



### ENERGY SUPPLY SECURITY

An advocate of this priority might say, “We use electricity to run our businesses, to charge our phones, to do our banking, to run our medical equipment, and to run our law enforcement and military operations. Without a reliable way to generate electricity, life as we know it in our country would not exist. We must do whatever it takes to supply the U.S. with all the electricity we use.”



### ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

An advocate of this priority might say, “We must minimize the environmental impacts of the supply, distribution, and use of energy. The evidence is clear that burning fossil fuels is affecting the climate. Many people suffer asthma and other medical conditions due to dirty methods of generating electricity. Solar and wind energy might be more expensive in the short term, but they are well worth our investment in the long term.”



### ECONOMICS AND JOB CREATION

An advocate of this priority might say, “If we spend a lot of money on expensive ways to generate electricity, taxes will have to go up even more and people won’t be able to afford to buy goods and services. As a result, our country will not have a healthy economy and businesses won’t be able to give people jobs.”

	Pro	Con
<b>solar</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no greenhouse gases</li> <li>• unlimited supply</li> <li>• decentralization (can be produced locally instead of at one large plant)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• can't charge after the sun sets</li> <li>• expensive</li> <li>• panels take a lot of space</li> </ul>
<b>wind</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no greenhouse gases</li> <li>• unlimited supply</li> <li>• decentralization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wind not constant</li> <li>• noisy</li> <li>• turbines sometimes don't fit in with the natural landscape</li> </ul>
<b>fossil fuel</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• can <b>generate</b> a huge amount of electricity</li> <li>• cheap and abundant (especially coal)</li> <li>• <b>fuel</b> can be transported to the <b>power</b> plant easily</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pollution and greenhouse gases</li> <li>• extraction of <b>fuel</b> causes environmental damage</li> <li>• while abundant now, the supply won't last forever</li> </ul>
<b>nuclear</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no greenhouse gases</li> <li>• the price of the <b>fuel</b> (like uranium) is more stable than fossil <b>fuels</b></li> <li>• plant can run for long periods of time without interruption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nuclear waste is dangerous and hard to store</li> <li>• accidents are extremely dangerous</li> <li>• nuclear plants use lots of water to cool the reactors, which can be an environmental problem</li> </ul>
<b>hydro</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no greenhouse gases</li> <li>• dams last a long time</li> <li>• cheaper to maintain than thermal plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• can flood large areas of land, displacing many people</li> <li>• dams change river ecosystems</li> <li>• if water supplies are low, hydro plants are affected</li> </ul>