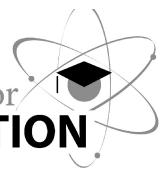


News Release

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National Foundation for
ENERGY EDUCATION



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Energy Knowledge Remains Dismal Throughout Secondary School

Alexandria, VA, April 28, 2011– To find out what America’s students think about the energy future of America, the *National Foundation for Energy Education (NFEED)* recently conducted the *National Student Energy Survey*. The 13 question survey was posed to 3,598 secondary school students in 70 schools from 21 states. The survey results for the middle school students was nearly identical as high school juniors and seniors.

The results of the *National Student Energy Survey* were released today at a news conference conducted by *NFEED* President, Jerry Katz, a.k.a. *Mr. Energy* at Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria, Virginia. During the news conference *Mr. Energy* commented, “You would expect a 7th grader to have a more limited knowledge of the role of renewable energy in today’s energy mix, when compared to high school senior. However the reality is that there is little growth between 7th and 12th grade. The high school senior knows only a little more about energy than the seventh grader.”

Often over one-third of students surveyed had no opinion about important energy issues such as nuclear power and domestic energy development, or knowledge of technologies like the Smart Grid. They also greatly over estimated the role of renewable energy today and the transformation of energy consumed into useful energy. “You would think after 38 years of energy education efforts our high school graduates would know basic energy information and have some opinion on major issues,” said *NFEED* President, Jerry Katz.

Findings from the Survey

When asked how energy-educated the students considered themselves to be, on a scale of 0 to a high score of 10, 48 percent selected values above the average knowledge level of 5.4. Almost 22 percent said they had an average knowledge level and 30 percent indicated their energy knowledge was below average.

The Environment: Almost 47 percent, indicated concern about climate change. On a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 indicating strong support of the philosophy that fossil fuel use and human activity are the cause of climate change, students’ average rating was 6.0. A third of the students had no opinion or were neutral on the issue while a quarter were felt normal climatic changes were chiefly responsible for changes

When asked how well the energy industry protects the environment, student opinion revealed a shift from last year’s survey, probably as a results of the BP oil spill and the accident in Japan. Today 25 percent said they felt industry is doing a good job, last year it was 36%. The average rating, with 10 indicating that industry was doing an outstanding job protecting the environment was a 4.8.

Students were asked to honestly rate their daily energy conservation decision making? A rating of 10 means all of the student’s energy decisions where base on conserving energy. The average value was 4.7, and 6.2 for those students considering themselves as very energy educated. Almost 39% felt they were below average energy savers, and, 19 % considered themselves average with 36% above average savers.

Electric Power: Students rated their support for expanding nuclear power using a scale of 0 to a high score of 10, with 10 being very supportive of new nuclear power plant construction. Prior to the recent nuclear accident the average student score was 5.4, up from last school year’s average of 4.9. After the nuclear accident the average score fell slightly to 5.0, and students were evenly divided with one-third opposed, in favor, and neutral about expanding the use of nuclear power

Surprisingly, students' support for clean coal technology research that would allow coal consumption to remain or exceed current levels received a 6.3, with 10 being very supportive of clean coal research. Students from coal producing states support was a 6.8 and from non producing states the rating was 6.1. Almost half of the students supported clean coal research with 23% opposing research to maintain or increase domestic coal consumption.

Oil and Gas:

Students predicted that in 20 years, 51 percent of the nation's vehicles will run on a fuel other than gasoline.

Support for development of oil and gas from offshore and in Alaska was 5.3, with a value of 10 being very supportive of drilling and production. Last year this value was 4.9. Almost 32% had no opinion or were neutral on domestic production offshore and in Alaska; 33% opposed development and 35% were in favor.

Students were almost evenly split on increasing the production and consumption more natural gas, especially for electric power generation and transportation. The average value was a 5.1 for a fuel source that most experts agree will increase significantly in the next 20 years. "We were surprised not to see stronger support for natural gas. Students may have gotten confused between natural gas and gasoline and that's why Americans young and old need to become at least four times more energy educated than they are today," said Mr. Energy.

Renewable & Green Energy

Students estimated that on average, 44 percent of the nation's energy is being supplied by renewable sources. The correct total value for hydro power, wind, geothermal, biomass, and solar is 8 percent.

Renewable energy, as expected, received the highest support ratings from students with a 6.4. Even with the talk about large deficits, students wanted tax-payer dollars to continue to support the growth of the solar and wind energy industries. Almost 55% indicated continued tax payer support for renewable energy growth, while 21% did not funding with 24% undecided or neutral.

Using waste heat to do work is considered green energy too, however, students grossly overestimated the amount of useful energy we get out of every 100 units consumed. In the United States about 12.5% becomes useful energy with the remainder mostly being transferred into waste heat. The average value given by students for useful energy to do work was 48%.

Students were asked how much they could tell someone about the *Smart Grid*, 25 percent said they could say nothing giving themselves a 0 rating. The average rating was a 3.8 with 22% giving themselves a rating of above 5.0, and 47% rating themselves below 5.0.

Katz noted that because of the classroom activities and the national survey, many students now realize that planning America's energy future is more complex than they thought. "We encourage these students to share what they have learned with their friends and family," he said. "The more people we can educate, the more reason we will all have to be optimistic about the future."

For more information on the *National Foundation for Energy Education* and their efforts to educate America's students about energy, visit www.TheGreatAmericanEnergyDebate.org.