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**President Jimmy Carter to Address Renewable Energy Solutions at  
American Renewable Energy Day (AREDAY) Summit**

*The solar energy pioneer joins other world leaders in clean energy at Aspen Summit.*

*Carter established today's National Renewable Energy Lab, installed solar panels at White House.*

ASPEN, Colo. – Jimmy Carter, the 39<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, highlights the speaker roster at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual American Renewable Energy Day (AREDAY) Summit in Aspen, Colorado, August 10-13, 2014. Carter has been a pioneer in solar power advocacy since his time in office in the 1970s. President Carter will speak at a luncheon in his honor and also participate in an armchair conversation with American Renewable Energy Institute (AREI) President Sally Ranney on Tuesday, August 12. All pass holders will be granted tickets to these events. The AREDAY Summit is one of the programs of [AREI](#).

The former U.S. President will be joined by nearly 100 distinguished scientists, educators, international business leaders, financial experts, student activists, renewable energy authorities, technology innovators and representatives of the non-governmental organization (NGO) environmental movement. Other speakers at this year's forum include media mogul and [UN Foundation](#) founder Ted Turner, Chairman and CEO of [BP Capital](#) T. Boone Pickens, Barclays Bank Chairman of Clean Tech Initiatives Theodore Roosevelt IV, oceanographer and [National Geographic Society](#) Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Sylvia Earle, [United Nations Foundation](#) Vice Chair Timothy Wirth, Growth Energy Co-Chair General Wesley Clark, journalist and biotech entrepreneur Forrest Sawyer, [Renewable Energy Systems Americas](#) CEO Susan Reilly, and [ONE DROP Foundation](#) CEO Catherine Bachand. Speakers are being added weekly. For an ongoing list, visit the [Speaker Page of the AREDAY website](#).

AREDAY's purpose is to foster immediate action that addresses climate change through renewable energy development and deployment. The theme of this year's Summit is *Accelerating Solutions for the Great Transition*. "The Great Transition takes into account what no longer works, and looks to new ideas and sources of energy, technologies, lifestyles, political will, equity and economic structures that will sustain an ecologically functioning planet of low-carbon economies," said Sally Ranney, President of AREI.

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President Carter was the first president to install solar panels for hot water generation on the White House roof in 1979, to inspire Americans to seek energy alternatives, independence and conservation. He predicted at the time of their installation that “A generation from now, [the 32 solar panels] can either be...an example of a road not taken or...just a small part of one of the greatest and most exciting adventures ever undertaken by the American people.” Carter stated in a 1977 [televised speech](#) introducing his energy proposals to Congress, "Because we are now running out of gas and oil, we must prepare quickly for a third change, to strict conservation and the use of... permanent renewable energy sources."

While the White House panels were ultimately removed, the solar industry has achieved record successes, with photovoltaic (PV) installations increasing 41 percent in 2012 to reach 4,751 megawatts of new capacity, and nearly 13 gigawatts of PV panel-generated power presently installed (according to Solar Energy Industries Association’s [Solar Market Insight Year in Review 2013](#)). Additionally, the Invanpah Solar Electric Generating System complex in California’s Mojave Desert is presently the world’s largest solar project at 377 megawatts (net) of power generation capacity.

Further evidence of Carter’s visionary solar industry work remains with the thriving Golden, Colorado-based National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), originally established during the president’s administration as the Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI) to foster solar energy technology research and development. SERI was designated as a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy in September 1991, at which time its name was changed to NREL. Today it serves as the country’s primary laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development, including solar, wind, geothermal and fuel cell technologies.

“President Carter’s work was undeniably key in laying the groundwork for the Great Transition,” said Chip Comins, chairman and CEO of AREI. “As a country we’ve survived both the Great Depression and the Great Recession, and are now welcoming the Great Transition, in which we must take the critical steps toward an environmentally and economically sound future.”

*About AREDAY* – The 2014 AREDAY Summit agenda includes a multi-day speaker series, film festival and other events. AREDAY offers attendees the opportunity to engage with clean energy world leaders from the public and private sectors, including the fields of finance, investment, solar, wind, biofuels, geothermal and leading-edge energy technologies. A total of 250 passes are available for the Summit, and can be purchased on the [Registration Page](#) of the AREDAY website, or through the Wheeler Box Office at 970-920-5770. Full passes cost \$900 until July 15. After that date, the pass price increases to \$1,200. Tickets for the Carter luncheon only are available for \$100. For more information, visit [www.areday.net](http://www.areday.net).

*About AREI* – The American Renewable Energy Institute (AREI) is a registered 501(c)(3) organization based in Colorado’s Roaring Fork Valley. Focused in fostering actionable solutions around climate change, its programs emphasize the “Five E’s” – Energy, Environment, Economy, Education and Employment – which run as threads throughout the organization’s core initiatives. These include the annual AREDAY Summit and Speaker Series, American Climate & Education Literacy Initiative (ACELI), RENEW Program, and Start-Up Green. For additional information, visit <http://www.areday.net/arei/arei.html>.