As WW2 came to end American economy boomed.

* Along with this came in increase in energy demands. Middle class boomed, cheap energy. Lots of gov funding to help western states.
* The 1950s saw the rise of the automobile culture. Gm, ford, Chrysler, (big 3) appealed to American middle class and cars became a symbol of status. Most energy produced at home. However, USSR and America vied for influence in Middle East. Rich in oil, America knew it would eventually be a valued area.
* Fracking: as early as late 1940's American oil and energy companies begin searching for oil and gas at home. However, technology was not advanced enough to meet demands of American growing demands for cheap energy.
* -Sunbelt: during this new car age Americans began leaving rust belt region to head west. Sunshine, warmer weather, new opportunities. Urban sprawl, lack of public transportation, car culture led to growing suburbs.
* -The West: lots of land. Lots of natural resources (oil and gas). Domestic drilling provides natural gas for homes and cheap oil for cars.
* *-1970's:FROM AMERICAN PAGEANT: "The Arab nations were unhappy about their loss to Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967. In 1973, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel trying to win back lands lost.  
  America aided Israel, while Kissinger helped keep the Soviets out of the fray. After tense times, an uneasy peace was reached. But, Arab nations were not pleased at America's support of Israel.  
  In October of 1973, Arab nations placed an embargo on oil. Long lines formed at gas stations and prices of gas skyrocketed in the U.S. The "energy crisis" changed things in America.  
  The Alaska pipeline was approved to flow oil southward.  
  A 55 MPH speed limit was set to conserve fuel. Americans also moved to smaller cars, like the VW Bug. There were calls for more use of coal and nuclear power.  
  The embargo was lifted after 5 months. But, the message was clear: America was addicted to oil and the Middle East had nearly all of the cards in their hands.  
  Using OPEC to exert their will, the Arab nations nearly quadrupled the price of oil by the end of the 70s." (Wiki notes Am. Pageant)*
* This power exerted by OPEC frightened Americans. It was viewed as a threat to American way of life. Politicians pushed for more does tic energy production, however dependency on foreign oil only grew.
* -Technology improvements: as technology has improved, ability to access domestic energy has improved. Post 9-11 era the cries for less dependency on foreign oil has only grown. Renewable energy push by most democrats and a few republicans. The ability to completely fuel our homes and cars via renewal me energy is still a long way off