

2021
ReThink Energy NJ
“Attitudes on Clean Energy”
Survey



October 2021

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I. Executive Summary

About this study

The Fairleigh Dickinson University Poll (FDU) conducted a survey of randomly selected registered voters in New Jersey on behalf of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation as part of the ReThink Energy NJ campaign. The study's main objective was to measure the awareness of, and attitudes toward, various energy sources and clean energy policies. In addition, the study measured the perceptions of natural gas pipelines.

FDU utilized a combination of Random Digit Dialing (RDD) telephone and Text to Web (TTW) methods based on a registered voter sample list to complete a total of 700 telephone surveys with New Jersey registered voters. The sampling was employed to ensure a valid random sampling of registered voters across the state. To approximate the current make-up of cell phones in the state, FDU completed 70% of the telephone surveys with cell phone participants, and 30% via landline phones. Once all surveys were completed, the data were mathematically weighted to match the known demographics of age, gender, education, and race of New Jersey's registered voters.

With a randomly selected sample of 700 registered voters in New Jersey, one can be 95 percent confident that the margin of error (MoE) is +/- 3.7 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies by the size of that subgroup.

All surveys were completed between September 1st and September 18th, 2021 and averaged approximately 12 minutes in length. The results are summarized below.

In general, registered voters in this year's study are once again very supportive of renewable energy initiatives. Respondents are supportive of the U.S. moving forward towards 100 percent energy from clean sources by 2035 and a majority would support New Jersey moving from its current target of 100 percent clean energy by 2050 to a more aggressive target of 2035.

As a general statement, across the issues, women and self-identified Democrats are more supportive than other voters, although support for renewable energy was strong across demographic groups. These demographic differences are consistent with the general trend in public opinion on environmental issues.

About 3 in 4 (73%) are very or somewhat concerned with the effects of climate change in New Jersey, statistically unchanged from 77 percent in 2020.



Overall, a plurality believe solar (44%) is the most important energy source to New Jersey's future, statistically unchanged from 47% last year. Natural gas was the second most frequently cited source at 21 percent, also unchanged from the 2020 study.

Residents understand that solar (81%) and wind (70%) are clean, virtually unchanged from 79 percent and 76 percent in the previous study. However, fewer registered voters consider natural gas (32%) or nuclear energy (7%) to be clean energy sources. Nuclear energy has dropped from 19 percent considering it to be clean in the last study. Fewer than 1 in 10 believe coal (6%) is clean.

To meet the state's growing energy needs, most (73%) believe the state should invest more in developing clean energy sources such as wind and solar rather than fossil fuels and pipelines (22%). This is unchanged from 75 percent in the previous study.

Respondents are "very" or "somewhat concerned" about each of the following aspects of the proposed pipeline development in the state.

The impact to natural areas and wildlife habitats	81%
The seizure of private property for private companies	80%
The risks to air and water quality	79%
The use of protected natural areas for construction of pipelines	78%
The safety risks associated with ruptures, leaks, or explosions	77%
Greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change	74%
The use of taxpayers preserved open spaces	72%

About half (51%) say a candidate's support for moving to renewable energy would make them more likely to vote for that candidate, unchanged from 2019. Democrats (73%) are more likely than either Republicans (21%) or Independents (50%) to be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported a shift to renewable energy sources. Overall, a third (31%) say it would have no impact on how they voted. Conversely, 41 percent would be less likely to vote for a candidate if they continued to support the use of fossil fuels rather than a move to renewable energy.

Seven in 10 (71%) voters would favor New Jersey setting a more aggressive goal of achieving 100% of its energy coming from renewable sources by 2035 rather than by 2050. Twenty-four percent oppose this more aggressive goal.

Sixty-nine percent support President Biden's plan to invest in renewable energy sources and achieve 100 percent clean electricity by 2035. Twenty-eight percent, including 60 percent of Republicans, oppose this plan.



Half (47%) believe the state is moving too slowly to reduce emissions that cause global warming, while 31 percent believe the pace is just right, unchanged from 49 percent and 27 percent, respectively.

Three in four (75%) favor the development wind energy off the coast of New Jersey, unchanged from 77 percent last year.

When asked about their preferences, more than half of voters (57%) believe that natural gas is important in keeping energy costs low as we transition to renewable energy, while 36 percent believe New Jersey should rapidly move to clean energy. This is a reversal from 41 percent and 53 percent, respectively in the last study.

Two in three (66%) voters say that they are aware that to achieve 100 percent clean energy, all homes and buildings would need to change from gas to electric heat. A third (31%) are unaware. Sixty-one percent would favor this switch.

To help recover from economic damage caused by COVID-19, 62 percent would prefer New Jersey to create new jobs through renewable energy sources rather than via pipelines (32%).

A majority (74%) believe it is better to develop solar energy on marginal land while avoiding putting solar fields on farm land. This is one of the few measures on which Democrats (76%) and Republicans (77%) agree.

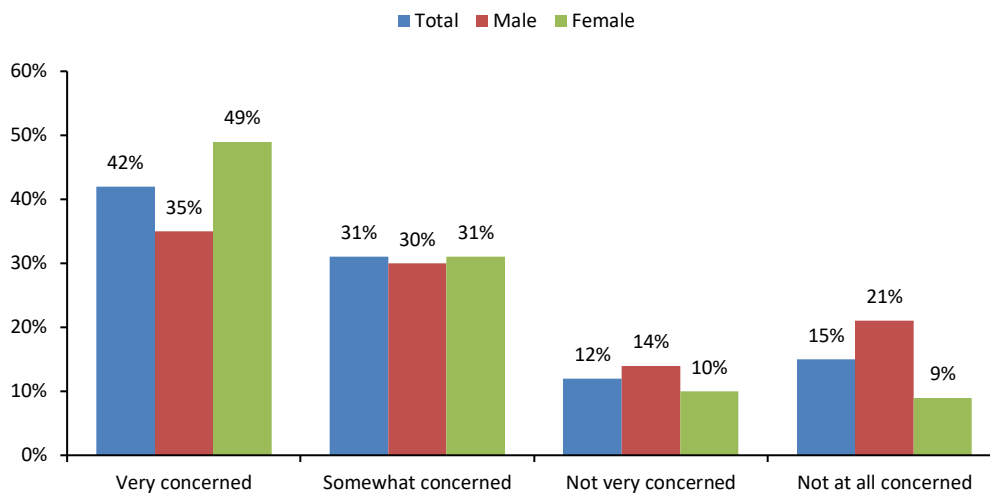


II. Detailed Results –

Q1. How would you describe your feelings toward the effects of climate change in NJ?

Overall, nearly 4 in 5 (73%) are very or somewhat concerned with climate change in New Jersey. While the concerns are high across all demographic groups, there are significant differences across women (80%) and men (65%), Democrats (90%) versus Independents (71%) and Republicans (49%). Those aged 55 and older (66%) are less likely than their cohorts to be concerned.

Chart 1



	Region ¹						Age		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Very concerned	30%	43%	46%	39%	48%	38%	50%	39%	39%
Somewhat concerned	30%	33%	34%	21%	32%	24%	33%	33%	27%
Not very concerned	17%	11%	7%	20%	8%	17%	9%	12%	13%
Not at all concerned	22%	11%	11%	21%	12%	20%	7%	14%	20%

	Party ID		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Very concerned	61%	40%	13%
Somewhat concerned	28%	31%	36%
Not very concerned	6%	10%	20%
Not at all concerned	3%	18%	30%

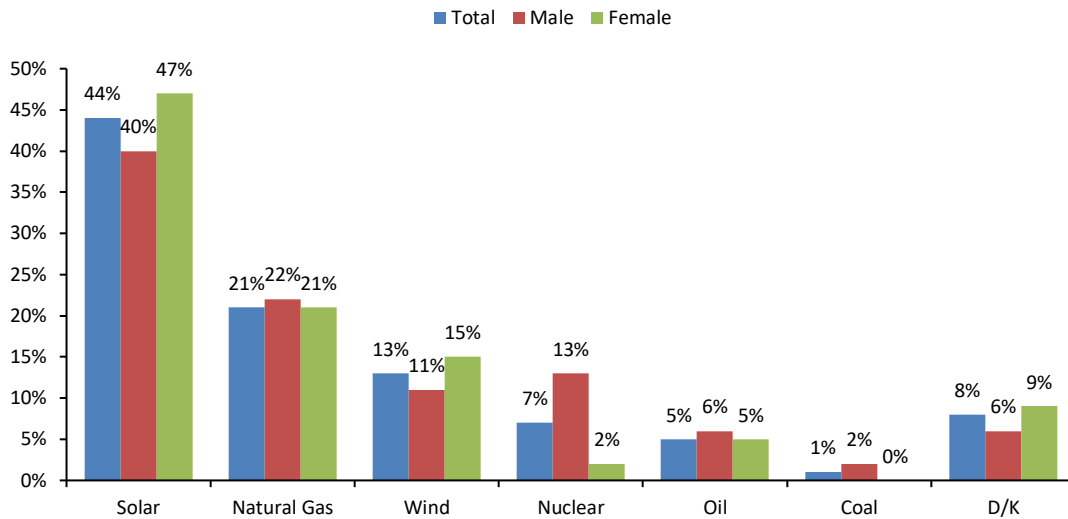
¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



Q2. Which source do you think is most important to New Jersey's energy future?

