

Composite Results & Highest-Priority Topics from True Costs Survey

Issues/Notes on Selection Process: A three-step process was used to cull the list of topics from 34 down to the 10 priorities, highlighted in yellow below, that are to be pursued through joint fact-finding. First, topics were ranked based on 36 stakeholder responses to the survey (rankings of issues within the economic, social, and environmental categories appear on p. 2 of this file). Second, overlaps among the top 10 topics were analyzed, and two were determined to be covered adequately by other high-ranked issues. Third, the three issues that attracted a significant percentage of "I don't know how important this issue is" answers were reviewed. One duplicated a previous issue, leaving two topics for a total of 10.	Ranking	I Don't Knows	Comment
Effects on Air Quality	4.47		
Impacts of Global Climate Change (sea level rise, aquifer infiltration, ecosystem disruption, etc.)	4.44		
Indirect/True Costs (effects of impacts to air quality, water quality, etc.)	4.28		Covered by 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9
Effects on Nutrient Loading/Eutrophication of Groundwater & Surface Waters	4.22		
Affordability of Living and Working in the Cape & Islands	4.19		
Effects on Mercury Concentrations & Fish Contamination	4.17		
Changes to Ecological Communities (habitat value, wildlife distribution, etc.)	4.17		
Impact Mitigation Costs (spill-related revenue losses, health impacts, ecosystem service degradation, etc.)	4		
Social Ramifications of Externalities (effect of deferring the costs to future generations, e.g., climate change, and from the private sector to the public sphere, e.g., air pollution and public health)	3.97		
Economic Impact of Energy Costs on Senior Citizens/Retired Population	3.94		Covered by 6
Effects of Fuel Supply Reliability & Power Quality	3.94		
Effects on pH (acidification) of Soils/Water	3.94		
Personal Behavior & the Disconnect Between Energy Sources & Energy Uses	3.89		
Contribution of Off-Cape/Upwind Sources to Local/Regional Pollution Problems	3.89	1	
Effects of Automobile-Centered Development/Sprawl	3.74		
Energy Footprints & Social/Global Equity (increasing gap between the haves and the have-nots)	3.72		
Energy Spending Leaving the Regional Economy (lack of revenue recycling)	3.67	3	
Impact of Climate Change on Home Insurance Costs	3.67		
Impacts on Local, Regional, and National Culture & Heritage (spills, ANWR, etc.)	3.67		
Connections Between Ample, Affordable Energy & Quality of Life	3.64		
Impacts/Risks of Energy Transportation & Delivery (tankers, pipelines, power lines)	3.61		
Thermal Pollution Associated with Power Plant Discharges	3.57	1	
Impacts Elsewhere Associated with Extracting Fuel to Meet Local/Regional Energy Needs	3.56		
Impacts of Energy Price Volatility/Unpredictability	3.56		
Role of Stationary vs. Mobile Sources (power plants, homes, vehicles)	3.52	5	
Health Impacts of Climate Change (heat stress, disease)	3.5		
Contribution of Cape & Islands Sources to Local/Regional Pollution Problems	3.49	1	
Environmental Justice (communities elsewhere bear burdens associated with extracting the fuel used to meet local/regional needs)	3.43		
Business Competitiveness	3.41	3	Covered by 6
Economic Dislocations Caused by Future Shortages of Fossil Fuels	3.33		
National Security Impacts	3.33		
Impacts of Transportation Costs on the Price of Goods & Services	3.29	1	
Aesthetics & Noise (landscape change, views, etc.)	2.94		
Impacts of Transportation Costs on Tourism	2.88	1	

Results by Issue Category					
Economic	Score	Environmental	Score	Social	Score
Indirect/True Costs (effects of impacts to air quality, water quality, etc.)	4.28	Effects on Air Quality	4.47	Social Ramifications of Externalities (effect of deferring the costs to future generations, e.g., climate change, and from the private sector to the public sphere, e.g., air pollution and public health)	3.97
Affordability of Living and Working in the Cape & Islands	4.19	Impacts of Global Climate Change (sea level rise, aquifer infiltration, ecosystem disruption, etc.)	4.4	Personal Behavior & the Disconnect Between Energy Sources & Energy Uses	3.89
Impact Mitigation Costs (spill-related revenue losses, health impacts, ecosystem service degradation, etc.)	4	Effects on Nutrient Loading/Eutrophication of Groundwater & Surface Waters	4.22	Effects of Automobile-Centered Development/Sprawl	3.74
Economic Impact of Energy Costs on Senior Citizens/Retired Population	3.94	Effects on Mercury Concentrations & Fish Contamination	4.17	Energy Footprints & Social/Global Equity (increasing gap between the haves and the have-nots)	3.72
Effects of Fuel Supply Reliability & Power Quality	3.94	Changes to Ecological Communities (habitat value, wildlife distribution, etc.)	4.17	Connections Between Ample, Affordable Energy & Quality of Life	3.64
Energy Spending Leaving the Regional Economy (lack of revenue recycling)	3.67	Effects on pH (acidification) of Soils/Water	3.94	Health Impacts of Climate Change (heat stress, disease)	3.5
Impact of Climate Change on Home Insurance Costs	3.67	Contribution of Off-Cape/Upwind Sources to Local/Regional Pollution Problems	3.89	Environmental Justice (communities elsewhere bear burdens associated with extracting the fuel used to meet local/regional needs)	3.43
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Impacts of Transportation Costs on the Price of Goods & Services	3.29	Thermal Pollution Associated with Power Plant Discharges	3.57	Social Ramifications of Externalities (effect of deferring the costs to future generations, e.g., climate change, and from the private sector to the public sphere, e.g., air pollution and public health)	3.97
Impacts of Transportation Costs on Tourism	2.88	Impacts Elsewhere Associated with Extracting Fuel to Meet Local/Regional Energy Needs	3.56		
		Role of Stationary vs. Mobile Sources (power plants, homes, vehicles)	3.52		
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