

Clean Energy Polling & Messaging

IOF Builders Network | June 2026



About This Resource

This document compiles public and available private polling on clean energy topics from Summer 2025 up to June 2026. This resource may be periodically updated; the Builders Network support team will flag such updates to membership.

This serves as a centralized resource for IOF Builders Network members to reference recent polling and identify key trends in voter attitudes toward clean energy, costs, and related policy issues.

Polling Library

ORGANIZATION	TOPIC	DATE
Conservative Energy Network	National Survey of Likely General Election Voters	May 4 -7, 2026
Data for Progress	Clean air & water priorities; climate action; environmental trust	Apr 17-20, 2026
Pew Research Center	Americans' Shifting Views on Energy Issues	Apr 3, 2026
Pew Research Center	Americans Are Increasingly Pessimistic About Avoiding the Worst Effects of Climate Change	Mar 16 -22, 2026
Gallup	Americans' Rating of Environment Hits New Low	Mar 2-18, 2026
Climate Power	Research on AI Data Centers, Costs, and Pollution	Feb 20, 2026
Data for Progress	Voters Support a Green Economic Populism Policy Agenda	Feb 20-24, 2026
Navigator Research	Battleground Views On Utility Costs and Data Centers	Feb 3-9, 2026
Associated Press + NORC	AP + NORC – Feb. 2026 Extreme Cold Weather	Feb 2-8, 2026
Eco America	Trust, Media Habits, and Misperceptions Shape Public Understanding of Climate Change	Jan 30 - Feb 3, 2026
League of Conservation Voters	New Polling: Utility Bills, Clean Energy, and Electoral Opportunity in 2026	Jan 12-18, 2026
Yale + GMU	Yale + GMU – Climate Change in the American Mind Politics & Policy Report (Nov. 2025)	Nov 6-14, 2025

ORGANIZATION	TOPIC	DATE
Climate Power	Energy Price Accountability Survey	Aug 20-26, 2025
Data for Progress	Voters Support Geothermal and Nuclear Energy Development Over Fossil Fuels	Jul 11-12, 2025
Clean Tomorrow	From Barriers to Breakthroughs: State Policymaker Perspectives on Renewable Energy Siting	May 30-Jul 10, 2025

Key Findings

CONSERVATIVE ENERGY NETWORK (May 4-7, 2026)

Topic: Public attitudes toward energy affordability, grid modernization, permitting reform, and data center accountability

Sample Size: 1,500 U.S. likely general election voters

- **Widespread energy cost anxiety and affordability priority:** 82.2% of voters are concerned about the affordability of electricity bills, with 72.3% reporting their costs went up over the last two years and 62.3% ranking affordable power as their top priority.
- **Overwhelming public support for grid modernization and infrastructure investment:** 92.4% of voters say it is important to upgrade the country's aging electricity grid, and 78.2% support funding infrastructure investments framed around securing long-term reliability and lower bills.
- **Broad demand for permitting reform and data center accountability:** 74.5% of voters support streamlining permitting for new energy generation, while 83.5% support state requirements forcing new AI data centers to demonstrate how they will power operations before receiving building permits.

DATA FOR PROGRESS (April 17–20, 2026)

Topic: Clean air and water, climate action, and public priorities

Sample Size: 1,085 U.S. likely voters

- **Clean energy-aligned environmental priorities are overwhelmingly popular:** 66% of voters say ensuring access to clean air and water should be a **top priority**, with just 6% saying it should not be a priority.
- **Strong majority support for aggressive climate action:** 68% say the U.S. should take

ambitious action on climate change **even if other countries do not**, showing broad support for leadership on clean energy policy.

- **Environmental rollbacks tied to fossil fuels are politically toxic:** After being told about actions favoring fossil fuels over renewables, 54% of voters disapprove of Trump's handling of climate and the environment (vs. 39% approve), reinforcing vulnerability of anti-clean energy positions.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER (March 16–22, 2026)

Topic: Energy priorities, renewable vs. fossil fuels, and government energy policy

Sample Size: 3,524 U.S. adults

- **Majority still prioritizes clean energy—even amid shifting views:** 57% say the U.S. should prioritize renewable energy over fossil fuels, though this has declined from 79% in 2020, showing support remains strong but contested.
- **Clear mandate for expanding clean energy production:** About two-thirds (65%) say the federal government should **encourage wind and solar development**, the highest support of any energy source.
- **Shifts are driven by partisan divide, not loss of overall support:** 71% of Republicans now prioritize fossil fuels, while overwhelming majorities of Democrats continue to prioritize and support expanding clean energy.

