

Running on Empty

America's Energy Crisis

A Four-Part Documentary

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Two dollar a gallon gas, soaring energy bills, rolling blackouts in California—what's next? Why are we in an energy crisis? Does anybody know where we're going in our energy future? And, what's on the horizon to solve our energy problems—Wind energy? Solar power? Clean coal? More nuclear?

Running on Empty provides perspective and offers answers to these and many other questions about energy in America.

Running on Empty is rich in sound bites drawn from in-depth interviews of political leaders, energy R&D experts, political scientists, economists, and representatives of consumer and environmental groups. Among those interviewed are:

- Dr. James Schlesinger, America's first Secretary of Energy.
- US Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.
- US Senator Pete Domenici, senior member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and ranking Republican on the Senate Budget Committee.
- Professor Don Kash, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, co-author of the book *U.S. Energy Policy—Crisis and Complacency*.
- Kurt Yeager, Chief Executive Officer of the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto, California.
- Debbie Reed, Spokeswoman for the National Environmental Trust.
- Dr. Dexter Sutterfield, Associate Director of the National Petroleum Technology Office, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- Geoff Sundstrom of the American Automobile Association's National Office, representing 40 million motorists
- Todd Spencer, Executive Vice President of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, representing 60,000 truckers.
- Many other experts on energy technology and energy, environmental and economic policy.

The documentary traces recent history to the roots of America's energy crisis in the first half-hour program, *Why Are We Running on Empty?* The second segment, *Where Are We Now?* takes stock of our energy resources, consumption patterns, aging energy infrastructure, and the environmental consequences of our energy appetite. *Who's at the Wheel?* - the third program, gives an in-depth examination of energy policy, to see how public and national interests, environmental concerns, and market forces are balanced. And, the last program, *Driving the Future*, looks ahead to how energy technology is likely to evolve, and how new technology can solve our energy crisis.

Running on Empty part-by-part description:

Part 1- Why Are We Running on Empty?

The first program, *Why Are We Running on Empty?* traces recent history to the roots of America's current energy crisis. What's changed in the past 25 years? Audio from archived television news broadcasts, featuring Walter Cronkite, Howard K. Smith, and John Chancellor, and audio from President Jimmy Carter's speeches provide *deja vu* perspective. Interviews of political leaders, consumers and environmental advocates, and the "person on the street" round out the picture.

Featured are interviews of America's first Secretary of Energy, Dr. James Schlesinger; Geoff Sundstrom of the American Automobile Association's National Office, representing 40 million motorists; and Todd Spencer, Executive Vice President of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, representing 60,000 truckers. And, energy technology historian, Professor Timothy Moy spotlights little-known energy events that catapulted America into World War II.

Part 2 - Where Are We Now?

The second program, *Where Are We Now?* looks at our energy resources, consumption patterns, aging energy infrastructure, and the environmental consequences of our energy appetite. This program answers the questions: What does California's electric power crisis mean for the rest of America? And, why are gasoline prices skyrocketing?

How much natural gas, petroleum, and coal do we really have, and how long will supplies last? Where do solar and wind energy fit in? Should we reconsider nuclear energy? What is the new "brain gap"?

Suggestions come from: Kurt Yeager, Chief Executive Officer of the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto, California; Dr. Dexter Sutterfield, Associate Director of the National Petroleum Technology Office, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Dr. Leonard Graham, Deputy Director of the Strategic Center for Natural Gas Technology, Morgantown, West Virginia; Dr. Tom Sarkus, Senior Technical Analyst at the National Energy Technology Laboratory, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Margie Tatro, Director of Energy and Transportation Security, Sandia National Laboratories; Tom Blejwas, Director of Nuclear and Risk Technology Center, Sandia National Laboratories; Dr. Thomas Squires, Director of Associated Western Universities; and Professor Michael Karmis, Head of the Department of Mining Engineering, Virginia Tech University.

Part 3 - Who's at the Wheel?

The third program, *Who's at the Wheel?* looks at energy policy. As a society we like to turn on the lights, the TV and the air conditioner. We've become used to hopping into our cars or onto a jet and going where we want. We also want clean air and water. But we have learned that everything comes with a price. What is the balance for public and national interests, environmental concerns, and market forces? Our leaders--government officials, economists, and political scientists--tell what goes into an effective energy policy.

Featured in this segment are: US Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; US Senator Pete Domenici, Ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee and senior member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; Dr. James Schlesinger, America's first Secretary of Energy; Professor Don Kash, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, co-author of the book *U.S. Energy Policy—Crisis and Complacency*; Dr. Carl Grafton, Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, Auburn University, Montgomery, Alabama; Professor John Byrne, Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy at the University of Delaware; Professor Harold Schobert, Director of the Energy Institute, Pennsylvania State University; Debbie Reed, Spokeswoman for the National Environmental Trust; and Dr. Marquis Seidel, former economist for the Environmental Protection Agency and Federal Power Commission.

Part 4 - Driving the Future.

The fourth program, *Driving the Future* looks ahead to how energy technology is likely to evolve, and how new technology can solve our energy crisis. Electricity from the sun and wind? Diesel and gasoline from coal? Fuel cells and methane hydrates? What's hot for our energy future? As the cartoon philosopher Pogo, observed "If we don't change our direction we'll probably end up where we're headed." Will our energy future be one of scarcity or sufficiency? *Driving the Future* gets the answers from university and national laboratory experts on everything from renewable energy options to ultra-clean diesel and gasoline from coal.

Featured in this segment are: Dr. Karl Stahlkopf, Vice President of Power Delivery, the Electric Power Research Institute, Palo Alto, California; Dr. Tom Sarkus, Senior Technical Analyst in charge of Clean Coal Technology at National Energy Technology Laboratory in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Dr. Abbie Layne Manager of the Advanced Turbines and Engines Program at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown, West Virginia; Margie Tatro, Director of the Renewable Energy programs at Sandia National Laboratories; Dr. Mark Williams, Manager of the Fuel Cell Program for the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown; Dr. Gilbert McGurl, Director of the Process Engineering Division at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Pittsburgh; Dr. Lawrence Ruth, Senior Advisor, National Energy Technology Laboratories, Pittsburgh; Hugh Guthrie, Senior Technical Advisor for the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown; and Dr. James Schlesinger, America's first Secretary of Energy.

Running on Empty is a project of Vision Trust, Inc. a New Mexico based non-profit corporation that produces educational and public interest programming. As a team, the producers bring nine decades of professional experience to developing ***Running on Empty***. Virginia Stephens is a free-lance technical writer and retired teacher. Jim Cochran, a veteran radio and TV producer who specializes in scientific and technical programs, is President of Vision Trust, a non-profit organization that produces scientific, educational and public interest programming. Dr. Howard Stephens is a retired Sandia National Laboratory Manager who spent 27 years in materials and energy R&D, and is a past Chairman of the American Chemical Society's Division of Fuel Chemistry. The program has been produced and distributed in association with KUNM, public radio at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

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