A plurality (44%) say solar is the most important source of New Jersey's energy future. This holds true across all measured demographics except for Republicans, who view wind (31%) as slightly more important. Overall, natural gas (21%) ranks second, while wind (13%) is the third most cited source. Men (13%) are more likely than women (2%) to indicate nuclear is the most important.

Chart 2



	Region						Age		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Solar	32%	48%	48%	27%	49%	42%	46%	50%	37%
Natural gas	26%	23%	20%	20%	21%	19%	16%	19%	27%
Wind	14%	14%	11%	9%	16%	13%	12%	15%	11%
Nuclear	10%	3%	6%	14%	5%	11%	10%	5%	8%
Oil	8%	5%	7%	7%	3%	3%	8%	2%	7%
Coal	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	0%
D/K	8%	5%	7%	23%	6%	12%	7%	6%	10%

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Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
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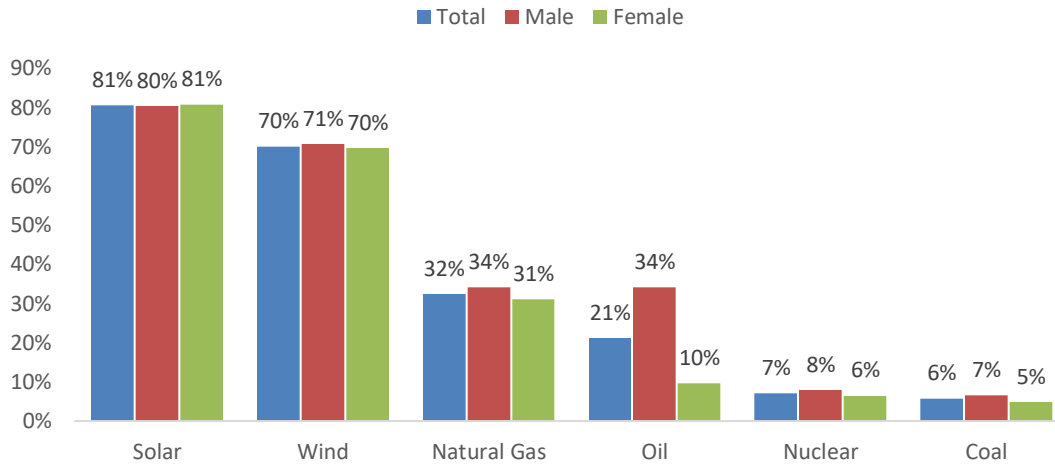
	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Solar	57%	42%	29%
Natural gas	16%	19%	6%
Wind	15%	17%	31%
Nuclear	1%	0%	11%
Oil	4%	9%	13%
Coal	0%	1%	3%
D/K	7%	12%	8%



Q3. Which of the following, if any, do you believe are considered clean energy sources?

The majority believe solar (81%) and wind (70%) are clean energy sources. About 1 in 3 (32%) say natural gas is clean, while 21 percent believe oil is. Fewer say nuclear (7%) or coal (6%) is clean. Nearly half of Republicans (47%) believe natural gas is clean, while only a quarter of Democrats (25%) or Independents (27%) believe the same.

Chart 3



	Region ¹						Age		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Solar	77%	86%	80%	82%	83%	78%	81%	84%	77%
Wind	67%	67%	72%	79%	70%	69%	68%	70%	72%
Natural gas	36%	27%	30%	40%	34%	34%	25%	31%	40%
Oil	29%	16%	22%	26%	19%	19%	22%	17%	25%
Nuclear	6%	10%	9%	10%	7%	1%	10%	6%	7%
Coal	6%	6%	6%	9%	4%	6%	5%	7%	4%

	Party ID		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Solar	87%	80%	74%
Wind	78%	75%	61%
Natural gas	25%	27%	47%
Oil	19%	23%	24%
Nuclear	4%	8%	11%
Coal	5%	5%	7%

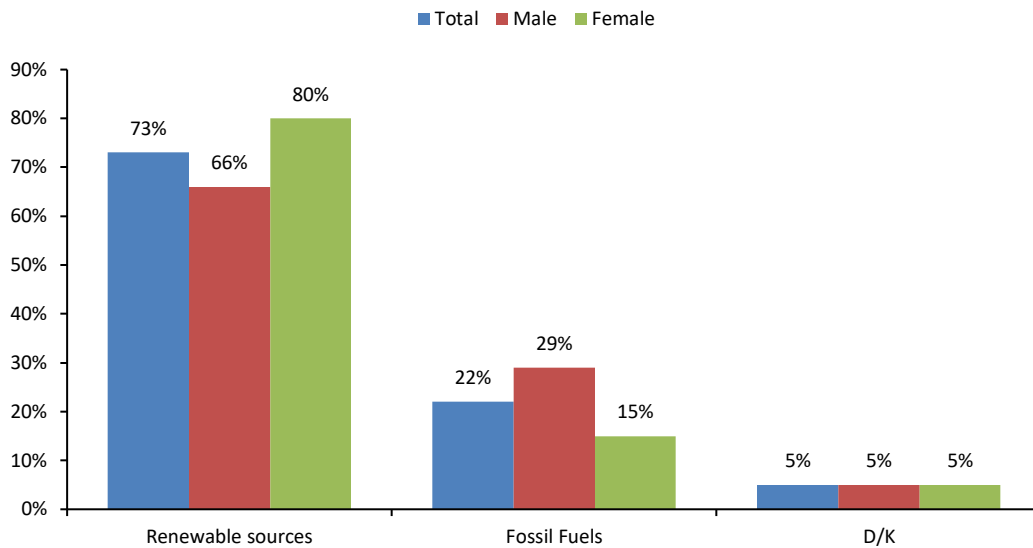
¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
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South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



Q4. In order to meet New Jersey's energy needs, do you believe the state should invest more in renewable energy sources, like wind and solar, or more in fossil fuels, like oil and natural gas, through the construction of additional pipelines?

Overall, 3 in 4 (73%) believe the state should invest more in renewable energy sources than in fossil fuels, unchanged from 75 percent in the last study. While differences are seen across all measured demographics, in all cases investing in renewable energy is the favored choice.

Chart 4



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Renewable sources	62%	81%	79%	56%	76%	68%	84%	77%	61%
Fossil fuels	30%	17%	18%	31%	21%	24%	12%	19%	31%
D/K	8%	3%	4%	13%	2%	8%	3%	4%	8%

	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Renewable sources	89%	73%	51%
Fossil fuels	7%	19%	45%
D/K	3%	8%	5%

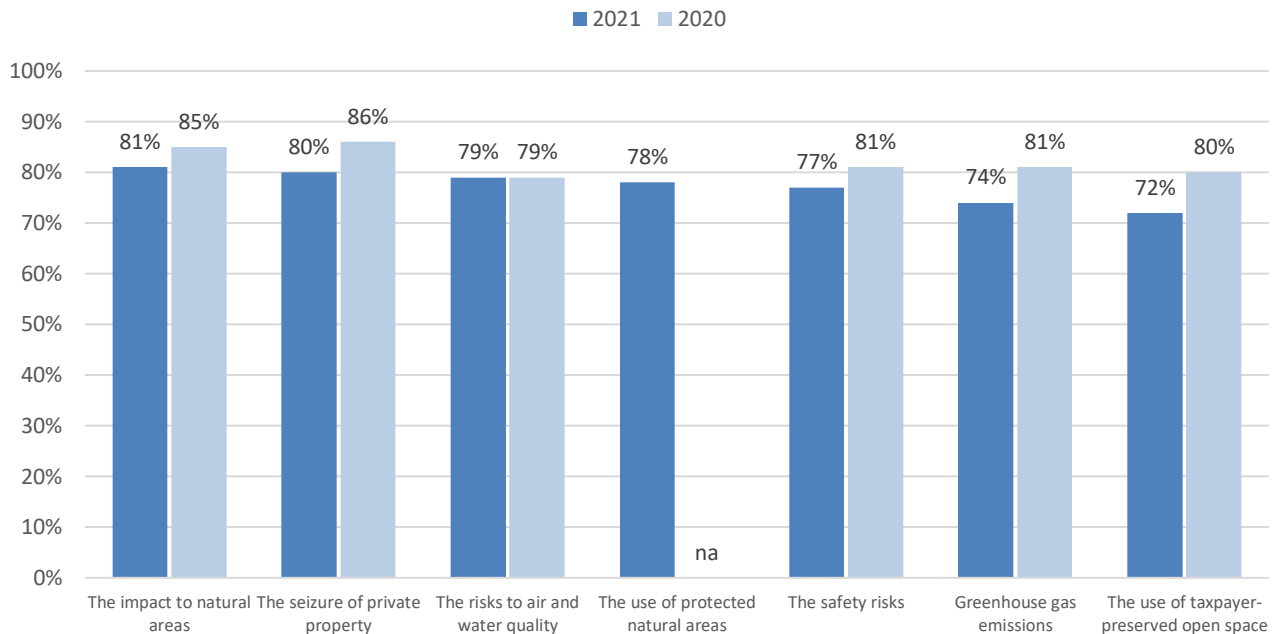
¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
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Q5. Concern about the pipeline SUMMARY

