

2024 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 148 – SCIENCE TOPLINE
May 13-19, 2024
N=8,638

CORRECTION (Dec. 18, 2024): The topline previously included the wrong N (number of respondents who received a survey question) for the following questions: COMMSOLR, COMMWIND, GRNECON1, GRNECON2, EVAUTO_c, EVAUTO_e, EVCAR2 and EVCAR2HYB. These figures have been updated, and the change does not alter the findings of any published analyses by the Center.

DISPLAY TO ALL:

On another topic...

ASK ALL:

ENV2 Do you favor or oppose EXPANDING each of the following sources of energy in our country?
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. More offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters			
May 13-19, 2024	48	49	3
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	47	50	2
May 2-8, 2022	48	50	2
Apr 20-29, 2021	43	55	3
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	40	58	2
Oct 1-13, 2019	42	56	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	39	60	1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	45	52	3
b. More nuclear power plants to generate electricity			
May 13-19, 2024	56	41	3
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	57	41	2
May 2-8, 2022	54	44	2
Apr 20-29, 2021	50	47	3
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	43	55	2
Oct 1-13, 2019	49	49	2
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	44	54	2
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	43	54	3
c. More coal mining			
May 13-19, 2024	39	58	3
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	38	60	2
May 2-8, 2022	36	62	2
Apr 20-29, 2021	36	61	3
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	33	65	2
Oct 1-13, 2019	35	63	2
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	37	61	2
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	41	57	3
d. More solar panel "farms"			
May 13-19, 2024	78	20	2

ENV2 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	82	17	1
May 2-8, 2022	86	13	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	84	14	2
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	90	9	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	92	8	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	89	10	1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	89	9	2
e. More hydraulic fracturing, sometimes called "fracking," for oil and natural gas			
May 13-19, 2024	44	53	3
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	44	53	2
May 2-8, 2022	45	53	3
Apr 20-29, 2021	41	56	3
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	37	60	3
Oct 1-13, 2019	38	60	2
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	39	58	2
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	42	53	5
f. More wind turbine "farms"			
May 13-19, 2024	72	26	2
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	75	23	1
May 2-8, 2022	79	19	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	77	20	2
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	83	16	2
Oct 1-13, 2019	85	14	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	85	13	2
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	83	14	3

ASK FORM 1 AND FORM 2:

EN1 Right now, which of these do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

	<u>Expanding wind, solar and hydrogen production</u>	<u>Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 13-19, 2024 ¹	64	35	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	67	32	1
May 2-8, 2022	67	32	1
Jan 24-30, 2022	69	30	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	71	27	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	79	20	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	77	22	1

¹ This combines responses from two questions, each given to a random half of respondents. Form 1 received the previous question wording, which asked respondents "Right now, which one of the following do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply? Developing alternative sources, such as wind, solar and hydrogen technology or Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas. Form 2 received the question wording as shown here in the Topline. For Form 1, 65% chose "developing alternative sources, such as wind, solar and hydrogen technology" and 34% chose "expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas." For Form 2, 62% chose "expanding wind, solar and hydrogen technology" and 36% chose "expanding exploration and production oil, coal and natural gas."

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

	<i>Developing alternative sources such as wind, solar and hydrogen technology</i>	<i>Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas</i>	(VOL.) <i>Both should be given equal priority</i>	(VOL.) <i>DK/Ref</i>
<i>Jan 4-9, 2017</i>	65	27	5	3
<i>Dec 3-7, 2014</i>	60	30	5	4
<i>Feb 12-26, 2014</i>	65	28	5	2
<i>Sep 4-8, 2013</i>	58	34	6	3
<i>Feb 13-18, 2013</i>	54	34	7	4
<i>Oct 24-28, 2012</i>	47	39	9	5
<i>Mar 7-11, 2012</i>	52	39	5	4
<i>Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011</i>	63	29	6	2

ASK ALL:

EN2 Thinking about the country's energy supply, do you think the U.S. should... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

