

CLEAN ENERGY

Americans hear confusing information about the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. Oil and coal companies say the transition will be slow, insufficient, and come with costs. Environmentalists say that the transition certainly can, and might, happen very quickly, that it can support our energy needs, and comes with benefits. What's the truth and how do you talk about it? The following talking points, and links to key facts, should help.

1. ***Many of us wonder if clean energy is practical.*** People ask, is it possible that wind and solar can power America? When?
2. ***The reality is that clean energy is available now.*** The costs for wind and solar energy continue to plummet, and capacity is scaling up rapidly.
3. ***Clean energy is now cheaper than coal or nuclear power.*** For the past couple of years, over two thirds of the new utility-scale power generation capacity in America and the world has come from clean energy.
4. ***The world is moving quickly toward clean energy.*** Hundreds of companies and cities are now using or have committed to 100% clean energy. It is available in every state in our nation.
5. ***Americans want clean energy.*** By wide margins, Americans prefer local clean energy. It's healthier for us, helping to ensure our air is clean and water is safe. And, it can bring local, good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced.
6. ***Even all the big car manufacturers are switching to electric cars.*** They know that clean, electric cars have better performance and will soon cost less than gas-powered cars.
7. ***You can probably switch to clean energy right now.*** Many utilities now offer it as an affordable option. Some areas offer 100% financing to put up your own solar panels.
8. ***Oil and coal companies, and some utilities, are trying to hold onto their power and profits.*** They are putting up barriers to limit our choices and raise the cost of clean energy. The transition to clean energy, however, is prevailing.
9. ***A clean energy economy isn't a question of "if" but "when."*** Communities across America are learning that smart investments in clean energy protect our health, attract new business, create jobs, and build stronger communities for our families. The choice for a faster transition to clean energy is ours to make.

COUNTERPOINTS

Following are the current main arguments against shifting to clean energy and suggested responses.

1. **Clean energy costs me more!**
Response: Energy costs vary widely in America. In years past, wind and solar did cost more, so the utilities are still paying back those costs. Newer wind and solar are cheaper, and consumers could see these savings sooner.
2. **If clean energy is cheaper, why do I see gas powered cars and coal plants everywhere?**
Response: If you look to the past, that's what you'll see. But if you look toward the future, it's a different story. It could take time to make the clean energy transition, so it's up to us to make sure it happens quickly.
3. **I can't get clean energy.**
Response: Some utilities still don't offer clean energy. And some of us are renters who don't get to choose our energy. As consumers, we need to continue to ask our utilities to offer the choice for clean energy. In the meantime, [Arcadia Power](#) offers access to clean energy for homeowners and renters in all 50 states. You can also conserve energy, and offset your impact with companies like [Carbon Fund](#).
4. **Wind and solar are not dependable.**
Response: The sun isn't shining all the time, and the wind isn't always blowing, but [wind and solar](#) are dependable as part of the grid, and with competitive energy storage systems which are rapidly scaling up, they will be able to exceed most of our energy needs.
5. **What about natural gas?**
Response: While there has been rapid growth in natural gas production over the last decade, it is no longer economically competitive with wind and solar energy. On top of this, the extraction process for natural gas pollutes our air and poisons our water, causing damage to our health and communities.
6. **What about the coal miners?**
Response: [Clean energy jobs](#) now greatly outnumber fossil fuel jobs, and are rapidly growing while coal and oil jobs disappear. But that doesn't help coal miners and coal communities. We have the responsibility to help our fellow citizens through this transition, just as they would help us. Efforts underway to support a just transition are helping, but need to be scaled up to ensure that the affected workers have the opportunity to live their best lives.

Important Facts on Wind, Solar and other Clean Energy

- [Solar Facts \(in every state\)](#), [Wind Facts \(40 of 50 states\)](#)
- Interactive [Electricity Generation by State](#); [Wind Power map](#)
- [Advanced Energy Storage](#) forecast, how [wind and solar CAN power 100% US energy](#)
- [Cost of Clean Energy](#) vs. Fossil Fuels
- [We Have the Power](#) 100% Renewable; [Think 100](#); [Just Transition here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)
- Clean energy job statistics [here](#) and electric vehicle statistics [here](#) and [here](#)
- **Committed to 100%:** [Communities](#), [corporations](#)
- Access clean energy with [Arcadia Power](#), buy offsets with [Carbon Fund](#)