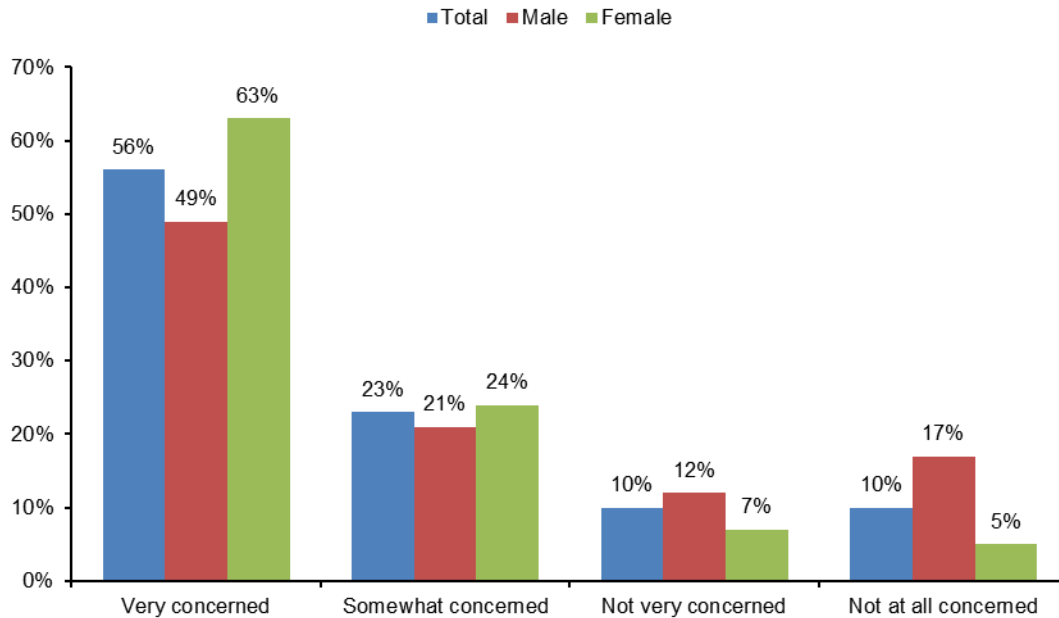
While New Jerseyans continue to be concerned (very/somewhat) with the negative impacts regarding pipeline development, these concerns have tempered slightly from the 2020 study. The impact to natural areas and wildlife habitats (81%) and the seizure of private property by big energy companies (80%) are the top concerns cited. The risks to air and water quality (79%), the use of protected natural areas for the construction of pipeline (78%) and the safety risks (77%) all follow closely. The concern over greenhouse gas emissions (74%) and the use of taxpayer preserved open spaces, such as the pinelands (72%) are the least cited. Overall concerns with these latter two have decreased significantly from the 2020 study. As has been noted in the past, women are more likely than men to be concerned with each item. Similarly, Democrats continue to be more concerned than Republicans or Independents across all items.

Chart 5



5a. Concern about pipeline development to: The risks to air and water quality

Chart 5a



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Very Concerned	46%	57%	65%	52%	58%	51%	63%	59%	50%
Somewhat Concerned	27%	22%	23%	14%	22%	25%	26%	23%	20%
Not Very Concerned	11%	12%	5%	10%	10%	11%	7%	7%	14%
Not at all Concerned	15%	8%	7%	18%	9%	12%	4%	10%	15%
D/K	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%

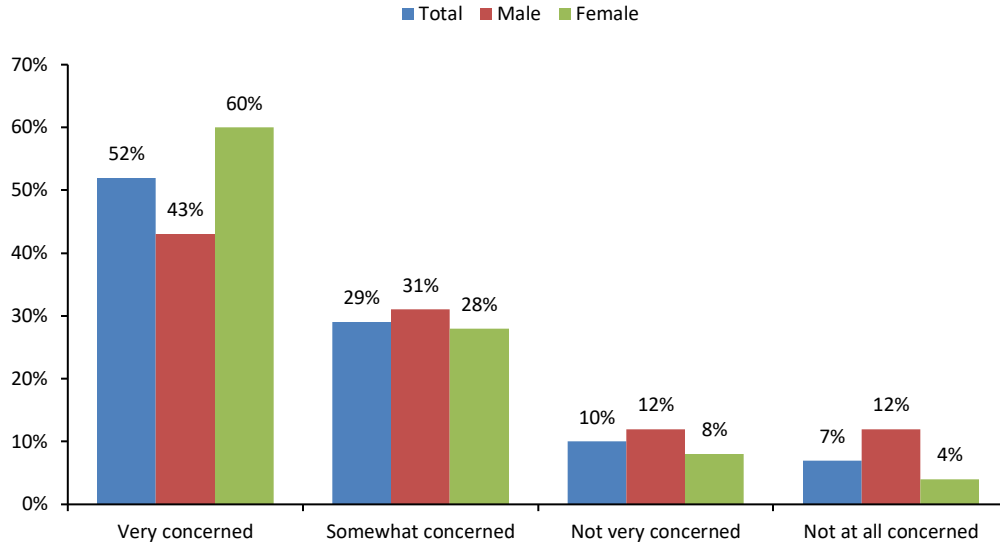
	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Very Concerned	70%	54%	35%
Somewhat Concerned	20%	29%	28%
Not Very Concerned	6%	9%	15%
Not at all Concerned	4%	9%	22%
D/K	1%	0%	0%

¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
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Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



5b. Concern about pipeline development to: The impact to natural areas and wildlife habitats?

Chart 5b



	Region ¹						Age		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Very Concerned	49%	51%	60%	36%	51%	48%	60%	53%	45%
Somewhat Concerned	29%	28%	29%	32%	29%	32%	29%	28%	32%
Not Very Concerned	9%	11%	6%	13%	11%	12%	8%	10%	11%
Not at all Concerned	12%	9%	4%	12%	7%	7%	3%	8%	10%
D/K	0%	1%	1%	6%	2%	2%	0%	1%	3%

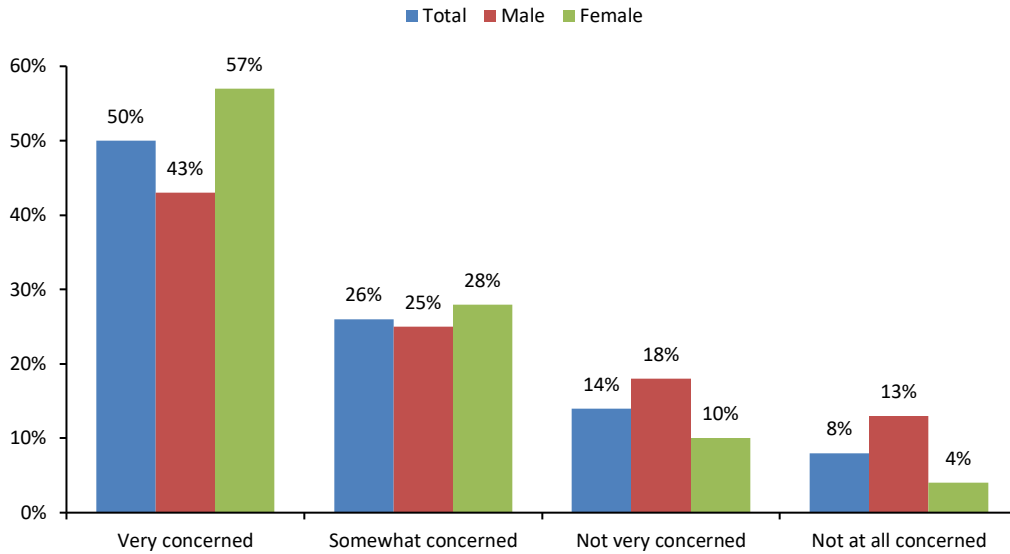
	Party ID		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Very Concerned	64%	60%	31%
Somewhat Concerned	27%	24%	35%
Not Very Concerned	5%	8%	17%
Not at all Concerned	2%	8%	16%
D/K	2%	0%	0%

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5c. Concern about pipeline development to: The safety risks associated with ruptures, leaks, or explosions?

