

**2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
Wave 189: Energy issues survey  
MARCH 16-22, 2026**

**TOPLINE  
N=3,524**

**Note: All numbers are percentages unless otherwise noted. Rows/columns may not total 100% due to rounding. The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel.**

**"No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say they don't know how to answer. In cases where "Not sure" was offered as an explicit option to web and telephone respondents, the "no answer" category includes only web skips and telephone refusals.**

**This survey was conducted primarily online, with some interviews conducted by live telephone. This topline shows the programming language for online administration. For details on how questions were slightly modified for phone administration, visit the questionnaire.**

**American Trends Panel surveys conducted between October 2016 and June 2024 were conducted fully online (with tablets and data plans provided to adults without home internet). American Trends Panel surveys conducted prior to October 2016 were conducted primarily online, with some respondents completing by mail. For additional details, visit the methodology.**

**PN = Programming note**

	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error at 95% confidence level</b>
U.S. adults	3,524	+/- 1.8

**ENVBEHAV****ASK ALL:****[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE ]**Do you regularly do each of the following?

		Yes, I regularly <u>do this</u>	No, I don't <u>regularly do this</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DRIVE	Carpool or limit your driving Mar 16-22, 2026	38	62	<1
SECONDH	Buy secondhand clothes or other secondhand goods Mar 16-22, 2026	48	42	<1
LIGHTS	Turn off the lights at home when no one is using them Mar 16-22, 2026	95	4	<1
WATER	Limit your water use at home Mar 16-22, 2026	55	45	<1

**[ PN: RANDOMIZE DRIVE\_WHY, SECONDH\_WHY, LIGHTS\_WHY, AND WATER\_WHY IN SAME ORDER AS THE CORRESPONDING ITEMS APPEAR IN ENVBEHAV ]****DRIVE\_WHY****ASK IF FORM 1 AND REGULARLY LIMITS DRIVING (X\_FORM=1 & ENVBEHAV\_DRIVE=1)****[ N=643 ]:****[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS LIGHTS\_WHY ]**

How much of a reason is each of the following for why you regularly carpool or limit your driving?

		A major <u>reason</u>	A minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
MONEY	To save money Mar 16-22, 2026	69	21	9	<1
ENVIR	To help the environment Mar 16-22, 2026	37	40	23	1

[ PN: RANDOMIZE DRIVE\_WHY, SECONDH\_WHY, LIGHTS\_WHY, AND WATER\_WHY IN SAME ORDER AS THE CORRESPONDING ITEMS APPEAR IN ENVBEHAV ]

#### SECONDH\_WHY

ASK IF FORM 2 AND REGULARLY BUYS SECONDHAND (X\_FORM=2 & ENVBEHAV\_SECONDH=1)

[N=788]:

[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS WATER\_WHY ]

How much of a reason is each of the following for why you regularly buy secondhand clothes or other secondhand goods?

		A major <u>reason</u>	A minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
MONEY	To save money Mar 16-22, 2026	76	19	4	<1
ENVIR	To help the environment Mar 16-22, 2026	28	40	32	<1

[ PN: RANDOMIZE DRIVE\_WHY, SECONDH\_WHY, LIGHTS\_WHY, AND WATER\_WHY IN SAME ORDER AS THE CORRESPONDING ITEMS APPEAR IN ENVBEHAV ]

#### LIGHTS\_WHY

ASK IF FORM 1 AND REGULARLY TURNS OFF LIGHTS (X\_FORM=1 & ENVBEHAV\_LIGHTS=1)

[N=1,696]:

[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS DRIVE\_WHY ]

How much of a reason is each of the following for why you regularly turn off the lights at home when no one is using them?

		A major <u>reason</u>	A minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
MONEY	To save money Mar 16-22, 2026	78	18	4	<1
ENVIR	To help the environment Mar 16-22, 2026	33	40	26	<1

[ PN: RANDOMIZE DRIVE\_WHY, SECONDH\_WHY, LIGHTS\_WHY, AND WATER\_WHY IN SAME ORDER AS THE CORRESPONDING ITEMS APPEAR IN ENVBEHAV ]

**WATER\_WHY**

**ASK IF FORM 2 AND REGULARLY LIMITS WATER USE (X\_FORM=2 & ENVBEHAV\_WATER=1)**

[N=990]:

[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS SECONDH\_WHY ]

How much of a reason is each of the following for why you regularly limit your water use at home?

