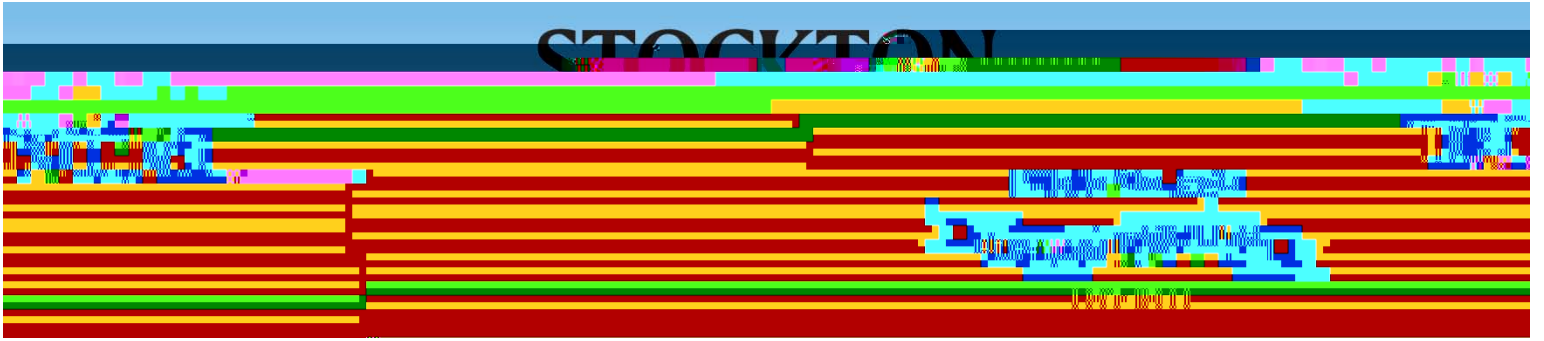


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placed a high value on environmental protection. Wind and solar power were the top choices when attendees were asked to pick their preferred energy sources.

Dr. Hossay cautioned that the clicker responses are not a statistically representative poll, but rather a sample of opinions at the symposium. However, he said, the results affirm widespread American support for prioritizing alternative energy development and concern about climate change.

The professor noted that symposium participants included industry leaders and environmental activists with differing views.

“The Hughes Center has brought together people who typically don’t sit in the same room, and for starting a conversation,” Dr. Hossay said.

“They engaged each other, and we were able to compare their opinions and see where there’s common ground,” he said. “That’s how you make good public policy.”

Dr. Hossay heads Stockton's new BA and BS degree programs in sustainability. He teaches courses in environmental policy, energy, and conservation, and has worked regionally and internationally on conservation and energy projects.

The following is a sample of questions posed during the Energy Symposium session with results from attendees and from national polls. National numbers may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding and unreported “Not sure” responses.

Is global warming real?	Symposium	National
Yes	82%	83%
No	18%	17%

Keeping energy prices low	7%
Reducing dependence on foreign oil	35%
Creating jobs in energy sector	15%
Protecting the environment	43%

Dr. Hossay is the author of *Unsustainable: A Primer for Global Environmental Justice* (Zed Books, 2006).

Prior to the clicker poll exercise, EPA Administrator Jackson, the symposium's keynote speaker, told attendees that renewable energy can create jobs that contribute significantly to post-recession economic growth. She said the green economy will influence four areas identified by President Barack Obama as driving growth: manufacturing, worker education and training, a return to American values, and a new era of American energy production and innovation.

"An economy built around the new challenge of going farther on a smaller tank of gas is an example of how a good investment in the economy can be a pillar of future growth," said Jackson, a former commissioner of the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection.

Other panel discussions throughout the symposium explored issues related to the energy industry and energy consumption in New Jersey.

Chris Wissemann, CEO of Fishermen's Energy, sparked strong interest from attendees with an outline of the company's plans to build a wind farm 2.8 miles off the coast of Atlantic City. Wissemann predicted the costs of offshore wind energy will decrease over time once infrastructure is built to allow for expansion.

Wissemann said the project timetable depends on state approvals, but that Fishermen's Energy hopes to begin construction in 2013.

Lively breakout sessions explored the issues of nuclear energy and hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. Jamie Mallon of PSEG and David Pringle of the N.J. Environmental Federation offered alternative viewpoints on "The Future of Nuclear Energy." The fracking panel included James Benton, executive director of the N.J. Petroleum Council; Jim Walsh, Eastern regional director of the Food and Water Watch; and Zoltan Szabo of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Other subjects touched upon in panel discussions included energy efficiency in buildings, large-scale alternative energy, and energy infrastructure.

