World energy demand is projected to jump nearly 40% over the next 20 years. We need to be prepared in order to meet the need. You don’t have to be an expert to know your options and make informed decisions on energy.

9 in 10 of Americans say the energy situation is serious. 87% are worried about gas prices. 65% say global warming is a serious problem.

Public view

87% worry about gas prices.
5 in 10 think the U.S. will face a critical energy shortage in the next 5 years.

Expert view

87% of Americans say the energy situation is very serious.

“Warming of the climate system is unequivocal.” - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

“We have had a promising surge, mainly through ‘fracking’ for oil and gas. Fracking could be bad for the environment. Natural gas and oil are still fossil fuels - they’ll run out.”

Looking at our options

1. Move away from fossil fuels and invest in renewables.
2. Produce more fuel domestically, focusing on natural gas and oil.
3. Move toward a more energy efficient society.

The choices aren’t easy. The public view and the expert view differ on the options. There are pros and cons for each.

Renewable Energy

+ It’s good for the environment. It won’t run out.
+ It’s costly.
+ It will take a long time before we can rely on it consistently.

Domestic Energy

+ It’s important for our nation’s energy security.
+ We’ve had a promising surge, mainly through “fracking” for oil and gas.
+ Fracking could be bad for the environment.
+ Natural gas and oil are still fossil fuels - they’ll run out.

Energy Efficiency

+ It’s good for the environment. We use more energy than we should.
+ It’s not enough, and it’ll take a long time.
+ Making energy efficient homes could increase rents and housing prices.

We have to find a way forward. Decision could have devastating results.

11 of the hottest 13 years on record have occurred since 2001.

At the rate we’re going, we could run out of oil in 50 years.

SOURCES:
For more from PA on energy, check out “The Energy Learning Curve.”