		A major <u>reason</u>	A minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
MONEY	To save money Mar 16-22, 2026	66	24	9	<1
ENVIR	To help the environment Mar 16-22, 2026	51	35	14	<1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**EN1F2MOD2****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1 ]**

Right now, which of these do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply?

	<u>Expanding wind and solar production</u>	<u>Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	57	42	1
Apr 28-May 4, 2025 <sup>1</sup>	60	39	1
May 13-19, 2024 <sup>2</sup>	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

**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>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <i>Both should be given equal priority</i>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <i>DK/Ref</i>
Jan 4-9, 2017	65	27	5	3
Dec 3-7, 2014	60	30	5	4
Feb 12-26, 2014	65	28	5	2
Sep 4-8, 2013	58	34	6	3
Feb 13-18, 2013	54	34	7	4
Oct 24-28, 2012	47	39	9	5
Mar 7-11, 2012	52	39	5	4
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	63	29	6	2

<sup>1</sup> This combines responses from two questions, each given to a random half of respondents. Form 1 asked respondents "Right now, which of these do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply? Expanding wind, solar and hydrogen production, 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, 60% chose "expanding wind, solar and hydrogen production" and 38% chose "expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas." For Form 2, 60% chose "expanding wind and solar production" and 39% chose "expanding exploration and production oil, coal and natural gas."

<sup>2</sup> 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 asked respondents "Right now, which of these do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply? Expanding wind, solar and hydrogen production, or Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas." 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."

**NRGENCTV****ASK ALL:****[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS ]**

What role should the federal government play in each of the following activities?

	<u>Encourage this activity</u>	<u>Discourage this activity</u>	<u>Neither encourage nor discourage this activity</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The use of electric vehicles				
Mar 16-22, 2026	40	14	45	1
Mar 13-19, 2023	43	14	43	<1
Jan 24-30, 2022	51	10	39	1
b. The production of wind and solar power				
Mar 16-22, 2026	65	9	25	<1
Mar 13-19, 2023	66	7	26	1
Jan 24-30, 2022	72	5	22	1
c. Oil and gas drilling				
Mar 16-22, 2026	38	28	33	1
Mar 13-19, 2023	34	30	35	1
Jan 24-30, 2022	33	33	33	1
d. Coal mining				
Mar 16-22, 2026	27	36	36	1
Mar 13-19, 2023	21	39	39	1
Jan 24-30, 2022	20	44	35	1
e. The production of nuclear power				
Mar 16-22, 2026	45	20	34	1
Mar 13-19, 2023	41	22	36	1
Jan 24-30, 2022	35	26	37	2

**WINDHRD****ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1) [N=1,771]:**

How much have you read or heard about generating electricity from wind turbine farms?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	24	62	15	<1
Apr 20-29, 2021	20	64	16	<1

[ PN: RANDOMIZE WIND1\_COST, WIND1\_RELBL, AND WIND1\_ENVIR ON SAME SCREEN ]

**DISPLAY TO FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1):**

Thinking about generating electricity from wind turbine farms, do you think...

**WIND1\_COST**

**ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1) [N=1,771]:**

The cost to consumers from wind power is...

	Higher than most <u>other energy sources</u>	Lower than most <u>other energy sources</u>	About the same as most other energy <u>sources</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	28	34	35	4
Apr 20-29, 2021	26	35	34	5

**WIND1\_RELBL**

**ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1) [N=1,771]:**

The reliability of wind power is...

	More reliable than most other energy <u>sources</u>	Less reliable than most other energy <u>sources</u>	About as reliable as most other energy <u>sources</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	20	45	33	2
Apr 20-29, 2021	18	44	35	3

**WIND1\_ENVIR**

**ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1) [N=1,771]:**

The overall effect on the environment from wind power is...

