

# American Climate Perspectives Survey 2023

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### American Attitudes on Nuclear Energy in 2023 Toplines

Fielded September 7-13, 2023

1000 National Responses, 302 Republican, 310 Independent, 336 Democrat, 52 Other

#### **How much does each of these energy sources contribute to unhealthy air pollution and climate change?**

	A lot	Some	A little	Not at all	Not sure
Wind and solar	9%	13%	22%	48%	8%
Oil	39%	33%	17%	6%	6%
Natural gas	20%	33%	27%	12%	8%
Coal	42%	27%	15%	7%	9%
Nuclear	33%	20%	18%	13%	15%

#### **In the next few years, should the United States be spending more or less on research and development of each of the following energy sources?**

	A lot more	More	Less	A lot less	Not sure
Wind and solar energy	42%	31%	11%	8%	8%
Next generation nuclear energy	22%	31%	20%	10%	17%
Coal	11%	19%	32%	25%	13%
Oil	14%	26%	29%	19%	13%
Natural gas	18%	35%	25%	8%	14%

#### **America's traditional nuclear power plants produce around 20% of our electricity.**

#### **Which is closest to your opinion?**

	Strongly support nuclear power	Somewhat support nuclear power	Somewhat oppose nuclear power	Strongly oppose nuclear power	Not sure
National	17%	35%	22%	8%	18%
Republican	20%	39%	20%	6%	14%
Independent	16%	32%	25%	9%	19%
Democrat	16%	37%	22%	8%	17%
Other	8%	19%	25%	15%	33%

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## *What are the most important reasons for supporting nuclear energy?*

	Very important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Not sure
Nuclear power plants generate a lot of our electricity, reliably	35%	36%	19%	5%	4%
Nuclear power plants keep America competitive and energy independent	35%	35%	18%	8%	5%
We have thousands of years of uranium and thorium for truly sustainable energy	28%	32%	20%	8%	12%
Nuclear power plants should be kept running as long as they are cost effective in the long term	32%	35%	19%	8%	5%
Nuclear power plants should be kept running until lower cost renewable energy becomes available	35%	34%	20%	6%	5%
Nuclear power plants do not emit pollutants that harm our health or our climate compared to alternatives	36%	32%	18%	6%	8%
Nuclear power helps us grow our economy while reducing pollution to our climate and health	38%	34%	18%	5%	6%

## *People have concerns about upgrading nuclear energy. Which of the following make you concerned?*

	A lot	Some	A little	Not at all	Not sure
Health and safety — National	49%	25%	16%	5%	5%
Republican	44%	25%	19%	8%	4%
Independent	45%	27%	18%	4%	6%
Democrat	58%	24%	11%	5%	3%
Other	46%	19%	15%	2%	17%
Cost — National	32%	31%	21%	9%	7%
Republican	32%	29%	22%	9%	7%
Independent	31%	30%	20%	11%	8%
Democrat	32%	36%	21%	8%	4%
Other	37%	25%	14%	4%	20%
Waste disposal — National	44%	29%	16%	5%	6%

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Republican	40%	31%	17%	7%	6%
Independent	44%	26%	17%	5%	7%
Democrat	50%	29%	14%	4%	4%
Other	37%	25%	17%	2%	19%
Security, weaponization — National	40%	28%	19%	7%	6%
Republican	37%	27%	20%	11%	6%
Independent	39%	28%	18%	6%	9%
Democrat	45%	29%	18%	4%	4%
Other	42%	17%	15%	10%	15%
Overpopulation, overdevelopment, leading to natural habitat loss — National	35%	31%	18%	9%	8%
Republican	32%	29%	19%	12%	8%
Independent	33%	30%	20%	9%	8%
Democrat	40%	31%	17%	7%	5%
Other	27%	41%	2%	8%	22%

## Methodology

ecoAmerica designed and administered this survey, which was conducted online on September 7-13, 2023 using Survey Monkey. The survey yielded a total of 1,000 complete adult responses and used the Census Bureau's American Community Survey to weigh the national general population and reflect the demographic composition of the US. The sample was drawn from an online panel and the respondents were screened to ensure that they were over the age of 18. The margin of error for the sample is +/-3%. In interpreting the survey results, it is important to note that all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error. Thus, the results of a survey may differ from the results that would be obtained if the entire population was interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of the responses to a particular question. For example, if 50% of the respondents in a sample of 1,000 respondents answered, "Yes" to a particular question, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage would fall within 3 points, or range from 47% to 53%.

### Suggested Citation

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ecoAmerica does not hold a formal position on nuclear energy.

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