SCHNEIDER FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION: UN FOUNDATION, Energy and Climate Department

Schneider Fellowship – Energy Future Coalition Fellow

The UN Foundation hosts the Energy Future Coalition (http://energyfuturecoalition.org/home/), a non-partisan U.S. public policy initiative that seeks to bridge the differences among business, government, labor, utilities, and advocacy groups to identify energy policy options with broad political support. Guided by a diverse and distinguished steering committee, the Energy Future Coalition works to forge alliances on these important energy issues through campaigns, convenings, research, outreach, education, communications, and policy development.

The Schneider Energy Future Coalition Fellow is expected to work as part of the UN Foundation’s Energy Future Coalition team to help support the following initiatives:

- **Americans for a Clean Energy Grid – Modernizing the U.S. electric power transmission system.** The backbone of a clean electricity system and a strong economy is a resilient and reliable transmission grid. Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, a group of stakeholders mobilized by the Energy Future Coalition, advocates for smart state and federal policies that improve the way the grid is developed, planned, and paid for. The group has convened ten regional summits throughout the US that bring together developers, manufacturers, advocates, regulators, academia, and policymakers to recognize their shared interest in a better grid, with a special focus on the opportunities and challenges of specific regions. Two others are planned, as is a national transmission policy conference at the end of 2016. The coalition is actively engaged with Congress, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the EPA, and key electricity industry interest groups in pursuit of a clean energy grid. The coalition has sponsored groundbreaking research on the economics of renewable energy transmission and its market effects, and is the lead public-interest group focused on transmission policy.

- **Utility 2.0 – Preparing the electric utility industry for disruptive change.** The goal of the Utility 2.0 initiative is to prepare electric utility companies, their regulators, and the general public for a world of flat electricity demand; an electric grid computerized, monitored, and controlled down to individual appliances; electricity pricing shaped
more by competition than regulation; widespread distributed generation and
discretionary demand response; electric vehicles and other potential for meaningful
electricity storage; high penetration of renewable energy; and dramatic efficiency
improvements. Electric utilities have been operating with relatively stable business
models and regulations for more than a century, serving passive customers at regulated
rates, but this market dynamic is changing fast. Enormous disruption and inefficiency
could result if this inevitable transition is not well anticipated and guided; the goal of the
Utility 2.0 project is to help provide the thinking and guidance that yields a win-win-win
result for customers, investors, and the environment in a completely restructured
electricity industry.

• **Clean Fuels** – *Reducing the health and climate impact of motor fuels*. The Energy Future
Coalition has been working to call attention to the health risks of pollution caused by
highly toxic aromatic compounds in gasoline. We are working to drive understanding
and consensus on the science, meeting with EPA and other stakeholders to draw
attention to the issue, and recruiting allies to formulate the most effective solution to
creating safe, efficient fuels. One option that offers many benefits – including reduced
aromatic content, higher octane levels, and lower carbon footprint – is a mid-level
ethanol blend fuel. The oil industry has focused its resources and public relations skills
to prevent any such alternative from finding its way into the market. The Energy Future
Coalition is engaging with a range of groups including automakers, the agricultural
industry, and biofuels producers to develop a compelling policy strategy for a cleaner
fuel of the future.

In addition to general support of these initiatives, the Energy Future Coalition Fellow will be
required to deliver a project at the end of his or her fellowship that advances the specific goals
or knowledge base of one of the initiatives. The project will be developed with the Energy
Future Coalition team, based on the specific interests and expertise of the Schneider Fellow.
The Schneider Energy Future Coalition Fellow will also have the opportunity to participate in
relevant events and conferences on behalf of the Energy Future Coalition.