

## Key Concepts From Youth Town Hall #1 On Arizona's Energy Future

- The availability of reliable, safe and affordable energy impacts every part of our lives. Energy relates directly to the quality of life.
- We take energy for granted and are used to having all we need. All we care about is if our “stuff” works when we turn it on.
- We need to reshape our values from a culture of consumption to one of conservation and innovation.
- Changing our energy policies and practices involves tradeoffs to balance the needs of various interests. Meeting the demand for responsible, reliable energy requires flexibility.
- Economics are a key driver of the conversion to renewable and sustainable energy. “Green” is not free. There should be incentives, regulatory changes and benefits to companies, communities and individuals.
- Each individual must take responsibility for his/her energy consumption. We will all need to modify our priorities and behaviors.
- Economic status/social class affects how energy issues are viewed. Gas prices and the cost of going green may be less important to the wealthy. Cheaper energy is very important to lower income individuals. The wealthy have more say in the choice of energy options.
- Elected officials should support renewable energy with legislation. Policymakers will be driven by consumer demand for sustainability.
- Corporations, schools and government can impact public opinion by setting the example for adopting alternative energy sources and conservation.
- Education is the key to raising awareness and creating action on energy issues. This should begin with young, school-age children to instill energy-conscious behaviors early. Energy usage should be made visible in all settings (e.g. students in dorms). Education includes showing everyone ways they can conserve, and increasing the public's knowledge of energy options. Energy issues should be added to the physical sciences curriculum in schools, and interdisciplinary courses should be offered at colleges.
- Additional investments should be made in energy research focusing on long-term savings, positive impacts to the environment, and using technology to optimize how we can use renewable energy.
- Arizona needs a plan for energy infrastructure that looks at energy as an investment and provides for a transition to a diverse portfolio that includes sustainable resources. Emphasis should also be placed on safety and affordability.