

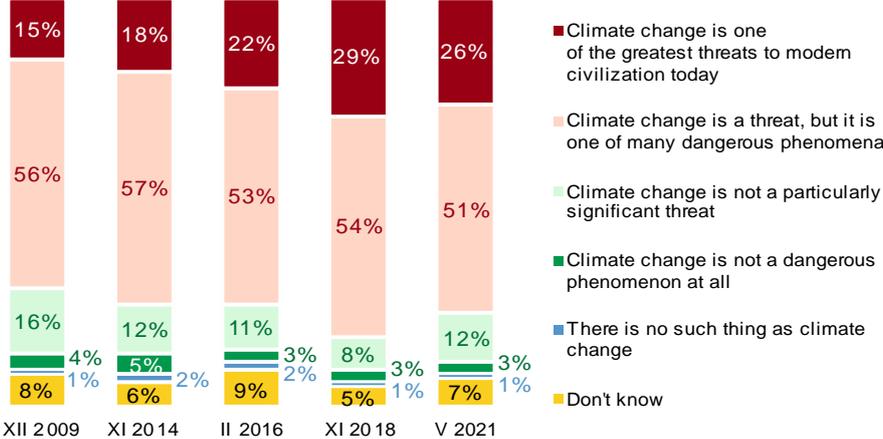
Energy transformation: expectations and demands

One of the greatest challenges facing the modern world in the decades to come is preventing climate change. The Paris Agreement, adopted in December 2015, provides for "limiting the increase in global average temperature to levels well below 2° C above pre-industrial levels and making efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this will significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change". The implementation of this goal requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide, e.g. by reducing the combustion of fossil fuels. The European Green Deal states that the EU economy is to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2050.

The vast majority of Poles (77%) perceive climate change as a threat, and more than half (51%) believe that it is only one of many dangerous phenomena. Slightly more than one-fourth (26%) believe that climate change is one of the greatest threats to modern civilization. Only a few question the threat of climate change (3%) or even deny it (1%). CBOS research from 2009-2018 showed a growing awareness of the dangers of climate change. At present, the perceived importance of this problem has slightly decreased.

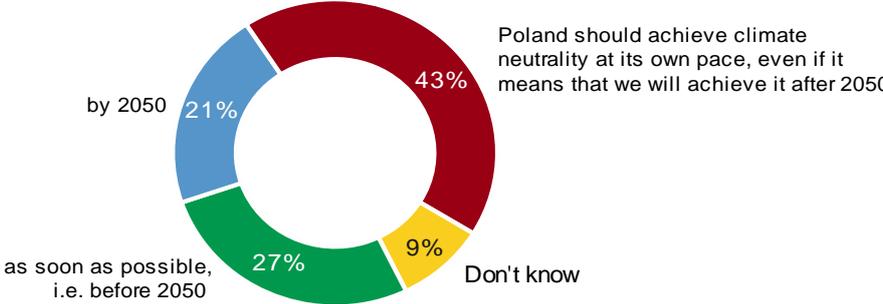
Perhaps it was due to the ongoing pandemic, which changed the hierarchy of perceived threats to civilization, bringing to the fore the problems related to it.

What is your personal opinion on climate change? Which of the following statements best reflects your view on this issue?



Poles' opinions on the pace of our country's route to climate neutrality are divided. Almost half of respondents (48% in total) believe that Poland should achieve climate neutrality by 2050, including 27% who think that it should be done it as soon as possible, i.e. even before that date. A slightly smaller percentage (43%) believe, however, that Poland should strive towards climate neutrality at its own pace, even if it means that we will achieve this goal later.