Chart 5c



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Very Concerned	44%	49%	62%	40%	54%	39%	54%	53%	46%
Somewhat Concerned	28%	28%	22%	34%	26%	29%	27%	28%	24%
Not Very Concerned	15%	13%	11%	17%	13%	18%	13%	10%	18%
Not at all Concerned	12%	9%	3%	9%	7%	11%	5%	8%	10%
D/K	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%

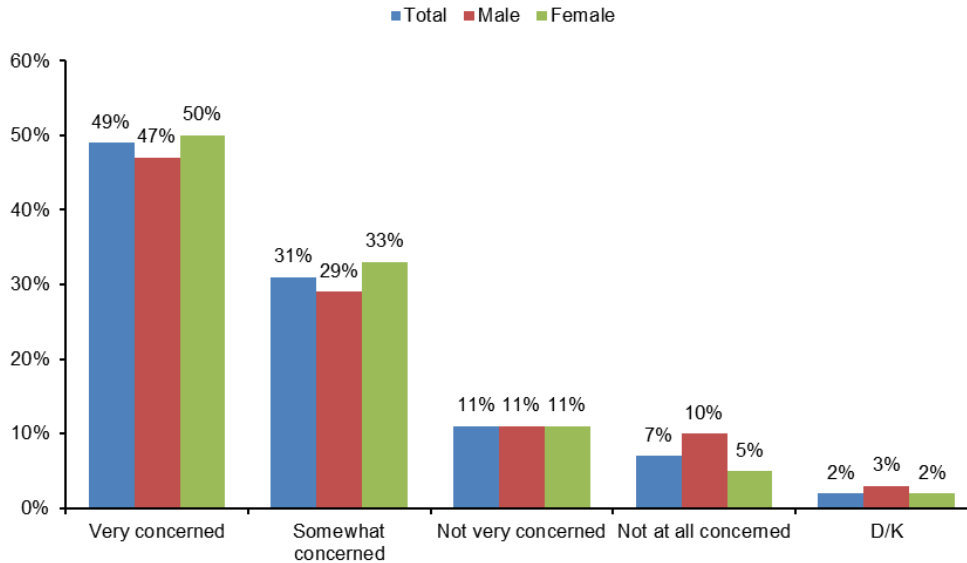
	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Very Concerned	66%	47%	28%
Somewhat Concerned	24%	28%	31%
Not Very Concerned	8%	18%	23%
Not at all Concerned	1%	7%	17%
D/K	1%	0%	1%

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Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



5d. Concern about pipeline development to: The seizure of private property for big energy companies?

Chart 5d



	Region ¹						Age		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Very Concerned	45%	52%	54%	47%	49%	42%	49%	52%	46%
Somewhat Concerned	30%	25%	28%	32%	35%	38%	34%	32%	29%
Not Very Concerned	15%	13%	10%	14%	9%	8%	11%	9%	12%
Not at all Concerned	9%	9%	5%	7%	7%	9%	4%	5%	10%
D/K	2%	2%	3%	0%	1%	3%	1%	2%	3%

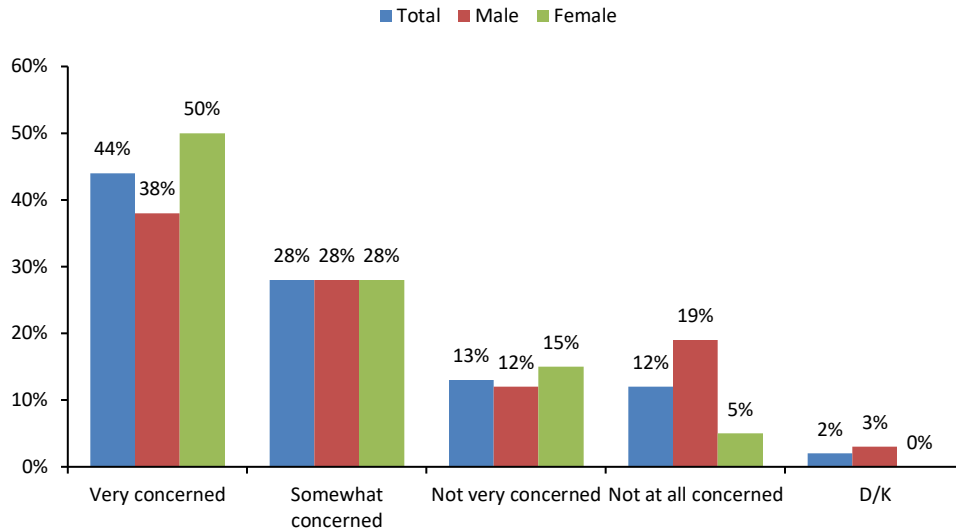
	Party ID		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Very Concerned	55%	59%	37%
Somewhat Concerned	31%	25%	33%
Not Very Concerned	9%	10%	14%
Not at all Concerned	4%	5%	13%
D/K	2%	0%	2%

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Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



5e1. Concern about pipeline development to: The use of taxpayer-preserved open space for construction of pipelines?

Chart 5e1



	Region ¹						Age		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	49	57	90	18	63	61	92	110	137
Very Concerned	53%	41%	47%	42%	41%	37%	39%	50%	42%
Somewhat Concerned	15%	26%	29%	30%	36%	33%	32%	36%	20%
Not Very Concerned	13%	16%	14%	0%	11%	16%	18%	6%	16%
Not at all Concerned	19%	17%	6%	22%	8%	10%	7%	8%	18%
D/K	0%	0%	4%	7%	0%	1%	3%	0%	2%

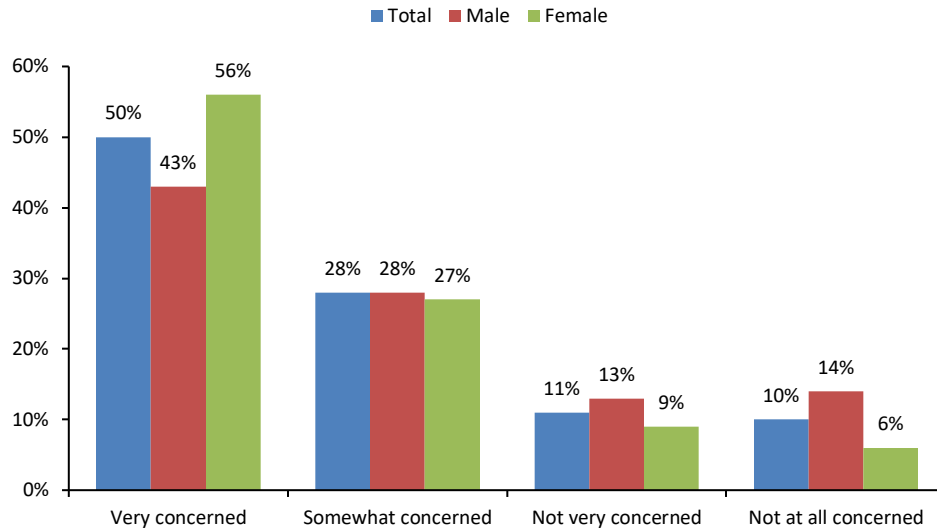
	Party ID		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	155	35	113
Very Concerned	57%	47%	23%
Somewhat Concerned	28%	29%	28%
Not Very Concerned	8%	10%	22%
Not at all Concerned	4%	5%	24%
D/K	1%	6%	2%

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PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



5e2. Concern about pipeline development to: The use of protected natural areas such as the Pinelands for the construction of pipelines?

Chart 5e2



	Region ¹						Age		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	60	62	97	15	55	58	89	134	125
Very Concerned	42%	50%	61%	32%	45%	51%	56%	51%	45%
Somewhat Concerned	29%	33%	20%	29%	33%	29%	26%	33%	23%
Not Very Concerned	11%	12%	12%	13%	8%	10%	13%	6%	16%
Not at all Concerned	18%	5%	6%	20%	12%	9%	5%	7%	15%
D/K	0%	0%	2%	5%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%

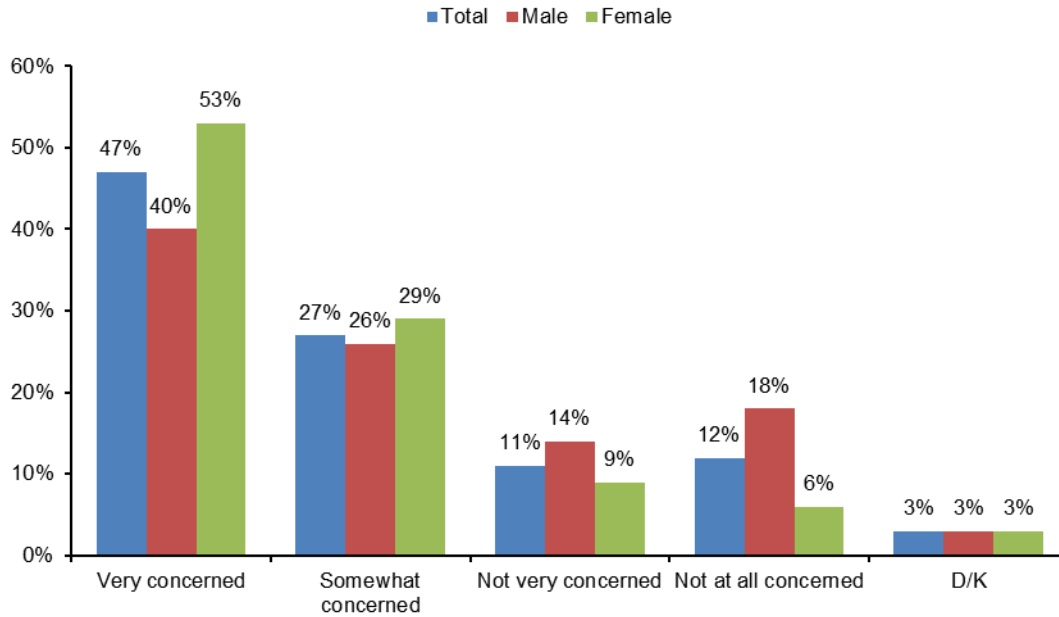
	Party ID		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	180	41	100
Very Concerned	64%	55%	25%
Somewhat Concerned	25%	27%	33%
Not Very Concerned	6%	11%	19%
Not at all Concerned	3%	7%	23%
D/K	1%	0%	1%

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Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



5f. Concern about pipeline development to: Greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change?

