

## National Energy Policy Survey

Funders: Texas A&M University's [Crisman Institute](#) for Petroleum Research in the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering, Institute for Science, Technology and Public Policy in the Bush School, and [Office of the Vice President for Research](#).

US policy makers face the complex and critical task of developing our domestic energy portfolio in ways that promote national security, economic vitality, and environmental quality. Given the public's keen interest and key participatory role in the energy policy process, we must better understand their views on the risks and benefits of various energy sources and policy preferences. By knowing this, we can best frame the scientific information, policies, and choices that will guide our successful national energy policy. To this end, ISTPP developed and fielded a national energy policy survey.

ISTPP researchers are analyzing the results of this survey to ascertain the public's attitudes, perceptions, and preferences on a broad spectrum of energy issues. We seek to learn how U.S. citizens obtain their knowledge about these complex issues, frame these problems, and weigh alternative courses of action. More specifically, we are scrutinizing the public's:

- Rating of the importance of energy self-sufficiency to national security
- Expectations about future energy supplies
- Knowledge about energy sources used to produce electricity
- Sources of information used to learn about energy issues
- Level of trust and competence attributed to sources of information
- Assessments of the comparative risks, benefits, and costs of various energy sources
- Preferences regarding energy sources (coal, natural gas, nuclear, wind, solar, and hydroelectric)
- Degree of competence assigned to groups that recommend policy options and make policy decisions
- The role of government and the private sector in energy policy
- Energy policy preferences

ISTPP presented some of [results](#) of the national energy policy survey at the [Texas A&M Energy Institute/Growing Texas](#) and to the Crisman Institute Review Board. Additionally, ISTPP is publishing scholarly articles based on the survey in peer-reviewed academic journals. Continue to check the [ISTPP Scholarship](#) webpage for information on these articles as they are published.

GfK Knowledge Networks conducted the English-language survey for ISTPP between May 11, 2012 and May 26, 2012. GfK Knowledge Networks sent an online invitation to randomly selected members of their KnowledgePanel, an already recruited group of 50,000 adults (ages 18 and over) that is built on a representative, random sample of US households. There are 1,525 completed surveys and a medium completion time of 29 minutes.

Dr. Arnold Vedlitz (ISTPP Director and Bob Bullock Chair in Government and Public Policy) led the project team. Team members included: Dr. Scott E. Robinson (Associate Professor at The Bush School) and ISTPP staff: Dr. Xinsheng Liu (Associate Research Scientist), Dr. James W. Stoutenborough (Postdoctoral Research Associate), and Liu Shi (Senior Research Associate). Texas A&M Energy Institute cooperated in the research efforts.