EV) ambitions, with David and Claude arguing it could lead to the company's downfall. They also compared the transition from on-premises servers to cloud services at Microsoft to the potential shift to electric vehicles and renewable energy sources. Lastly, they explored the advantages of Tesla's 48-volt system and the possibility of transmitting power efficiently over long distances using local generation.

Bottom of Form

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