Chart 5f



	Region ¹						Age		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Very Concerned	38%	54%	54%	30%	49%	36%	50%	47%	44%
Somewhat Concerned	28%	28%	25%	28%	29%	28%	31%	27%	25%
Not Very Concerned	15%	10%	8%	27%	8%	15%	10%	12%	12%
Not at all Concerned	17%	7%	11%	9%	10%	15%	7%	11%	15%
D/K	3%	1%	2%	6%	3%	4%	2%	2%	4%

	Party ID		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Very Concerned	64%	41%	22%
Somewhat Concerned	27%	35%	27%
Not Very Concerned	4%	9%	24%
Not at all Concerned	3%	12%	23%
D/K	2%	3%	3%

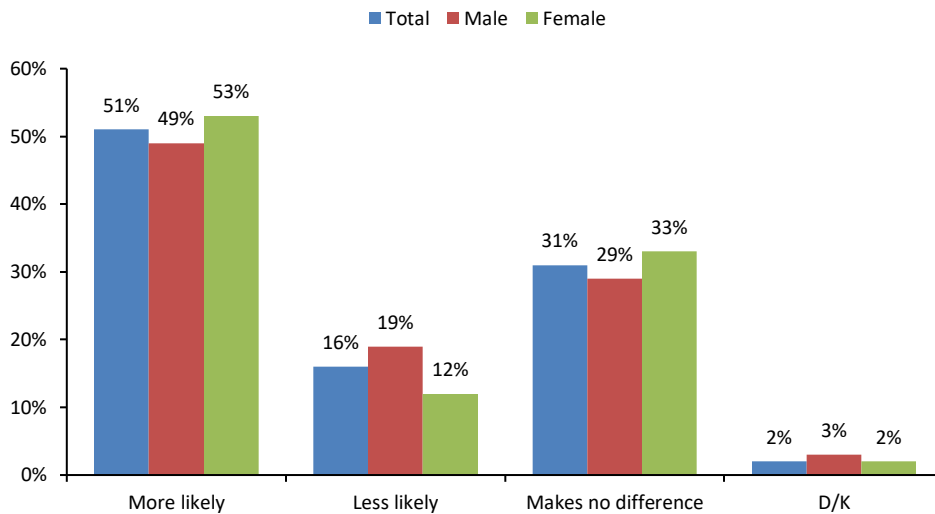
¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



Q6a. Would a political candidate’s support for moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy like solar or wind make you more likely or less likely to vote for them, or does their support for renewable energy make no difference to you

In a split-half comparison, half of the respondents were asked how a candidate’s support for moving away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy would impact their support for that candidate (Q6a). The other half was asked how a candidate’s choice to stay with fossil fuels rather than move to clean energy would impact their likely to support that candidate (Q6b). Half (51%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy, while 31 percent say it would have no impact. Sixteen percent say it would make them less likely to vote for a candidate. More Democrats (73%) than Republicans (21%) or Independents (50%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate. These results are consistent with the 2020 study.

Chart 6a



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	49	57	90	18	63	61	92	110	137
More likely	47%	53%	51%	36%	58%	46%	55%	52%	47%
Less likely	22%	15%	10%	25%	14%	19%	12%	14%	19%
Makes no difference	30%	28%	34%	38%	28%	34%	30%	33%	30%
D/K	0%	4%	6%	0%	0%	2%	2%	1%	4%

¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	155	35	113
More likely	73%	50%	21%
Less likely	4%	8%	32%
Makes no difference	22%	42%	44%
D/K	1%	0%	3%

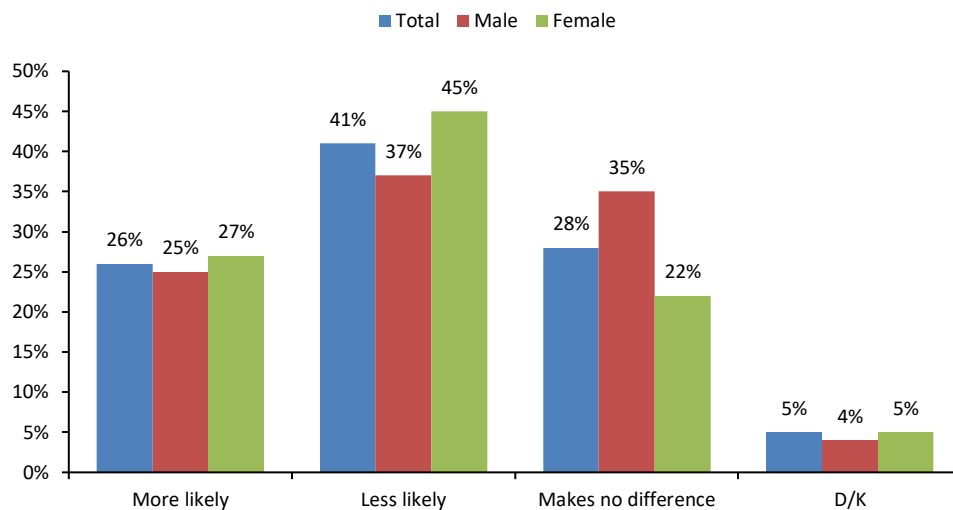


Q6b. Would a candidate’s continued support for fossil fuels rather than supporting a move to renewable energy such as solar or wind make you more likely or less likely to vote for them, or does their support for fossil fuels make no difference to you?

Conversely, 41 percent indicate they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported the continued use of fossil fuels rather than supporting moving to renewable energy. Twenty-eight percent say it would have no impact, while 26 percent say the position would make them less likely to vote for a candidate. More women (45%) than men (37%) are less likely to vote for a candidate who choose not to support the move. More Republicans (43%) than Democrats (20%) or Independents (19%) say they would be more likely to vote for the candidate.

Combined with the results of Question 6a, which asked the same question substantively, but in a different way, the results indicate that between 41 and 51 percent of New Jersey voters say that they would be more likely to support a candidate who favored a shift towards clean energy, and between 16 and 26 percent would be less likely to support such a candidate.

Chart 6b



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	60	62	97	15	55	58	89	134	125
More likely	25%	22%	26%	12%	32%	31%	24%	27%	26%
Less likely	36%	45%	48%	43%	40%	34%	48%	39%	39%
Makes no difference	37%	30%	20%	38%	25%	28%	26%	31%	27%
D/K	3%	3%	5%	7%	4%	7%	2%	3%	8%

¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties

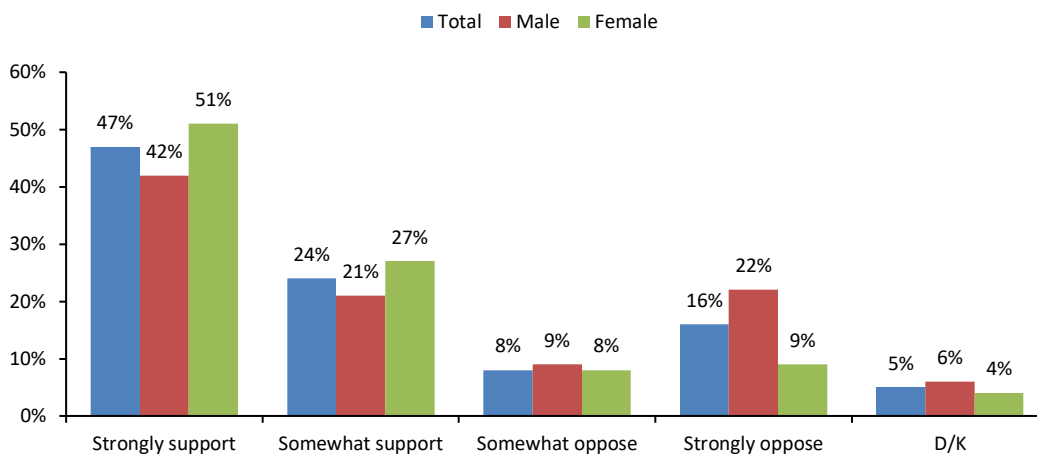
	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	180	41	100
More likely	20%	19%	43%
Less likely	56%	39%	20%
Makes no difference	20%	36%	33%
D/K	4%	6%	5%



Q7. New Jersey has a goal to achieve 100% clean electricity by 2050. Would you support a more aggressive goal to achieve 100% clean electricity by 2035 to address climate change?

Seventy-one percent would support a more aggressive goal of achieving 100 percent clean energy by 2035. Women (78%) are more likely than men (63%) to favor a more aggressive goal. Those aged 55+ (61%), Republicans (46%), and those from the PennEast region (49%) are less likely than their respective cohorts to favor reaching 100 percent clean energy by 2035.

