

**QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**2022 NATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

*Online survey of 1,000 nationally representative U.S. adults May 10-19, 2022.*  
*Margin of error is plus or minus three percentage points.*  
*By Bisconti Research, Inc. with Quest Mindshare*

**Findings**

1. How important to you are the following considerations for the way electricity is produced?  
 Select one answer for each item. **Randomize.**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Extremely</b>	<b>Very</b>	<b>Somewhat</b>	<b>Not Too</b>	<b>Not At All</b>
	<b>Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Important</b>
Reliable electricity	89	57	32	9	1	1
Affordable electricity	88	58	31	10	1	1
Clean air	82	50	33	14	2	1
Efficiency	82	42	40	15	2	1
Energy security	81	46	36	16	2	1
Preservation of natural resources	79	44	35	17	3	1
Economic growth	78	43	36	18	3	1
Job creation	74	39	35	20	4	2
Climate change solution	67	41	26	18	8	7
Resilience	67	30	37	27	5	2
Small footprint (less land use)	60	28	32	28	9	4

2. Select the two considerations for the way electricity is produced that are most important to you. Select two items from the following list. **Randomize in same order as Q6.**

Affordable electricity	43
Reliable electricity	32
Clean air	21
Climate change solution	21
Economic growth	15
Preservation of natural resources	14
Efficiency	14
Energy security	14
Job creation	11
Small footprint (less land use)	7
Resilience	3

3. How important do you think nuclear energy will be in meeting this nation's electricity needs in the years ahead? **Select one answer.**

<b>Important</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Not important</b>	<b>14</b>
Very important	42
Somewhat important	43
Not too important	11
Not important at all	3

4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Select one answer for each statement.**

	<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
When their current operating license expires, we should renew the license of nuclear power plants that continue to meet federal safety standards.	86	42	44	10	4
Our nation should prepare now so that advanced-design nuclear power plants will be available to provide electricity.	84	42	42	13	3
We should definitely build more nuclear power plants in the future.	72	33	39	19	9

5. Overall, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity in the United States? **Select one answer.**

<b>Favor</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>23</b>
Strongly favor	33
Somewhat favor	44
Somewhat oppose	16
Strongly oppose	7

6. Do you think that the majority of people in your community favor or oppose the use of nuclear energy? **Select one answer; if unsure, give your best guess.**

Favor	59
Oppose	41

7. Thinking about the nuclear power plants that are operating now, how safe do you regard these plants? Please select one number on a scale from "1" to "7," where "1" means very unsafe and "7" means very safe. The safer you think they are, the higher the number you would give. **Select one answer.**

<b>High safety rating (5-7)</b>	<b>56</b>
7 – Very safe	13
6	20
5	22
<b>Middle (4)</b>	<b>24</b>
3	10
2	4
1 – Very unsafe	6
<b>Low safety rating (1-3)</b>	<b>21</b>

8. How well informed do you feel about nuclear energy used to produce electricity? **Select one answer.**

<b>Informed</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Not informed</b>	<b>36</b>
Very well informed	16
Somewhat well informed	48
Not too well informed	31
Not at all well informed	6

9. In your opinion, would each of the following be an excellent, good, fair, or poor source for accurate information on nuclear energy? **Select one answer for each. Randomize.**

	<b>Total Excellent &amp; Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
A safety engineer at a nuclear power plant in your area	77	31	46	18	5
A scientist at a U.S. government national laboratory who is developing advanced-technology nuclear energy	72	31	41	21	7
A university professor of nuclear science	71	31	40	23	7
The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission	69	28	41	23	7
The U.S. Department of Energy	68	26	42	24	8
An environmentalist	51	18	33	30	19
The Internet	41	14	27	31	27
An antinuclear organization	36	10	26	27	38
The news media	33	10	24	32	35
Congress	31	9	22	31	38

10. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Select one answer.**

a. **Nuclear energy is a clean-air energy source.**

<b>Agree</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>27</b>
Strongly Agree	29
Somewhat Agree	44
Somewhat Disagree	20
Strongly Disagree	8

b. **Nuclear energy is a reliable energy source.**

<b>Agree</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>18</b>
Strongly Agree	37
Somewhat Agree	46
Somewhat Disagree	13
Strongly Disagree	5

11. In fact, nuclear energy is America’s largest and most reliable clean-air energy source: Nuclear energy already produces more than half the zero-emission electricity in the United States, and it produces electricity reliably 24 hours a day. How does this fact affect your opinion of nuclear energy? **Select one answer.**