GALLUP (March 2–18, 2026)

Topic: Environment vs. energy production, public priorities, and environmental concerns

Sample Size: 1,000 U.S. adults

- **Americans prioritize environmental protection over energy production:** 57% say protecting the environment should take priority even if it limits energy supply, compared to 36% who prioritize energy production.
- **A Strong majority want more government action on the environment:** 63% say the government is doing **too little** to protect the environment, signaling a clear mandate for stronger policy action.
- **Environmental concerns are broad and deeply felt:** Majorities say they worry “a great deal” about issues like drinking water pollution (56%) and freshwater supply (53%), tying environmental protection directly to everyday quality-of-life concerns.

DATA FOR PROGRESS (February 20-24, 2026)

Topic: Cost of living, energy costs, and clean energy policy

Sample Size: 1,122 U.S. likely voters

- **Energy costs are rising for nearly everyone:** 82% say their home electricity and gas

costs have increased over the past year, reinforcing energy bills as a universal pressure point.

- **Voters overwhelmingly support linking clean energy to affordability:** 70% agree economic policy can **lower costs while reducing emissions**, showing strong openness to clean energy as a cost solution.
- **Clear mandate for action that tackles both costs and climate:** 55% prefer elected officials address cost of living and climate change **together through coordinated policies**, compared to just 35% who want cost-of-living addressed alone.

AP-NORC CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH (February 5-8, 2026)

Topic: Cost of living, economic stress, and energy/utility costs

Sample Size: 1,156 U.S. adults

- **Energy costs are a widespread pressure point:** 39% say the cost of electricity is a **major source of stress** and another 36% say it's a **minor source** — roughly 75% of Americans are feeling pressure from energy bills.
- **Cost-of-living dominates voter mindset:** Majorities report stress from groceries (53%), housing (46%), and health care (48%), reinforcing that affordability is the central economic issue voters are focused on.
- **Economic pessimism creates opening for cost-focused solutions:** 66% say the economy is poor and 69% say the country is on the wrong track — a strong environment for messaging around lowering costs, including through clean energy.

NAVIGATOR RESEARCH (February 3–9, 2026)

Topic: Utility costs, cost of living, and clean energy perceptions

Sample Size: 1,500 likely voters (battleground districts)

- **Utility costs are a top-tier economic concern:** 84% of battleground voters say their utility costs have gone up (including 48% who say “a lot”), putting energy costs firmly in the top tier of kitchen-table issues.
- **Voters believe government can act on energy costs:** 85% say Congress can do “a great deal” or “some” to lower utility costs, showing clear political permission to act on clean energy affordability.
- **Clean energy restrictions are directly tied to higher costs:** A majority (51%) say limiting production of clean energy like solar and wind has caused costs to go up, reinforcing that anti-clean energy policies are seen as increasing household expenses.

CLIMATE POWER (January 30 - February 3, 2026)

Topic: Data centers, energy demand, utility costs, and clean vs. fossil energy

Sample Size: 5,428 respondents

- **Clean energy dramatically increases support for new infrastructure:** Voters support data centers powered by clean energy by a **+25-point margin**, but oppose those powered by fossil fuels by **-16 points**.
- **Energy costs are the top concern tied to energy infrastructure:** Utility costs are the **#1 concern** (selected 64% of the time), reinforcing that cost impacts dominate how voters evaluate energy projects.
- **Voters link clean energy to better outcomes and fossil fuels to harm:** Support shifts significantly based on energy source, showing that powering growth (like AI/data centers) with clean energy is seen as more acceptable and beneficial.

ECOAMERICA - AMERICAN CLIMATE PERSPECTIVES (January 30 - February 3, 2026)

Topic: Public perceptions of clean energy, climate concern, and energy beliefs

Sample Size: 1,037 U.S. adults

- **Clean energy benefits are persuasive but under-recognized:** Only about half of Americans believe statements like clean energy **lowers costs, creates jobs, and provides reliable electricity**, showing strong upside for reinforcing these arguments.
- **Broad baseline support for climate action exists:** 68% of Americans say they are personally concerned about climate change, indicating a strong foundation for clean energy messaging.
- **Cost and economic framing are central to persuasion:** Messaging around clean energy lowering costs, creating jobs, and strengthening the economy resonates, but belief varies significantly based on information exposure, highlighting opportunity to strengthen economic messaging.