Chart 7



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Strongly support	34%	51%	58%	34%	49%	37%	52%	49%	41%
Somewhat support	28%	23%	19%	15%	29%	27%	29%	25%	20%
Somewhat oppose	11%	8%	4%	9%	9%	11%	8%	9%	8%
Strongly oppose	20%	14%	13%	25%	11%	20%	7%	12%	25%
D/K	6%	3%	6%	17%	3%	5%	3%	5%	6%

	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Strongly support	65%	43%	23%
Somewhat support	25%	23%	23%
Somewhat oppose	3%	8%	17%
Strongly oppose	4%	19%	31%
D/K	3%	8%	6%

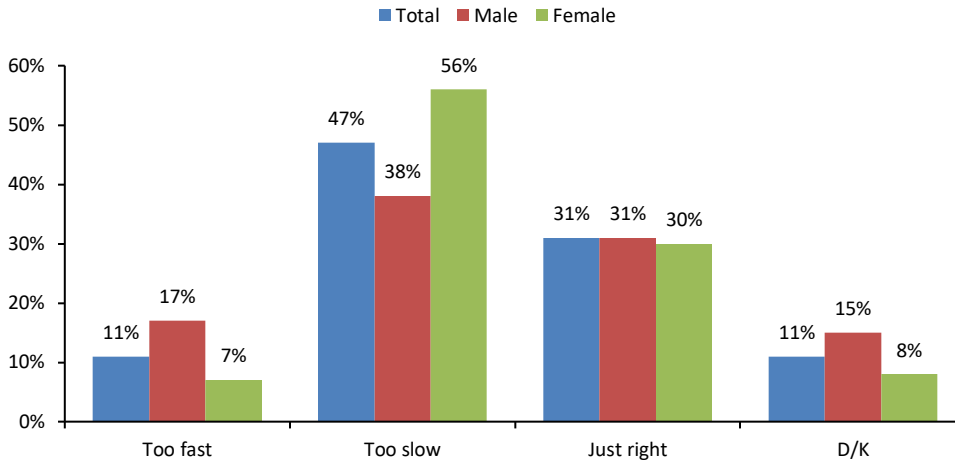
¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



Q8. How do you rate the pace at which our state is developing and adopting renewable energy alternatives?

About half (47%) say New Jersey is moving too slowly in its efforts toward developing clean energy alternatives, virtually unchanged from 49 percent in the last study. A third (31%) believe the state is moving at the correct pace. Women (56%) are more likely than men (38%); and Democrats (62%) and Independents (42%) are more likely than Republicans (28%) to say NJ is moving too slowly. Those from the PennEast region (36%) and the Coast (35%), and those aged 55+ (40%) are less likely than their cohorts to say things are moving too slowly.

Chart 8



	Region ¹						Age		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Too fast	14%	7%	9%	21%	11%	16%	7%	10%	15%
Too slow	46%	48%	56%	36%	48%	35%	53%	51%	40%
Just right	24%	37%	25%	31%	34%	37%	31%	28%	32%
D/K	16%	7%	11%	11%	7%	12%	8%	11%	13%

	Party ID		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Too fast	4%	8%	23%
Too slow	62%	42%	28%
Just right	25%	37%	36%
D/K	9%	13%	13%

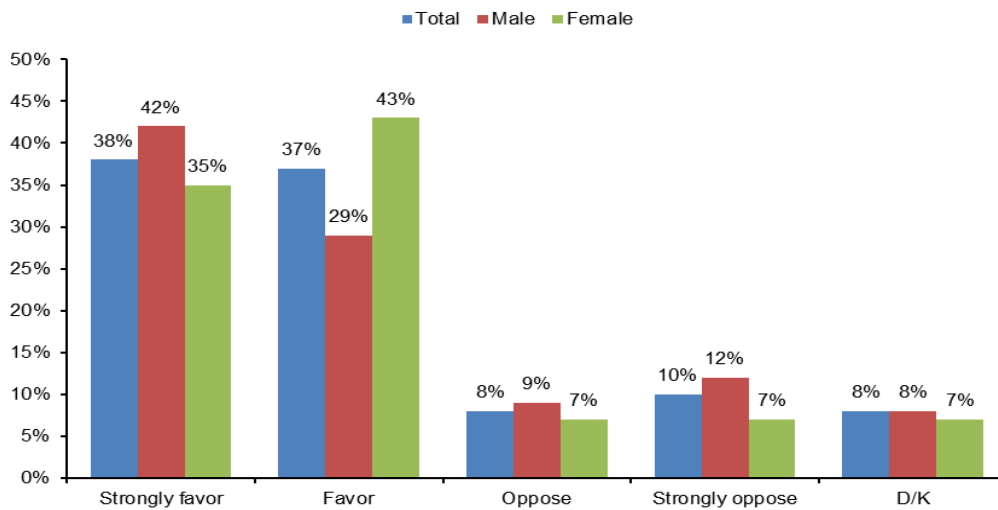
¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



Q9. Do you favor or oppose the development of wind energy off the coast of NJ?

Overall, 75 percent favor the development of offshore wind energy stations off the coast of New Jersey. This is unchanged from 77 percent last year. Once again women (78%) are more supportive than are men (71%) and Democrats (84%) are more supportive than are Republicans (63%) or Independents (71%). Those aged 55+ (67%) are less supportive than those aged 18-34 (81%) or 35-54 (78%).

Chart 9



	Region ¹						Age		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Strongly Favor	35%	34%	40%	25%	46%	38%	39%	42%	35%
Favor	29%	36%	40%	42%	40%	34%	43%	36%	32%
Oppose	11%	13%	4%	10%	6%	9%	7%	7%	9%
Strongly Oppose	17%	11%	7%	15%	5%	8%	5%	8%	14%
D/K	9%	6%	9%	8%	4%	10%	6%	7%	10%

	Party ID		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Strongly Favor	47%	44%	23%
Favor	37%	27%	40%
Oppose	4%	5%	14%
Strongly Oppose	4%	18%	16%
D/K	8%	6%	7%

¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties

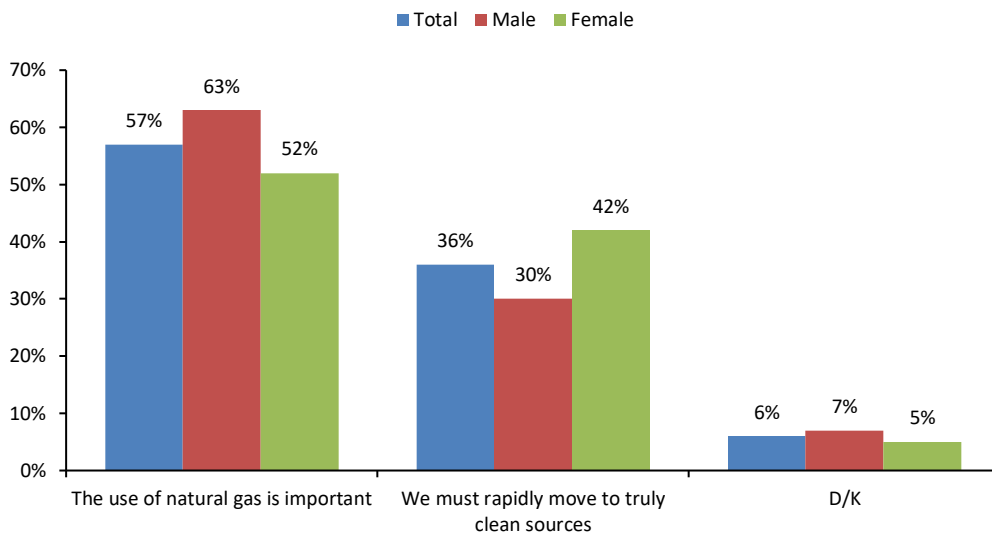


Q10. If you had to choose from the following statements, which comes closest to your view?

The use of natural gas is important in keeping energy costs low as we transition to renewable energy like wind and solar OR Natural gas is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and we must rapidly move to truly clean sources of energy like wind and solar

In the 2020 study, 41 percent said natural gas was important in keeping energy costs low as we transition to renewable energy. In this current study this has increased to nearly 3 in 5 (57%). Fewer (36%) this year than last (53%) say we must rapidly move to renewable energy. The changes have occurred across virtually all demographics, although the differences within continue. Men (63%) are more likely than women (52%) to want to continue with natural gas. Democrats and Republicans continue in their differing perspectives, with Democrats preferring transitioning from natural gas (52%) and Republicans preferring to keep natural gas rather than transition from it (78%).