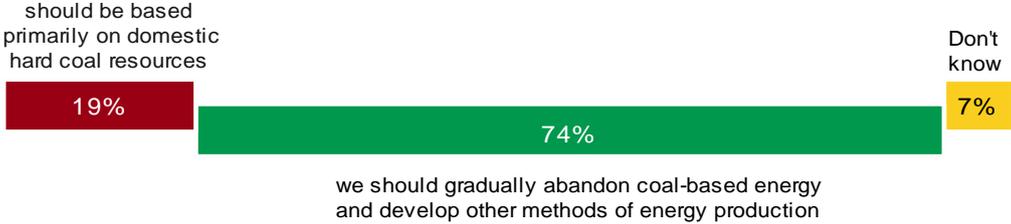
By 2050, European Union countries are to achieve climate neutrality: reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming, including carbon dioxide. Should Poland try to achieve this goal:



In general, Poles understand and accept the need for energy transformation, understood as abandoning coal in favour of more ecological methods of energy production. The gradual withdrawal from coal-based energy is supported by nearly three-quarters of respondents

(74%). Almost one-fifth (19%) believe that energy generation should be based mainly on domestic hard coal resources.

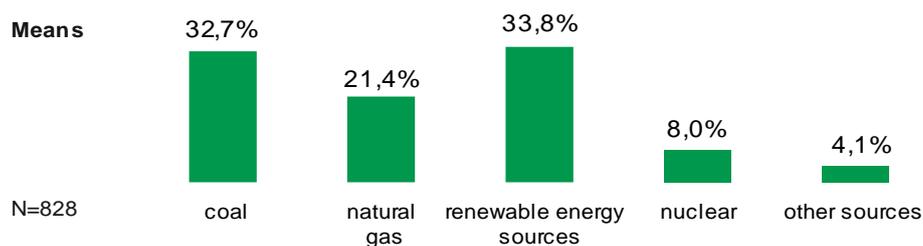
Currently, the basic energy resource in Poland is hard coal. In the next 10–20 years, energy generation in Poland...



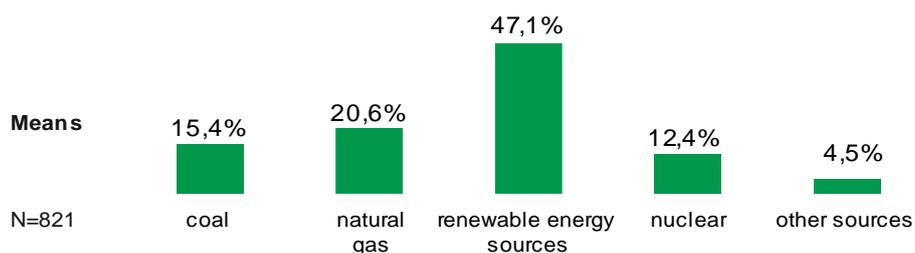
Although its share in the energy mix in Poland is decreasing, coal is still the main source of energy. In 2020, a total of 70% of electricity came from coal, 18% from renewable sources, and 10% from natural gas. The Polish model of energy transformation assumes a further departure from coal in favour of renewable energy sources and the development of nuclear energy. The intermediate fuel is to be gas, which produces less carbon dioxide emissions than coal.

Declarations regarding respondents' preferred directions of change in the energy sector show that Poles expect a significant decrease in the production of energy from coal within the next several years and the development of renewable energy sources. According to expectations, in 2050 renewable sources should be the main source of electricity, supplying nearly half of its production. At the same time, in public opinion, a part of the electricity generated in 2050 should still come from coal. Responses show a certain scepticism in the approach to the development of nuclear energy in Poland. It seems that Poles are a bit more afraid of the energy obtained from the atom than from coal, which, despite the awareness of the need for decarbonisation, is a familiar source of energy. In the public consciousness, gas has a permanent place in the energy generation system. According to averaged data, it should be the source of about one-fifth of the electricity produced in the future.

What percentage of electricity in 2035 should be produced from:



What percentage of electricity in 2050 should be produced from:



*Respondents unable to answer this question were omitted.
They constituted 29% of the total.*

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Energy Transition – Expectations and Demands", June 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2021, N=1163. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.