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS & CLIMATE POWER (January 12–18, 2026)

Topic: Utility bills, energy costs, and clean energy affordability

Sample Size: 2,710 registered voters (national + battleground oversamples)

- **Clean energy is viewed as a key cost solution:** A majority (52%) say using more clean energy will make electricity **more affordable in the next 1–2 years**, rising to 58% over the next decade.
- **Energy costs are a top-tier voter issue:** 84% are concerned about electricity costs and 78% say their energy bills have gone up over the past year, placing utility bills alongside groceries and housing in the affordability crisis.
- **Blocking clean energy is seen as making costs worse:** Voters believe taking clean

energy “off the grid” increases costs, and messaging tying clean energy expansion to **lower bills and increased supply** is the strongest-performing argument.

YALE UNIVERSITY & GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY (November 6-14, 2025)

Topic: Public opinion on clean energy, climate policy, and economic impacts

Sample Size: 1,146 U.S. adults (990 registered voters)

- **Clean energy is a clear national priority:** 61% of voters say developing clean energy should be a **high priority** for the president and Congress, signaling strong demand for action across the country.
- **Broad, bipartisan support for clean energy policies:** Large majorities back key policies—77% support renewable energy research, 74% support regulating carbon pollution, and 66% support transitioning to 100% clean energy.
- **Clean energy is tied directly to costs and the economy:** 65% of voters say global warming is already affecting the cost of living, and nearly half (49%) believe clean energy policies will **create jobs and boost economic growth**.

CLIMATE POWER (August 20-26, 2025)

Topic: Energy prices, utility costs, and clean energy vs. fossil fuels

Sample Size: 1,000 registered voters nationwide + 300 voter oversamples in AZ, GA, IA, MI, NC, OH, PA, TX

- **Voters see clean energy as the solution to rising costs:** A strong majority agrees that adding wind and solar will **lower electricity rates** and that clean energy can bring power online **faster and cheaper than gas**.
- **Clear public mandate for more clean energy production:** 68% say that with energy prices high and demand rising, **now is the time to produce more clean energy like wind and solar, not less**.
- **Voters connect anti-clean energy actions to higher costs:** A majority believes that efforts by Republicans, utility companies, and Big Oil to block clean energy projects are **driving electricity prices higher**.

DATA FOR PROGRESS (July 11-12th, 2025)

Topic: Support for geothermal, nuclear, and clean energy vs. fossil fuels

Sample Size: 1,179 U.S. likely voters

- **Overwhelming bipartisan support for expanding clean energy sources:** 72% of voters support expanding geothermal energy after learning about it, including majorities of Democrats (67%), Independents (72%), and Republicans (77%).

- **Clear preference for clean energy over fossil fuels:** A plurality (42%) want the U.S. to prioritize renewable energy like solar and wind, compared to just 22% who want to prioritize fossil fuels.
- **Majority support for expanding nuclear energy as part of clean energy mix:** 58% of voters support expanding nuclear energy development, showing broad acceptance of multiple clean energy solutions.

CLEAN TOMORROW (May 30-Jul 10, 2025)

Topic: Renewable energy siting, deployment barriers, and cost implications

Sample Size: 30 renewable energy siting stakeholders (plus 9 in-depth interviews)

- **Clean energy is widely seen as the fastest and most cost-effective solution:** Stakeholders emphasize that wind, solar, and storage can be built **faster and more cost-effectively than new gas or nuclear plants**, making them critical to addressing rising electricity demand and costs.
- **Rising energy demand and costs strengthen the case for clean energy expansion:** Policymakers consistently cite **soaring electricity costs and increasing demand** as urgent drivers for accelerating renewable deployment.
- **There is clear demand for pro-clean energy policy action:** Stakeholders support policies that **reduce local barriers, streamline permitting, and expand renewable siting** to bring down costs and improve grid reliability.

Additional Resources

[*Yale Climate Opinion Maps*](#)

[*Taking Stock of Energy and Climate Policy Since 2020*](#)

[*Environmental Polling Consortium*](#)

[*Explore Climate Change in the American Mind*](#)

[*Potential Energy Coalition Guides & Reports*](#)