Chart 10



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	North west	North east	Urban Core	Penn East	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Natural gas is important	68%	52%	48%	69%	64%	60%	46%	58%	65%
Rapidly move to clean energy	28%	40%	46%	25%	35%	26%	47%	36%	30%
D/K	4%	8%	6%	7%	1%	13%	7%	6%	5%

¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
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Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties

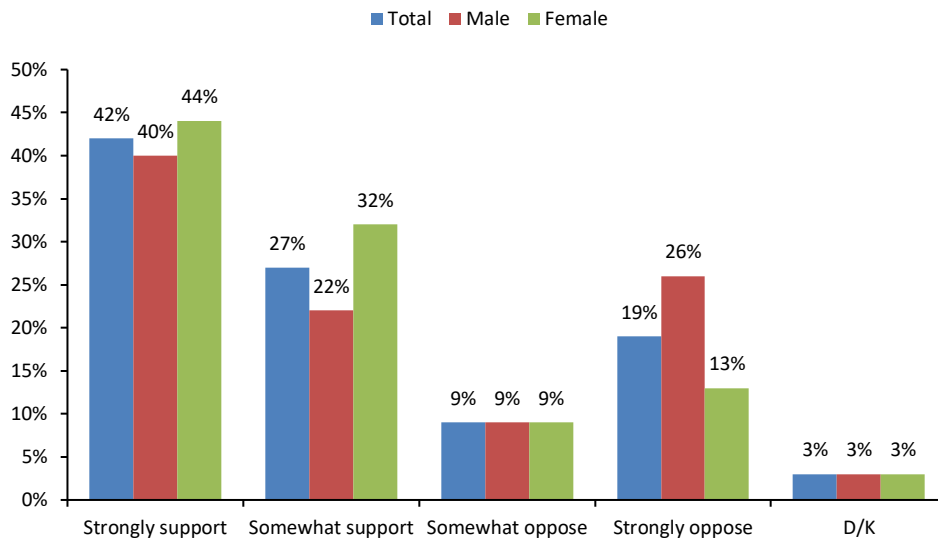
	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Natural gas is important	43%	66%	78%
Rapidly move to clean energy	52%	25%	17%
D/K	5%	9%	5%



Q11. President Biden is calling for 100% clean electricity by 2035 and significant investments in renewable energy and electric vehicles to address climate change. Do you support or oppose these policies?

Overall, 7 in 10 (69%) support the investments in moving to 100 percent clean energy by 2035, while 28 percent oppose the spending to address climate change. Women (75%) are more likely than men (62%) to indicate support. Fewer aged 55 and older (59%) and fewer from PennEast (54%) indicate support. Ninety-four percent of Democrats support the policies, while 60 percent of Republicans and 35 percent of Independents opposed it.

Chart 11



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Strongly support	34%	43%	50%	30%	47%	32%	41%	46%	39%
Somewhat support	27%	28%	29%	24%	25%	30%	40%	26%	19%
Somewhat oppose	9%	9%	8%	15%	7%	10%	8%	9%	10%
Strongly oppose	29%	16%	11%	28%	18%	25%	9%	17%	29%
D/K	1%	4%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%

¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



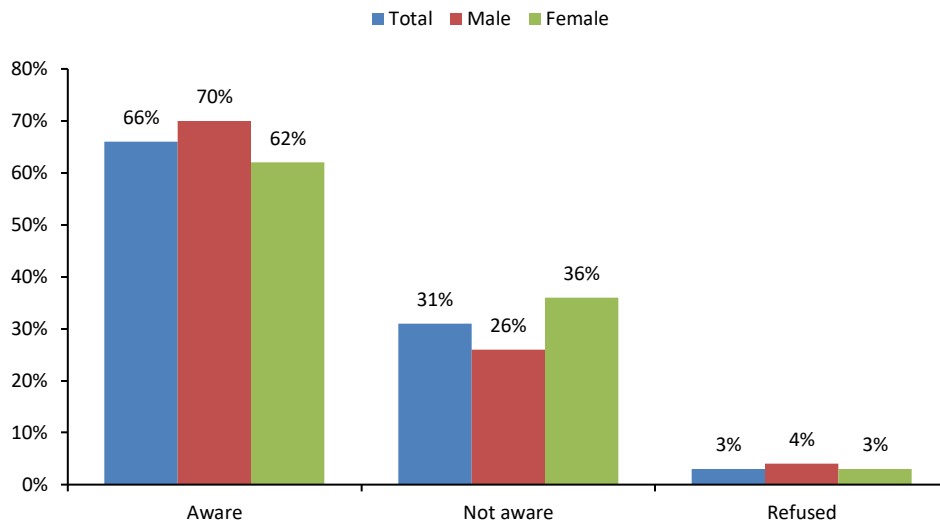
	<i>Party ID</i>		
	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
N=	335	76	213
Strongly support	64%	31%	15%
Somewhat support	30%	28%	23%
Somewhat oppose	4%	10%	17%
Strongly oppose	1%	25%	43%
D/K	1%	6%	3%



Q12. Are you aware that in order to achieve 100% clean energy, homes and buildings will need to be heated with electricity generated from renewable energy rather than with gas?

Overall, two-thirds (66%) say that they are aware that achieving 100 percent clean energy will require homes and businesses will need to move away from heat and electricity generated by gas. Men (70%) are more aware than are women (62%). Democrats (69%) are more aware than Republicans (60%).

Chart 12



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Aware	72%	62%	69%	63%	63%	62%	70%	64%	65%
Not Aware	25%	35%	30%	31%	33%	32%	28%	34%	30%
Refused	2%	3%	1%	7%	4%	6%	2%	2%	5%

	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Aware	69%	66%	60%
Not Aware	30%	28%	35%
Refused	1%	6%	5%

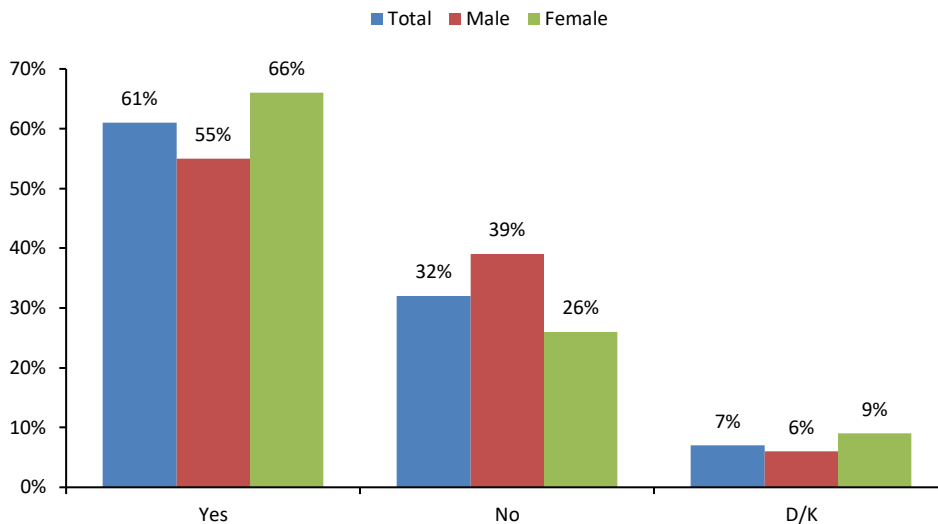
¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
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Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
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South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



Q13. Do you support this switch from gas to electric appliances in homes and buildings in order to reduce emissions and fight climate change?

Sixty-one percent support switching from gas to electric appliances to help fight climate change. Women (66%) are more likely to support the move than are men (55%). Those aged 18-34 (74%) and those from the Urban Core (72%) are more likely than their cohorts to support the transition. Eighty-one percent of Democrats favor the switch, while 59 percent of Republicans opposed moving to electric appliances.

Chart 13



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	Northwest	Northeast	Urban Core	PennEast	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Yes	48%	68%	72%	46%	57%	54%	74%	60%	53%
No	42%	27%	22%	47%	36%	36%	21%	31%	41%
D/K	10%	5%	6%	7%	7%	10%	5%	9%	7%

	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Yes	81%	54%	32%
No	13%	39%	59%
D/K	6%	7%	9%

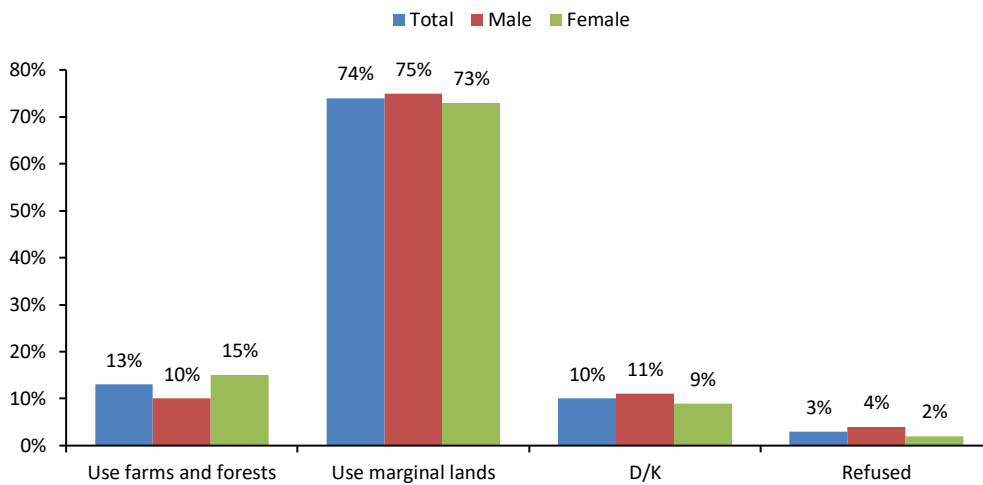
¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



Q14. In order to develop more solar energy generation, should the state use places like farms and forests for solar panel installations, OR should they use parking lots, landfills, and rooftops, and avoid forests and our best farmland?