More favorable	64
Less favorable	12
No difference	25

12. Following are some environmental advantages of current or future nuclear power plants. How important do you consider each one? **Select one answer for each item. Randomize.**

	<b>Extremely/ Very Important</b>	<b>Extremely Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not Too Important</b>	<b>Not At All Important</b>
<b>Clean air</b> —nuclear power plants emit no air pollution.	81	55	26	15	3	1

<b>Clean drinking water</b> —in addition to making electricity, nuclear power plants can convert seawater into safe drinking water.	80	52	28	17	2	1
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<b>Preservation of natural resources</b> —nuclear power plants use far less land than any other energy source for the same amount of energy.	78	45	32	18	3	1
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<b>Waste reduction</b> —advanced reactor technologies minimize waste, and some use it as fuel.	78	44	35	18	2	2
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<b>Enabler of renewable energy</b> —nuclear power plants can be co-located with renewable energy sources in flexible integrated energy systems to ensure reliable electricity, when the sun doesn’t shine and the wind doesn’t blow.	76	40	36	19	4	1
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<b>Hydrogen production for transportation and industrial uses</b> — nuclear power plants can be used to produce hydrogen as a zero-emission option for future vehicles and industrial uses.	67	33	34	27	4	2
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<b>Electric vehicles</b> — nuclear power plants make zero-emission electricity for America’s expanding electric vehicle use.	62	33	30	26	7	5
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13. Select the two environmental advantages of current or future nuclear power plants that are most important, in your opinion. **Select two items from the following list. Randomize in same order as Q17.**

	<b>Top Two</b>
<b>Clean air</b> —nuclear power plants emit no air pollution.	48
<b>Clean drinking water</b> —in addition to making electricity, nuclear power plants can convert seawater into safe drinking water.	46
<b>Enabler of renewable energy</b> — nuclear power plants can be co-located with renewable energy sources in flexible integrated energy systems to ensure reliable electricity, when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow.	27
<b>Preservation of natural resources</b> — nuclear power plants use far less land than any other energy source for the same amount of energy.	26
<b>Waste reduction</b> —advanced reactor technologies minimize waste, and some use it as fuel.	19
<b>Hydrogen production for transportation and industrial uses</b> — nuclear power plants can be used to produce hydrogen as a zero-emission option for future vehicles and industrial uses.	14
<b>Electric vehicles</b> — nuclear power plants make zero-emission electricity for America's expanding electric vehicle use.	14

14. Overall, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity in the United States? **Select one answer.**

	<b>Before Messages</b>	<b>After Messages</b>
<b>Favor</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>
Strongly favor	33	42
Somewhat favor	44	43
Somewhat oppose	16	11
Strongly oppose	7	4

15. Have you heard anything during the past year about breakthroughs in nuclear fusion energy? **Select one answer.**

Yes	17
No	69
Not sure	14

### **Demographics**

1. Your gender. **Select one answer.**

Male	48
Female	52
Nonbinary	0
No answer	0

2. Pull down to select your age.

18-34	28
35-49	27
50+	45
Gen Z (<26)	9
Millennial (26-41)	35
Gen X (42-57)	28
Boomers (58-76)	26
Silent generation (>76)	2

3. Is your ethnicity...? **Select one answer.**

<b>Caucasian or White</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>All other</b>	<b>29</b>
African American or Black	14
Hispanic, Latino, or Latinx	8
Asian	4
Mixed Race	2
Native American or Indigenous	1
Other	0
No answer	0

4. What was the highest level of school you completed? **Select one answer.**

<b>Not college graduate</b>	<b>52</b>
Some high school or less	2
Graduated high school	21
Technical/vocational school	3
Some college, associate degree	26
<b>College graduate</b>	<b>48</b>
Graduated college, bachelor's degree	44
Graduate school	4
No answer	0

5. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...? **Select one answer.**

A Democrat	30
A Republican	30
An Independent	37
None of above	3
No answer	0

5a. Are your political views...? **Select one answer.**

<b>Conservative</b>	<b>36</b>
Very conservative	16
Somewhat conservative	20
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Liberal</b>	<b>24</b>
Somewhat liberal	13
Very liberal	11
None of above	1

5b. For whom did you vote in the 2020 presidential election? **Select one answer.**

Joe Biden	44
Donald Trump	42
Someone else	3
No one	11
No answer	0