

IDAHO VOTERS SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY

64%

Agree we can both increase the production of *clean energy* while preserving natural areas, *wildlife habitat* and the character of our communities.



2/3 OF IDAHO VOTERS SUPPORT A LOCAL LANDOWNER LEASING THEIR LAND TO BUILD **SOLAR PANELS** OR **WIND TURBINES**.

Idaho voters support clean energy development on **PUBLIC LANDS** with proper approvals

Idaho voters support solutions that advance **responsible development** of clean energy:



80%

support creating agreements between clean energy companies & communities to maximize local benefits.



69%

support creating statewide standards and identifying appropriate areas for clean energy development.



76%

support helping counties develop clean energy guidance in their land use plans.



66%

support creating tax incentives to direct clean energy development to appropriate locations.

64% AGREE CLEAN ENERGY IS **GOOD** ECONOMICS.

It's affordable compared to other options and brings jobs, royalties to local landowners and other income to our communities.

IDAHO VOTERS SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY

The Nature Conservancy in Idaho is working to advance responsible clean energy development that avoids impacts to the most important natural and working lands, and benefits communities. In February 2024, we conducted a poll of 500 likely voters across the State to better understand how Idaho voters view clean energy.* Below are key findings.

Idaho voters agree that we can both increase the production of clean energy in Idaho while also preserving natural areas, wildlife habitat and the character of our communities.

Which comes closest to your opinion?

- We can both increase the production of clean energy in Idaho while also preserving natural areas, wildlife habitat and the character of our communities. – 64%
- We need to choose between increasing the production of clean energy in Idaho and preserving natural areas, wildlife habitat and the character of our communities. – 25%
- Not sure – 11%

A strong majority agree clean energy benefits Idaho.

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree to the following statements. Note: This question was asked as a split sample. N=256

Clean energy is good economics – it's affordable compared to other options and brings jobs, royalties to local landowners, and other income to our communities.

- 64% Agree
- 26% Disagree

Clean energy is a solution that helps prevent climate change while improving air quality and helping our economy.

- 63% Agree
- 29% Disagree

Clean energy is secure and available right now – by switching we reduce reliance on foreign imports and leverage Idaho's resources.

- 59% Agree
- 28% Disagree

A strong majority support a local farmer, rancher, or local landowner leasing their land to build solar panels or wind turbines.

Let's say a local farmer, rancher or large landowner in a rural area in your county wanted to lease some of their land to a clean energy company. If the clean energy company is planning to locate solar panels on land it leases from a willing landowner, would you say that is:

- 77% Acceptable
- 14% Unacceptable
- 8% Unsure

Let's say a local farmer, rancher or large landowner in a rural area in your county wanted to lease some of their land to a clean energy company. If the clean energy company is planning to locate wind turbines on land it leases from a willing landowner, would you say that is:

- 69% Acceptable
- 24% Unacceptable
- 7% Unsure

Idaho voters care about how wind and solar installations will impact the landscape and their communities.

There are several different factors which can affect where clean energy, such as where wind turbines or large-scale solar installations, are located. Please indicate how important each one of these is to you personally – is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all to you.

% Important:

- 88% It has little impact on wildlife
- 85% Little or no impact on neighboring properties in terms of dust, drainage and noise
- 84% Does not impact sites of historic or cultural importance
- 81% Placed on lands that have little impact on farming/ranching
- 79% Produces most affordable energy
- 78% Does not obstruct scenic views
- 69% Maximizes clean energy to address climate change

A majority support clean energy development on public lands if the project completes the proper approval process.

Let's say an energy developer wants to build a clean energy project on public lands. If the project completes the proper approval process, would you say that is:

- 58% Acceptable
- 30% Unacceptable
- 12% Not sure

Idaho voters are more supportive of increasing solar and wind than they are of increasing other energy sources.

Idaho relies on a mix of energy sources to power homes and businesses. For the following energy sources, please indicate whether you think we should increase, decrease, or keep production about the same as today:

Solar

- 55% Increase
- 15% Decrease
- 24% Keep about the same

Wind

- 47% Increase
- 23% Decrease
- 24% Keep about the same

Hydroelectric

- 45% Increase
- 6% Decrease
- 41% Keep about the same

Natural Gas

- 36% Increase
- 12% Decrease
- 46% Keep about the same

Nuclear

- 35% Increase
- 22% Decrease
- 29% Keep about the same

Coal

- 11% Increase
- 46% Decrease
- 34% Keep about the same

A strong majority support solutions to advance responsible development of clean energy.

The following are some specific measures being discussed to support the responsible development of clean energy in Idaho. After hearing each one, please tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the measure.

Create agreements between clean energy companies and communities to maximize local benefits from energy projects

- 80% Support
- 13% Oppose

Help counties develop clean energy guidance in their land use plans.

- 76% Support
- 14% Oppose

Task a state agency to create statewide standards and assist communities in identifying appropriate areas for clean energy development.

- 69% Support
- 22% Oppose

Create tax incentives to direct clean energy development to appropriate locations.

- 66% Support
- 24% Oppose

*GS Strategy Group conducted a poll on behalf of The Nature Conservancy in Idaho. The telephone and online survey was conducted February 5-8, 2024 among 500 likely voters in Idaho. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.38% at the 95% confidence level.