	Better for the environment than most other energy <u>sources</u>	Worse for the environment than most other energy <u>sources</u>	About the same for the environment as most other energy <u>sources</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	58	15	25	2
Apr 20-29, 2021	65	10	23	3

**SOLARHRD**

**ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2) [N=1,753]:**

How much have you read or heard about generating electricity from solar panel farms?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	25	63	12	0
Apr 20-29, 2021	17	64	19	<1

[ PN: RANDOMIZE SOLAR1\_COST, SOLAR1\_RELBL, AND SOLAR1\_ENVIR ON SAME SCREEN ]

**DISPLAY TO FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2):**

Thinking about generating electricity from solar panel farms, do you think...

**SOLAR1\_COST**

**ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2) [N=1,753]:**

The cost to consumers from solar power is...

	Higher than most <u>other energy sources</u>	Lower than most <u>other energy sources</u>	About the same as most other energy <u>sources</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	30	37	31	2
Apr 20-29, 2021	31	36	30	4

**SOLAR1\_RELBL**

**ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2) [N=1,753]:**

The reliability of solar power is...

	More reliable than <u>other energy sources</u>	Less reliable than most other energy <u>sources</u>	About as reliable as most other energy <u>sources</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	26	37	36	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	24	35	38	3

**SOLAR1\_ENVIR**

**ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2) [N=1,753]:**

The overall effect on the environment from solar power is...

	Better for the environment than most other energy <u>sources</u>	Worse for the environment than most other energy <u>sources</u>	About the same for the environment as most other energy <u>sources</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	61	12	26	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	70	7	21	2

**LAWCOST****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1 ]**

Which of these statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

	Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the <u>economy</u>	Stricter environmental laws and regulations <u>are worth the cost</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	42	56	2
Apr 8-14, 2024	41	57	2
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	45	53	2
May 2-8, 2022	45	53	2
Apr 20-29, 2021	41	56	3
Sep 3-15, 2019	33	65	2

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Which of these statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?*

	Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the <u>economy</u>	Stricter environmental laws and regulations <u>are worth the cost</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> Both/Neither <u>/DK/Ref</u>
<i>Sep 5-16, 2019</i>	35	61	5
<i>Jan 9-14, 2019</i>	30	63	6
<i>Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017</i>	37	59	5
<i>Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016</i>	34	59	7
<i>Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016</i>	39	54	7
<i>Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015</i>	36	59	4
<i>Jun 4-Sep 30, 2014</i>	38	57	5
<i>Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014</i>	39	56	5
<i>Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011</i>	39	53	7
<i>November, 2007</i>	27	63	10
<i>July, 2006</i>	31	57	12
<i>March, 2006</i>	29	65	6
<i>December, 2005</i>	37	56	7
<i>December, 2004</i>	31	60	9
<i>September, 2000</i>	31	61	8
<i>August, 1999</i>	28	65	7
<i>October, 1996</i>	30	63	7
<i>October, 1995</i>	35	61	4
<i>April, 1995</i>	39	57	4
<i>October, 1994</i>	32	62	6
<i>July, 1994</i>	33	62	5

**EVCAR2****ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1) [N=1,771]:**

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

	<u>Very likely</u>	<u>Somewhat likely</u>	<u>Not too likely</u>	<u>Not at all likely</u>	<u>I do not expect to purchase a vehicle</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	12	19	21	32	15	<1
Apr 28-May 4, 2025	11	22	21	32	14	<1
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

**EVCAR2HYB****ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2) [N=1,753]:**

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

	<u>Very likely</u>	<u>Somewhat likely</u>	<u>Not too likely</u>	<u>Not at all likely</u>	<u>I do not expect to purchase a vehicle</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 16-22, 2026	20	24	18	21	18	<1
Apr 28-May 4, 2025	20	25	18	22	14	<1
May 13-19, 2024	19	24	17	25	15	<1

**EVCAR1NEW****ASK ALL:**

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			
Mar 16-22, 2026	89	10	<1
May 13-19, 2024	89	10	1
b. A hybrid vehicle			
Mar 16-22, 2026	16	83	1
May 13-19, 2024	13	86	1
c. An all-electric vehicle			
Mar 16-22, 2026	8	90	1
May 13-19, 2024	7	92	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>3</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	Something <u>else</u>	No <u>answer</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
28	27	29	15	1	18	22

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<sup>3</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.