	<i>Phase out the use of oil, coal and natural gas completely, relying instead on renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power only</i>	<i>Use a mix of energy sources including oil, coal and natural gas along with renewable energy sources</i>	<i>No answer</i>
<i>May 13-19, 2024</i>	29	69	2
<i>May 30-Jun 4, 2023</i>	31	68	1
<i>Jan 24-30, 2022</i>	31	67	2
<i>Apr 20-29, 2021</i>	33	64	2

ASK ALL:

SLRCOMMON How common are each of the following in your community? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5 AND 5-1]**

		Extremely <u>common</u>	Very <u>common</u>	Somewhat <u>common</u>	Not too <u>common</u>	Not at all <u>common</u>	Not <u>sure</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	Solar panels installed on a person's home May 13-19, 2024	5	13	31	33	13	5	<1
b.	Solar panels installed on a building or in a parking lot May 13-19, 2024	3	9	26	36	18	8	<1
d.	Large solar panel farms May 13-19, 2024	2	5	18	32	31	11	<1

ASK FORM 1 [N=4,315]:

COMMSOLR If a solar panel farm to generate electricity was built near your community, do you think it would... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		Yes, it definitely <u>would</u>	Yes, it probably <u>would</u>	No, it probably <u>would NOT</u>	Not, it definitely <u>would NOT</u>	Not <u>sure</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	Make the landscape unattractive May 13-19, 2024	17	28	30	12	13	<1
b.	Take up too much space May 13-19, 2024	15	25	32	10	17	<1
c.	Bring in more tax revenue for your community May 13-19, 2024	9	31	20	5	34	<1
d.	Lower the price you pay for electricity May 13-19, 2024	13	31	27	10	19	<1

ASK FORM 2 [N=4,323]:

COMMWIND If a wind power farm to generate electricity was built near your community, do you think it would... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		Yes, it definitely <u>would</u>	Yes, it probably <u>would</u>	No, it probably <u>would NOT</u>	Not, it definitely <u>would NOT</u>	Not <u>sure</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	Make the landscape unattractive May 13-19, 2024	19	26	29	13	13	<1
b.	Take up too much space May 13-19, 2024	19	26	30	9	15	<1
c.	Bring in more tax revenue for your community May 13-19, 2024	7	33	21	7	32	1
d.	Lower the price you pay for electricity May 13-19, 2024	11	31	28	10	19	1

ASK FORM 1 [N=4,315]:

GRNECON1 If a solar panel farm to generate electricity was built near your community, how would it affect your local economy? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

May 13-19, <u>2024</u>	
33	Help your local economy
7	Hurt your local economy
30	Make no difference for your local economy
30	Not sure
<1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=4,323]:

GRNECON2 If a wind power farm to generate electricity was built near your community, how would it affect your local economy? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

May 13-19, <u>2024</u>	
33	Help your local economy
9	Hurt your local economy
27	Make no difference for your local economy
31	Not sure
<1	No answer

ASK ALL:

EVCAR3B Do you favor or oppose rules that would make electric vehicles at least half of all new cars and trucks sold in the U.S. by the year 2032?

May 13-19, <u>2024</u>	
40	Favor
58	Oppose
2	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

EVCAR3 Do you favor or oppose phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by the year 2035?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	40	59	1
May 2-8, 2022	43	55	2
Apr 20-29, 2021	47	51	3

ASK ALL:

EVEREAD

How confident are you that the U.S. will build the charging stations and infrastructure needed to support large numbers of electric vehicles on the roads? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5 AND 5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS SLRCOMMON]**

	<u>Extremely confident</u>	<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not too confident</u>	<u>Not at all confident</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 13-19, 2024	3	9	31	31	25	1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	5	12	30	26	27	<1

ASK ALL:

EVAUTO Comparing electric vehicles to gas-powered vehicles, in general, would you say... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a.	Electric vehicles are...	<u>More fun to drive than gas-powered vehicles</u>	<u>Less fun to drive than gas-powered vehicles</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>No answer</u>
	May 13-19, 2024	13	25	59	3
	Apr 20-29, 2021	13	21	62	3
b.	Electric vehicles are...	<u>More reliable than gas-powered vehicles</u>	<u>Less reliable than gas-powered vehicles</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>No answer</u>
	May 13-19, 2024	9	50	38	2
	Apr 20-29, 2021	15	34	49	2
		<u>Cost more to buy than gas-powered vehicles</u>	<u>Cost less to buy than gas-powered vehicles</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>No answer</u>
	ASK FORM 1 ONLY				
	[N=4,315]:				
c.	Electric vehicles...				
	May 13-19, 2024	72	6	21	1
d.	Electric vehicles are...	<u>Better for the environment than gas-powered vehicles</u>	<u>Worse for the environment than gas-powered vehicles</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>No answer</u>
	May 13-19, 2024	47	20	31	1
	Apr 20-29, 2021	67	7	24	1

EVAUTO CONTINUED ...

	Cost more to charge than gas-powered vehicles <u>do to fuel</u>	Cost less to charge than gas-powered vehicles <u>do to fuel</u>	About <u>the same</u>	No <u>answer</u>
ASK FORM 2 ONLY				
[N=4,323]:				
e. Electric vehicles...				
May 13-19, 2024	28	36	32	4

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

EVAUTO Comparing electric vehicles to gas-powered vehicles, in general, would you say...

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>Cost more than gas-</u> <u>powered vehicles</u>	<u>Cost less than gas-</u> <u>powered vehicles</u>	<u>About</u> <u>the same</u>	<u>No</u> <u>answer</u>
c. Electric vehicles...				
Apr 20-29, 2021	66	9	23	2

ASK ALL:

As you may know, the Biden administration has set a goal for the U.S. to become carbon neutral by 2050, meaning the country would release no more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than it removes.

CARBNEUT Do you favor or oppose the U.S. taking steps to become carbon neutral by 2050?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 13-19, 2024	63	34	3
Jan 24-30, 2022	69	28	3

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK FORM 1 [N=4,315]:**

EVCAR2 The next time you purchase a vehicle, how likely are you to seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle?

	<u>Very</u> <u>likely</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>likely</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>likely</u>	<u>Not at all</u> <u>likely</u>	<u>I do not</u> <u>expect to</u> <u>purchase a</u> <u>vehicle</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 13-19, 2024	11	18	21	36	13	<1
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	15	23	22	28	13	<1
May 2-8, 2022	16	25	21	24	13	<1
Apr 20-29, 2021	15	24	24	23	14	<1

ASK FORM 2 [N=4,323]:

EVCAR2HYB The next time you purchase a vehicle, how likely are you to seriously consider purchasing a hybrid vehicle?

May 13-19,
2024

19	Very likely
24	Somewhat likely
17	Not too likely
25	Not at all likely
15	I do not expect to purchase a vehicle
<1	No answer

ASK ALL:

EVCAR1NEW Do you or anyone in your household currently have any of the following?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. A gas-powered vehicle May 13-19, 2024	89	10	1
b. A hybrid vehicle May 13-19, 2024	13	86	1
c. An all-electric vehicle May 13-19, 2024	7	92	1

TREND FOR COMPARISON:**ASK ALL:**

EVCAR1 Do you currently have an electric or hybrid vehicle?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	9	90	<1
May 2-8, 2022	9	91	<1
Apr 20-29, 2021	7	93	<1

ASK ALL:

CARBFOOT How important is it to you, personally, to limit your 'carbon footprint'? That is, limit the carbon emissions produced by everyday activities like electricity use, driving, travel, and the things you buy. **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5 AND 5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS SLRCOMMON]**

May 13-19,
2024

7	Extremely important
18	Very important
42	Somewhat important
20	Not too important
13	Not at all important
1	No answer