Overall, a majority (74%) believe New Jersey should land like parking lots and rooftops for solar energy generation. Democrats (76%) and Republicans (77%) agree in their beliefs that solar panels should utilize marginal land rather than forests and farmland.

Chart 14



	<i>Region¹</i>						<i>Age</i>		
	North west	North east	Urban Core	Penn East	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Use farms and forests	10%	12%	14%	5%	16%	13%	21%	13%	7%
Use marginal lands	77%	72%	76%	73%	77%	68%	69%	78%	73%
D/K	10%	13%	8%	19%	6%	12%	9%	7%	14%
Refused	3%	4%	2%	3%	1%	7%	1%	2%	5%

¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties

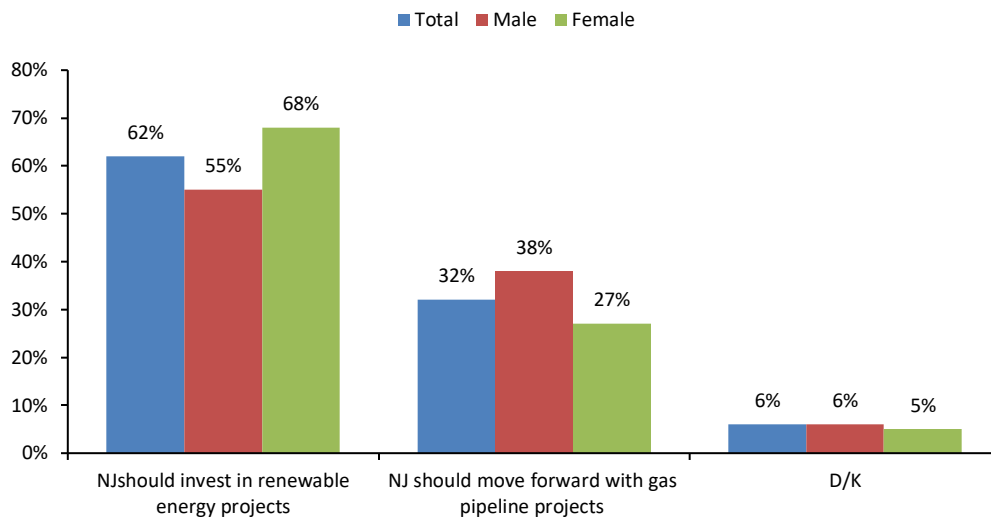
	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Use farms and forests	15%	10%	9%
Use marginal lands	76%	75%	77%
D/K	9%	7%	9%
Refused	0%	8%	5%



Q15. If you had to choose from the following statements, which comes closest to your view? To recover from the economic damage resulting from COVID-19, NJ should invest in renewable energy projects like wind and solar that will create jobs, improve our health by reducing polluting, and ultimately save consumers money OR To recover from the economic damage resulting from COVID-19, NJ should move forward with gas pipeline projects that will create local jobs while ensuring a reliable supply of inexpensive natural gas to consumers and businesses.

Overall, by a 2 to 1 margin, New Jerseyans prefer to invest in renewable energy projects rather than to move forward with the gas pipelines (62%, 32%, respectively) to help recover from COVID-19 economic damage. This is unchanged from the 2020 study (62%, 30%). Once again, women (68%) are more likely than men (55%) to prefer investing in renewable energy sources. Democrats (82%) and Independents (63%) indicate a preference for investing in renewable energy projects, while a majority of Republicans (60%) say New Jersey should move forward with the gas pipelines.

Chart 15



	Region ¹						Age		
	North west	North east	Urban Core	Penn East	South	Coast	18-34	35-54	55+
N=	110	119	187	33	118	118	181	245	263
Invest in renewables	55%	67%	70%	45%	66%	52%	69%	67%	53%
Move forward with pipelines	37%	27%	28%	41%	31%	40%	26%	29%	40%
D/K	8%	6%	3%	13%	3%	7%	5%	4%	7%

¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties
Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties
Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties
PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties
South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties
Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties



	<i>Party ID</i>		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
N=	335	76	213
Invest in renewables	82%	63%	33%
Move forward with pipelines	15%	26%	60%
D/K	3%	11%	7%



III. Weighted Sample Characteristics

Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

Age

18-34	26%
35-54	35%
55+	38%
Refused	1%

Party ID

Democrat	48%
Republican	31%
Independent	11%
All Else	10%

Region¹

Northwest	16%
Northeast	17%
Urban Core	27%
PennEast	5%
South	17%
Coast	17%

¹ **Northwest:** Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties

Northeast: Bergen and Passaic Counties

Urban Core: Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, and Union Counties

PennEast: Hunterdon, and Mercer Counties

South: Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties

Coast: Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties

Education

Some HS	2%
High school	13%
Some college or Community college	24%
Graduated from a 4 year college	34%
Graduate school	26%
Refused	2%

Employment

Full-time	57%
Part-time	10%
Retired	21%
Not employed outside the home	9%
Refused	3%

Ethnicity (Multi-Response)

White	59%
African American	12%
Hispanic/Latino	16%
Asian	9%
Multi-Racial	6%
Refused	5%

Interview Completed Via:

Land-line phone	24%
Cell phone	56%
Text to Web	20%

APPENDIX A

2021

Questionnaire



Q1. How would you describe your feelings toward the effects of climate change in New Jersey?

1. Very concerned
2. Somewhat concerned
3. Not very concerned
4. Not at all concerned
5. Don't know

Q2. What source do you think is most important to New Jersey's energy future?

1. Solar
2. Wind
3. Natural Gas
4. Oil
5. Nuclear
6. Coal

Q3. Which of the following, if any, do you believe are considered clean energy sources?

1. Solar
2. Wind
3. Natural Gas
4. Oil
5. Nuclear
6. Coal

4. In order to meet New Jersey's energy needs, do you believe the state should invest more in renewable energy sources, like wind and solar, or more in fossil fuels, like oil and natural gas, through the construction of additional pipelines? **[Rotate]**

1. Renewable sources
2. Fossil Fuels
3. Don't know

5. In general, how would you describe your feelings toward each of the following potential consequences of pipeline development in New Jersey? **[Rotate Q18A through Q18F]**

Q5A The risks to air and water quality

Q5B The impact to natural areas and wildlife habitats

Q5C The safety risks associated with ruptures, leaks, or explosions

Q5D The seizure of private property by big energy companies for gas pipeline projects.

[SPLIT Sample 5E1 and 5E2]

Q5E1 The use of taxpayer-preserved open space for construction of pipelines

Q5E2 The use of protected natural areas such as the Pinelands for the construction of pipelines

Q5F Greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change

- 1 Very concerned
- 2 Somewhat concerned
- 3 Not very concerned
- 4 Not at all concerned
- 5 Don't know (vol)
- 6 Refused (vol)

6. Would a political candidate's support for moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy like solar or wind make you more likely or less likely to vote for them **[Rotate]**, or does their support for renewable energy make no difference to you?



Split with: Would a candidate's continued support for fossil fuels rather than supporting a move to renewable energy such as solar or wind make you more likely or less likely to vote for them **[Rotate]**, or does their support for fossil fuels make no difference to you?

1. More likely
 2. Less likely
 3. Makes no difference
7. New Jersey has a goal to achieve 100% clean electricity by 2050. Would you support a more aggressive goal to achieve 100% clean electricity by 2035 to address climate change?
1. Strongly support
 2. Somewhat support
 3. Somewhat oppose
 4. Strongly oppose
8. How do you rate the pace at which our state is developing and adopting renewable energy alternatives? Would you say it is...
1. Too fast
 2. Too slow
 3. Just right
9. Do you favor or oppose the development of wind energy off the coast of New Jersey?
1. Strongly favor
 2. Favor
 3. Oppose
 4. Strongly oppose
10. If you had to choose from the following statements, which comes closest to your view?
1. The use of natural gas is important in keeping energy costs low as we transition to renewable energy like wind and solar
- OR**
2. Natural gas is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, and we must rapidly move to truly clean sources of energy like wind and solar.
11. President Biden is calling for 100% clean electricity by 2035 and significant investments in renewable energy and electric vehicles to address climate change. Do you support or oppose these policies?
1. Strongly support
 2. Somewhat support
 3. Somewhat oppose
 4. Strongly oppose
12. Are you aware that in order to achieve 100% clean energy, homes and buildings will need to be heated with electricity generated from renewable energy rather than with gas?
1. Aware
 2. Not aware
13. Do you support this switch from gas to electric appliances in homes and buildings in order to reduce emissions and fight climate change?
1. Yes
 2. No



14. In order to develop more solar energy generation, should the state use places like farms and forests for solar panel installations, OR should they use parking lots, landfills, and rooftops, and avoid forests and our best farmland?
1. Use farms and forests
 2. Use marginal lands
 3. Don't know
 4. Refused
15. If you had to choose from the following statements, which most closely represents your view, even if neither option is perfect?
1. To recover from the economic damage resulting from COVID-19, NJ should invest in renewable energy projects like wind and solar that will create jobs, improve our health by reducing polluting, and ultimately save consumers money.
- OR**
2. To recover from the economic damage resulting from COVID-19, NJ should move forward with gas pipeline projects that will create local jobs while ensuring a reliable supply of inexpensive natural gas to consumers and businesses.